

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION No. 254

STATE OF NEW JERSEY 219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED MAY 18, 2021

Sponsored by:

Assemblyman GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY

District 18 (Middlesex)

Co-Sponsored by:

Assemblywoman Vainieri Huttle and Assemblyman Conaway

SYNOPSIS

Celebrates diversity across the State and promotes diversity in candidates for elected and appointed positions.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/18/2021)

1 **AN ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION** celebrating diversity in New Jersey
2 and supporting diversity in candidates for office and elected and
3 appointed State officials.

4
5 **WHEREAS**, Diversity represents the variety of abilities, skills,
6 experiences, and cultural backgrounds of individuals in the State;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey residents celebrate diverse perspectives,
9 cultures and values shared by diverse individuals and communities
10 and support candidates of diverse backgrounds in pursuing elected
11 office; and

12 **WHEREAS**, The current make-up of elected and appointed officials in
13 the State government does not reflect the nation's or State's diverse
14 population; and

15 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey is one of the most diverse states in the country,
16 with nearly 45 percent of New Jersey's residents being a person of
17 color; and

18 **WHEREAS**, Studies have shown that diversity among elected officials
19 can lead to policies that increase racial equality; and

20 **WHEREAS**, An organization that has a diverse group of individuals in
21 leadership offer various ideas, perspectives and learning
22 opportunities, avoiding narrow groupthink and promoting creative
23 results; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Diversity among government officials lead to an overall
25 increase in political efficacy, which is the belief that civic
26 participation leads to meaningful social change; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Inclusion of underrepresented perspectives and a diverse
28 pool of leaders can enhance the government's ability to serve the
29 needs of its entire population and better the welfare of the people of
30 this State; and

31 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey supports diversity in elected and appointed
32 officials such that elected and appointed individuals are
33 representative of the all communities in the State; now, therefore,

34
35 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the General Assembly of the State of New*
36 *Jersey:*

37
38 1. This House celebrates the diversity in New Jersey and
39 supports diverse candidates for elected and appointed State
40 positions.

41
42 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
43 shall be transmitted by the Clerk of the General Assembly to the
44 Governor of the State of New Jersey, the Chief Diversity Officer of
45 the State of New Jersey, and the Chief Diversity and Inclusion
46 Officer at the Department of State.

STATEMENT

This resolution recognizes and celebrates the extensive diversity in the State of New Jersey and supports diversity in candidates for office and elected and appointed positions.

The current make-up of State government does not reflect the State's diverse population and that should change. An organization that has a diverse group of individuals in leadership offer varying ideas, perspectives and learning opportunities resulting in creative and innovative solutions. An increase in innovation and creativity will aid the State in becoming a model of equality and inclusivity across the country. The State is at its best when talent is drawn from all parts of our State, and accomplishments are achieved when diverse perspectives are brought to bear to overcome challenges. A government representative of its people is better run and helps achieve equity. Studies have shown diversity in leadership can lead to increased racial equality. Diverse officials may implement policies that are more inclusive and lead to a more representative democracy, higher levels of political efficacy, and better policies to better the welfare of the communities in the State.

The General Assembly celebrates diversity in New Jersey and is committed to supporting diverse candidates, which accurately reflect the diverse communities across the State, for elected and appointed State positions.