

Senate Resolution 342

By: Senators Brown of the 26th, Tate of the 38th, Scott of the 36th, James of the 35th, Fort of the 39th and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Proclaiming the month of November of each year as "African American Voter Awareness
2 Month" and the second Tuesday in November of each year as "Voter Mobilization Day"; and
3 for other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the continuity, vitality, and strength of any democratic society are dependent
5 on the education, enlightenment, and participation of its citizens; and

6 WHEREAS, it is the goal of the State of Georgia to encourage and to enlarge the number of
7 its citizens who actively and regularly participate in the democratic process and who accept
8 with eagerness and enthusiasm the responsibilities of citizenship in a democratic society; and

9 WHEREAS, many national studies have shown that the greater an individual's level of
10 awareness, the greater their participation in the democratic process from volunteerism to
11 voting to holding elected office; and

12 WHEREAS, the right to vote is the seminal right of any citizen of a democratic government;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, for many African American citizens, it is a right made sacrosanct by the great
15 price of its attainment and stands as the sentinel of liberty and equality; and

16 WHEREAS, the events of the 2000 presidential election in the State of Florida, in which
17 thousands of ballots which were cast for President were not counted, seemed to render the
18 democratic maxim "every vote counts" more philosophy than fact; and

19 WHEREAS, in fact, the votes which were not counted in the State of Florida were the
20 deciding factor in the election and nothing less than the presidency of the United States was
21 at stake; and

1 WHEREAS, numerous complaints of election irregularities affecting minority voters in
2 Florida were alleged in 2000; and

3 WHEREAS, the unprecedented events in Florida focused public attention for several weeks
4 on the electoral process and generated strong emotional responses from thousands of voters
5 who felt that they had been effectively disenfranchised and that their rights as voters had
6 been usurped by the courts; and

7 WHEREAS, the passionate interest and momentum generated by the 2000 election may be
8 appropriately garnered and redirected toward actions which will prove to be beneficial to all
9 citizens.

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
11 proclaim the month of November of each year as "African American Voter Awareness
12 Month" and the second Tuesday in November of each year as "Voter Mobilization Day."

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body encourages the citizens of the State of Georgia
14 to dedicate the month of November of each year to an active commemoration of the rights
15 of citizenship which are secured by the right to vote.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of this body urge individuals,
17 organizations, educational institutions, and faith based institutions to dedicate each
18 November to concerted, active efforts, such as sponsorship of seminars, meetings, rallies, and
19 "get out the vote" campaigns, throughout the State of Georgia in order to enhance public
20 awareness of the rights and duties of citizenship and to stress the importance of participating
21 in the democratic process through the exercise of the right to vote.