

2017 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 94

BY SENATORS WARD AND CARTER

LEGISLATORS. Affirms the need for civility in political debate as a fundamental requirement for effective representative democracy and governing.

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To affirm the need for civility in political debate as a fundamental requirement for effective representative democracy and governing.

WHEREAS, representative democracy in the United States of America presents to the world an ongoing experiment as to whether such form of government can be viable, lasting, and most effective over all other forms of government in best serving the needs of its people; and

WHEREAS, a representative democracy is only as good as those whom we elect to represent us, and the resulting laws and policies made by them to which we are subject; and

WHEREAS, a fundamental cornerstone of effective representative democracy and governing is productive communication between the people and their representatives, and among the elected representatives themselves; and

WHEREAS, another fundamental cornerstone of effective representative democracy and governing is the participation by those with differing viewpoints in public political discourse and debate through the robust exchange of ideas; and

WHEREAS, such robust exchange of ideas in public political discourse and debate is an essential component of our political freedom; and

WHEREAS, civility in public political discourse and debate promotes understanding,

1 unity, mutual respect, informed decision making, reflection, and considerations in the spirit  
2 of community for compromise and consensus in the greater good; and

3 WHEREAS, civility in public political discourse and debate further enhances  
4 confidence in our institutions of government, and in the ability of our elected representatives  
5 to govern effectively at the federal, state, and local levels; and

6 WHEREAS, through civility in public political discourse and debate our elected  
7 representatives and the public can engage in productive dialogue with each other and among  
8 themselves without compromise of core principles or loss of collegiality; and

9 WHEREAS, civility in public political discourse and debate results from adherence  
10 to simple principles, including the following: be inclusive and show respect; listen and pay  
11 attention to the words of others; take responsibility for your own words and actions,  
12 including apologizing for them when appropriate; strive to be informed, tolerant, and  
13 agreeable; in your language seek unity through compromise and consensus rather than  
14 fostering division through anger, invective, and harsh rhetoric; and refrain from  
15 disparagement of others and from criticism that is not constructive; and

16 WHEREAS, through civility in their public political discourse and debate, elected  
17 representatives demonstrate statesmanship in their interactions and inspire others to act  
18 likewise; and

19 WHEREAS, through civility in their public political discourse and debate, elected  
20 representatives foster a spirit of mutual understanding that enhances cooperation and  
21 consensus, restores public trust, and leads to more efficient and effective government; and

22 WHEREAS, by authoring this Resolution the members of the Legislature of  
23 Louisiana affirm that by so doing they endorse the essential need for civility in public  
24 political discourse and debate, and further that they commit to such civility in their own  
25 actions and debate and to seeking others to act likewise.

26 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
27 affirm the need for civility in political debate as a fundamental requirement for effective  
28 representative democracy and governing.

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Jerry G. Jones

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SCR 94 Original	DIGEST 2017 Regular Session	Ward
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