

First Extraordinary Session, 2005

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 31

BY REPRESENTATIVE GRAY

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To strongly urge and request the Louisiana secretary of state to make every extraordinary effort and to work with other state and federal agencies to contact individuals displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in order to provide them information relative to their voting rights and how to register to vote and vote in upcoming elections.

WHEREAS, in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, the state is facing numerous unprecedented challenges related to voting and elections issues; and

WHEREAS, of vital importance is the need for all citizens who have been displaced by the storms to be informed about their voting rights as well as how to register to vote and vote in upcoming elections; and

WHEREAS, it is imperative that the secretary of state's office and the Federal Emergency Management Agency as well as other state and federal agencies work cooperatively to obtain the names and addresses of citizens who have been displaced and that they unify to make a coordinated and unwavering effort across agency lines to work in the best interest of Louisiana's displaced citizens by providing them with all necessary voting information; and

WHEREAS, a national public service advertising campaign should be implemented, pro bono if possible, employing radio, television, direct mail, and all other potential methods of communication in order to reach the displaced Louisianians who are now residing in other parts of the state and all over the nation, including informing them of their voting rights under Louisiana election laws, how to seek an absentee ballot in time for the elections, and that if they register to vote in another state, they will lose their right to vote in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, civic participation is a key element of allowing displaced citizens to regain some semblance of a normal life, and the state must take every feasible measure to

ensure that these Louisiana citizens are able to make their voices heard by being provided with information about voting; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that all possible measures be developed and implemented to ensure that all individuals displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita are fully informed about their voting rights and voting procedures.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby strongly urge and request the Louisiana secretary of state to make every extraordinary effort and to work cooperatively with other state and federal agencies to contact individuals displaced by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in order to provide them information relative to their voting rights and how to register to vote and vote in upcoming elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana secretary of state and to the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE