

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 72**

**Introduced by Assembly Member Wyland**

June 6, 2005

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 72—Relative to Voter Awareness Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 72, as introduced, Wyland. Voter Awareness Week

This measure would proclaim the week of October 24 to 28, 2005, as Voter Awareness Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, There is a significantly low number of registered  
2 young voters, and 43.4 percent of 18-to-19 year olds were  
3 registered to vote and 30.2 percent voted in the 2000 presidential  
4 election; and

5 WHEREAS, Young adults between the ages of 18 to 24 state  
6 that “they don’t care” as the number one reason for not voting,  
7 followed by “voting doesn’t make a difference,” and they are  
8 “not informed,” or “too busy” and do not have “enough time” to  
9 vote; and

10 WHEREAS, Young people are the best resource available to  
11 encourage other young people to register to vote and to vote; and

12 WHEREAS, There was an 8.5 percent increase in the voter  
13 turnout among those under the age of 30 when they were  
14 encouraged by their peers to register to vote and vote, indicating  
15 that when young people talk to each other about civic issues are  
16 more likely to vote; and

1 WHEREAS, Voter turnout among 18 to 24-year-olds in  
2 California has consistently declined, and there has been a 9  
3 percent decrease in California’s voter turnout rate among 18 to  
4 24-year-olds, and a 13 percent decrease in the national youth  
5 voter turnout rate since 1978; and

6 WHEREAS, Compared to other states, California has a low  
7 youth voter turnout, and in the 2000 presidential election, the  
8 voter turnout among 18 to 24-year-olds in California was 44  
9 percent and in the 2002 statewide general election the youth  
10 voter turnout was 23 percent; and

11 WHEREAS, 18 to 24-year-olds vote in significantly lower  
12 numbers than any other voting population; and

13 WHEREAS, People who begin voting at a younger age are  
14 more likely to vote consistently later in life; and

15 WHEREAS, Voter apathy is one of the major challenges  
16 facing California, and when all 73.3 million of the young people  
17 currently under age 17 come of voting age, they will be comprise  
18 a larger voting population than the baby boomers, necessitating  
19 the encouragement of youth to participate in the democratic  
20 system in order to train and prepare the next generation of  
21 statesmen and civic leaders; and

22 WHEREAS, Let’s Vote America, Inc. a statewide California  
23 youth voter education organization and the California  
24 Department of Education have served to increase the youth voter  
25 awareness and turnout; and

26 WHEREAS, Let’s Vote America, Inc. initiated Voter  
27 Awareness Week dedicating each day of the week to a certain  
28 aspect of youth voter awareness; and

29 WHEREAS, The theme of this year’s effort, “Speak Up Speak  
30 Out,” supports the ongoing need to increase youth civic  
31 participation; now, therefore be it

32 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
33 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature commemorates the  
34 accomplishments of young civic leaders, in promoting the value  
35 of civic participation and hereby proclaims the week of October  
36 24 to 28, 2005, as Voter Awareness Week; and be it further

37 *Resolved,* That the Legislature encourages Let’s Vote America  
38 Inc. to reach out to the 400,000 California public high school  
39 seniors to register them to vote and help them become more  
40 aware of current civic matters; and be it further

- 1     *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all of California's
- 2     public schools to participate in Voter Awareness Week activities.

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