

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 93

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 8, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN

District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)

SYNOPSIS

Urges Congress to make Election Day federal holiday in US.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging Congress to make Election Day a
2 federal holiday in the United States.

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4 **WHEREAS**, Election Day, which occurs annually on the first Tuesday
5 after the first Monday in November, allows United States citizens to
6 exercise their fundamental right to vote; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Voting is a critical element of democracy because the public
8 is able to elect leaders and lawmakers, make decisions concerning
9 public policy, and express opinions at national, state, and local levels;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, Eight states across the country, including New Jersey, and
12 the United States Territory of Puerto Rico have designated Election
13 Day as a state holiday to encourage civic participation in elections
14 and honor the nation's democratic rights; and

15 **WHEREAS**, On average, only half of the nation's voter-eligible public
16 votes during national general elections and a leading cause among
17 eligible voters for not voting was having a conflicting schedule that
18 hindered their ability to vote; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Designating Election Day as a federal holiday will increase
20 voter participation by ensuring greater flexibility to vote and easing
21 some of the obstacles that negatively impact voter turnout, such as
22 work schedules, school schedules, and time constraints; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Other countries, such as Belgium, Austria, France,
24 Germany, Australia, and New Zealand, whose elections occur on
25 weekends, and therefore do not interfere with citizens' work-week
26 schedules, have seen much higher voter turnout rates compared to
27 those in the United States; and

28 **WHEREAS**, Designating Election Day as a federal holiday will also
29 allow polling places to run more smoothly by spreading out the
30 number of voters throughout the day and by limiting long morning
31 and evening voting lines, which are currently problematic to those
32 who are only able to vote before or after work; and

33 **WHEREAS**, Increasing voter participation will also ensure elections are
34 more representative of the country and its communities; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Respecting and championing the vote is essential to
36 maintaining the highest ideals of the United States, such as liberty,
37 justice, and equality, and for this reason, Election Day should be
38 celebrated throughout the nation; now, therefore,

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40 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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42 1. This House urges Congress to make Election Day a federal
43 holiday.

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45 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
46 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Majority and
47 Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and Minority

1 Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and the members
2 of the New Jersey congressional delegation.

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STATEMENT

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7 This resolution urges Congress to make Election Day, which
8 occurs each year on the first Tuesday after the First Monday in the
9 month of November, as a federal holiday in the United States.

10 Voting is the most important civic duty granted to the public by
11 the United States Constitution. By voting, the public is able to
12 express their choice for who represents the country as public officials
13 and lawmakers and for important public policy decisions. However,
14 it is essential to increase voter participation and turnout in order to
15 ensure elections are truly representative of the public. Designating
16 Election Day as a federal holiday in the United States would increase
17 voter turnout by easing some of the obstacles deterring voters and
18 ensuring greater voter flexibility. In addition, it would emphasize to
19 the public that the election process, and each vote, matters.

20 For these reasons, Congress is urged to make Election Day a
21 federal holiday in the United States.