

RESOLUTION

Mandatory On-the-Record Votes by Texas Lawmakers

A Resolution To: Require Routinely Recorded Voting by Legislators in the Texas Legislature to be published and made accessible online.

WHEREAS, a democracy is derived from “the consent of the governed,” and our representative form of government depends upon the informed participation of its voters in electing those who will represent them; and

WHEREAS, Texas is one of 10 states that does not require routinely recorded legislative votes, but instead, leaves recorded voting entirely to the discretion of state legislators; and

WHEREAS, from constituency surveys to newspaper polls, the citizens of Texas are 80% or better in favor of transparency and timely access to their representatives’ votes in committee, on floor amendments, second and third readings of bills, conference reports and joint resolutions; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 11th Texas Silver Haired Legislature encourage and strongly recommend that the 80th Texas Legislature enact legislation requiring routinely recorded voting by legislators in the Texas House and Senate at key stages in the legislative process, including votes in committee, on floor amendments, second and third readings of bills, conference reports and joint resolutions, to be published in the House and Senate journals and made accessible online in a timely fashion.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of September, 2006, by the Criminal Justice Committee.

Art Olson, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED this 13th day of September, 2006, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Charlotte Parks, Speaker

ATTEST:

Carlos Higgins, Secretary