

2024 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 74

BY SENATOR BARROW

VOTERS/VOTING. Creates the Task Force on Election Cost Efficiency and Alignment to study mechanisms to support and promote voter participation.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To create and provide for the Task Force on Election Cost Efficiency and Alignment.

3 WHEREAS, voting is the cornerstone of American democracy; and

4 WHEREAS, the resiliency of Louisiana's political institutions relies on the robust
5 political participation of the citizens of the state; and

6 WHEREAS, the administration of elections requires incredible investment from the
7 state and the taxpayers of Louisiana; and

8 WHEREAS, the cost of implementing closed party primary elections for Congress,
9 the Public Service Commission, and the Supreme Court will require the secretary of state
10 to spend an estimated \$11.7 million to \$19.7 million in 2026 alone; and

11 WHEREAS, voter turnout during Louisiana's frequent elections has declined at times
12 to near negligible numbers in some precincts and is often lower than twenty-five percent
13 statewide; and

14 WHEREAS, voter turnout in the 2023 election cycle dropped to the lowest numbers
15 recorded in decades; and

16 WHEREAS, from January 2019 to January 2024, Louisiana held twenty-seven
17 elections; and

18 WHEREAS, during the same five-year period, neighboring states held nearly the

1 same amount of elections combined and a mere fraction of that total each; and

2 WHEREAS, Louisiana is one of five states that elect state officials in off-cycle years;
3 and

4 WHEREAS, the multitude of elections in Louisiana come at great expense to its
5 taxpayers, which could be reduced through election consolidation or other cost efficiency
6 considerations; and

7 WHEREAS, voter turnout has proven to be two times higher when local elections
8 coincide with a larger election cycle; and

9 WHEREAS, research has shown the election consolidation increases turnout across
10 the board and leads to more engaged local officials without providing an advantage to any
11 political party; and

12 WHEREAS, every election is important and every voter has unique, invaluable
13 weight in the maintenance of democracy; and

14 WHEREAS, the Legislature of Louisiana values the intrinsic worth of voter
15 participation in elections.

16 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana hereby
17 establishes the Task Force on Election Cost Efficiency and Alignment to study mechanisms
18 to support voter participation and to propose recommendations, together with specific
19 proposals for legislation, by written report to the legislature and to the David R. Poynter
20 Legislative Research Library as required by R.S. 24:771 and 772, no later than thirty days
21 prior to the convening of the 2025 Regular Session.

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall include consideration of the
23 development of partnerships for civic engagement, policies to support voter registration and
24 turnout, and the consolidation or streamlining of Louisiana's elections.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the primary objective of the task force is to
26 review and deliberate all applicable facts, circumstances, policies, and procedures that
27 contribute to Louisiana's low rates of voter participation and to develop recommendations
28 to increase engagement of the electorate.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall consist of the following
30 members:

1 (1) The chairman of the Senate Committee on Senate and Governmental Affairs, or
2 his designee.

3 (2) The chairman of the House Committee on House and Governmental Affairs, or
4 his designee.

5 (3) The chairman of the Legislative Democratic Caucus, or his designee.

6 (4) The chairman of the Legislative Republican Caucus, or his designee.

7 (5) The chairman of the Legislative Black Caucus, or his designee.

8 (6) The secretary of state, or her designee.

9 (7) The president of the Louisiana Registrars of Voters Association, or his designee.

10 (8) The executive director of the Louisiana Clerks of Court Association, or her
11 designee.

12 (9) The president of the Police Jury Association of Louisiana, or his designee.

13 (10) The president of the Louisiana Municipal Association, or his designee.

14 (11) The president of the Louisiana District Judges Association, or her designee.

15 (12) The president of the Louisiana District Attorneys Association, or his designee.

16 (13) The president of the Louisiana School Boards Association, or his designee.

17 (14) The president of the Power Coalition for Equity and Justice, or her designee.

18 (15) The president of the Louisiana State Conference of the NAACP, or his designee.

19 (16) The president of the League of Women Voters of Louisiana, or her designee.

20 (17) The executive director of the Voice of the Experienced, or his designee.

21 (18) The president of the Pelican Institute, or his designee.

22 (19) The president of the Public Affairs Research Council, or his designee.

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each designating authority shall submit the
24 names of designees to the task force to the secretary of state no later than July 1, 2025.

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of State shall provide staff to
26 support the task force.

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the task force shall convene for its first meeting no
28 later than August 1, 2024, at the call of the secretary of state, and at the first meeting, the
29 members shall elect a chairman and other officers as the task force may deem appropriate.

30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a majority of the task force shall constitute a

1 quorum for the transaction of business. All official actions of the task force shall require the
2 affirmative vote of a majority of the quorum.

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the members of the task force shall serve
4 without compensation, except per diem or expenses reimbursement to which they may be
5 individually entitled as members of their constituent organizations.

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force shall terminate on the date of the
7 submission of its report or the convening of the 2025 Regular Session, whichever occurs
8 first.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the written report of the task force findings and
10 recommendations shall be posted on the website of the secretary of state.

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to each
12 member of the task force.

The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Matt DeVille.

DIGEST

SCR 74 Original

2024 Regular Session

Barrow

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