

**BEFORE THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF
MONTEREY, STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Resolution No.

Resolution urging the United States
Supreme Court to affirm the
constitutionality of the
Voting Rights Act.

WHEREAS, Political sovereignty is the cornerstone of the democratic process and our political sovereignty is jeopardized when eligible people fail to vote; and

WHEREAS, The remedy and redress of grievances against government is ensured through the electing of representatives that voice the public's needs; and

WHEREAS, The right to vote is the most important of civic rights and obligations; and

WHEREAS, Our American democracy is strengthened when we create and maintain voting systems that ensure the ability of all citizens to practice civic engagement by taking part in elections; and

WHEREAS, The Fifteenth Amendment of the United States Constitution ensures that the right to vote is not denied on account of race or color and grants the United States Congress the authority to protect equal access to the vote, regardless of race or ethnicity; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has exercised the authority to protect the right to vote by passing the landmark legislation of the civil rights era known as the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which seeks to eliminate discriminatory procedures and barriers that disenfranchise minority voters; and

WHEREAS, the United States Attorney General designated four California Counties – Kings, Merced, Monterey, and Yuba – as covered jurisdictions under § 4(b) of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, requiring such jurisdictions to submit for preclearance all changes affecting voting; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act has contributed to the immense progress in protecting and expanding the right to vote over the past few decades by ensuring that state and local election practices are just and fair and continues to play a critical role in preventing and addressing real threats to Americans' right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act allows for adjustments as conditions change as long as the jurisdiction gains preclearance prior to implementation and that the proposed change does not create discriminatory voting policies in the presently affected jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, The Voting Rights Act is a reflection of the promise of the United States Constitution that all Americans have an equal right to vote without facing discrimination, poll taxes, and other abuses; and

WHEREAS, Monterey County has made great efforts to meet the promise under the Voting Rights Act that all Monterey County electors have an equal opportunity to vote without barriers that disenfranchise voters protected under the Act; and

WHEREAS, The United States Congress has, time and again, reaffirmed the need for proactive protection against abuses that might curtail the right to vote by renewing the provisions of the Voting Rights Act; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act is currently under review by the United States Supreme Court.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Monterey County Board of Supervisors hereby urges the Supreme Court of the United States to affirm the clear constitutionality of the Voting Rights Act;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution will be transmitted to the Supreme Court of the United States, the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Majority Leader of the Senate, and the United States Department of Justice.

PASSED AND ADOPTED on this 26th day of March, 2013 by the following vote, to-wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

I, Gail Borkowski, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors of the County of Monterey, State of California, hereby certify that the foregoing is a true copy of an original order of said Board of Supervisors duly made and entered in the minutes thereof of Minute Book___ for the meeting on _____.

Dated:

Gail Borkowski, Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Monterey, State of California

By _____
Deputy