

2020 Second Extraordinary Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 18

BY REPRESENTATIVE DUPLESSIS

ELECTIONS/COMMISSIONERS: Requests the clerks of court develop and utilize innovative strategies to recruit commissioners for polling places

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To urge and request the clerks of court to develop and utilize innovative strategies to recruit  
3 commissioners for polling places.

4 WHEREAS, poll commissioners conduct primary and general elections, enforce the  
5 election laws, and maintain order at the polling place during the election and during the  
6 printing of results from the voting machines; and

7 WHEREAS, Louisiana's elections cannot be conducted without poll commissioners  
8 present to facilitate the voting process by checking identification, making sure those voting  
9 have the proper credentials, and ensuring that voters are at the correct precinct; and

10 WHEREAS, on January 22, 2020, the secretary of state indicated that Louisiana is  
11 currently facing a shortage of poll commissioners; and

12 WHEREAS, on September 1, 2020, the secretary of state's office announced the  
13 launch of a recruitment campaign for election workers to help set up the polling locations  
14 and verify voter registrations; and

15 WHEREAS, the number of poll commissioners for each precinct in each election  
16 changes based on the size of the election; and

17 WHEREAS, there are currently a large number of commissioner vacancies in the  
18 most populated parishes of Louisiana: East Baton Rouge and Jefferson; and

19 WHEREAS, the emergency election plan proposed by the secretary of state and  
20 adopted by the legislature authorized the use of certain military and law enforcement  
21 personnel at the polls to address this shortage, despite certain prohibitions in law and

1 concerns the proposal could have the effect of discouraging voters from entering polling  
2 locations to vote, which illustrates the urgency and the need for encouraging other members  
3 of the public to serve; and

4 WHEREAS, poll commissioners are essential to the success of any election, and  
5 there are never enough capable, committed residents willing to participate in the election  
6 process by working as poll commissioners on election day; it is vital that more citizens be  
7 encouraged and recruited to participate in the electoral process at the precinct level.

8 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
9 urge and request the clerks of court to develop and utilize innovative strategies to recruit  
10 commissioners for polling places.

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HCR 18 Original

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