
SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 8031

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2008 Regular Session

By Senators Hobbs and Fairley

Read first time 02/06/08. Referred to Committee on Government Operations & Elections.

1 TO THE HONORABLE GEORGE W. BUSH, PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,
2 AND TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE AND THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES, AND TO THE SENATE AND HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
4 UNITED STATES, IN CONGRESS ASSEMBLED:

5 We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of
6 the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully
7 represent and petition as follows:

8 WHEREAS, The opportunity to participate in the electoral process,
9 and the act of voting that embodies that opportunity, represent the
10 cornerstone of our democracy, and voters should have ample opportunity
11 to cast meaningful votes; and

12 WHEREAS, Fostering a high voter turnout is crucial in order to
13 ascertain with greatest certainty the political will of the voting
14 public; and

15 WHEREAS, Voter turnout in Washington's general elections has varied
16 from as high as 82% in presidential elections to as low as 52% in other
17 elections; and

18 WHEREAS, Increasing voter turnout can be directly linked to the
19 ease with which voters can cast their ballots; and

1 WHEREAS, Although employers are required to allow employees to take
2 time off of work in order to vote, a temporary absence from work may
3 pose hardships for employers, and employees may be reluctant to request
4 time off; and

5 WHEREAS, More public buildings, especially schools, would be
6 available for use as polling places; and more, better trained poll
7 workers, including patriotic high school and college students, might be
8 available to staff polling places on election day;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that the
10 President and Congress of the United States specify that the Tuesday
11 next after the first Monday in November in every even-numbered year be
12 made a legal public holiday.

13 BE IT RESOLVED, That copies of this Memorial be immediately
14 transmitted to the Honorable George W. Bush, President of the United
15 States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
16 House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of
17 Washington.

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