



1           WHEREAS, civility in public political discourse and debate promotes understanding,  
2           unity, mutual respect, informed decision making, reflection, and considerations in the spirit  
3           of community for compromise and consensus in the greater good; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

27          THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
28          affirm the need for civility in political discourse and debate as a fundamental requirement  
29          for effective 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 102 Original	DIGEST 2017 Regular Session	Ward
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Affirms the need for civility in political discourse and debate as a fundamental requirement for effective representative democracy and governing.