

1 **RESOLUTION BY THE FULTON COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS IN**
2 **SUPPORT OF THE JOHN ROBERT LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS ADVANCEMENT ACT,**
3 **AND STOPPING VOTER SUPPRESSION; AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.**
4

5 **WHEREAS**, on Tuesday, August 24, 2021, the U.S. House of Representatives
6 approved sending the legislation to the U.S. Senate; and
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8 **WHEREAS**, upon enactment, the Act will restore the federal preclearance
9 provision originally instituted by the 1965 Voting Rights Act, which was eroded by a 2013
10 Supreme Court decision in the *Shelby v. Holder* case; and
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12 **WHEREAS**, the purpose of John Robert Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act is
13 to ensure the right of citizens of the United States to vote is not denied or abridged on
14 account of race, color, or membership in a language minority group as a result of the
15 implementation of certain qualifications or prerequisites to voting or standard practices or
16 procedures with respect to voting newly adopted in a state or political subdivision.
17

18 **WHEREAS**, the John Robert Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act allows for
19 judicial review and/or relief for an aggrieved person in such circumstance, to include:
20 where there is a change or series of changes within a year to the boundaries of a
21 jurisdiction that reduces the proportion of the jurisdictions voting age of members of a
22 single racial group or language minority group; change to the boundaries of election
23 districts where any racial group or language minority group experiences a population
24 increase over the preceding decade; any change to requirements for documentation or
25 proof of identity to vote that is more stringent than required in previous legislation; any
26 change that reduces multilingual voting materials; or relocate voting locations or reduces
27 days or hours of in-person voting on any Sunday during a period occurring prior to the
28 date of election; and
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30 **WHEREAS**, the preclearance provision required states and jurisdictions with
31 histories of racial discrimination—largely the Jim Crow South—including Georgia, to gain
32 approval from the Department of Justice before implementing any change to voting
33 procedures; and
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35 **WHEREAS**, states including Georgia have recently enacted numerous voting
36 laws, such as Georgia Senate Bill 202 (“SB202”), that curtail and make it harder to cast
37 ballots under the guise of “election integrity” and “fighting fraud;” and
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39 **WHEREAS**, upon the final count of the 2020 Presidential Election in Georgia,
40 including a manual hand recount, a machine recount, Secretary of State Brad
41 Raffensperger and Governor Brian Kemp declared no massive voter fraud took place in
42 Georgia, and despite the loss and false claim of fraud by the sitting U.S. president, Mr.
43 Raffensperger stated that “By all accounts, Georgia had a wildly successful and smooth
44 election.” and in Fulton County 528,777 of the 806,451 registered electors (65.57 percent)
45 cast a ballot; and
46

47 **WHEREAS**, SB202, among other things, effectively makes it harder to vote,
48 particularly providing for the: a) takeover of the Fulton County Board of Registration and
49 Elections; b) the ending of mobile voting; c) reduction in request time for an absentee-
50 voter ballot; d) reduction of drop boxes, from 38 to 8 in Fulton County; e) the arrest of
51 persons offering food or water to persons waiting in line to vote; f) elimination of outside
52 funding assistance to improve elections; and
53

54 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County citizens believe in safe and secure, free and fair
55 elections and support laws which uphold the fundamental rights of citizenship, and abhor
56 the erecting of new barriers to voting; and
57

58 **WHEREAS**, the pending bill known as H.R.4, is named in honor of Rep. John
59 Robert Lewis and supports this great American ideal, and laws such as SB202 do the
60 exact opposite; and
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62 **WHEREAS**, Fulton County and the Board of Commissioners recognizes and
63 honors the lifelong commitment of Rep. John Robert Lewis to voters' rights, from being
64 brutally beaten at age 26, in Selma, Alabama, on "Bloody Sunday" in 1965, to his final
65 days of life in July 2021, as a standout Fulton County resident.
66

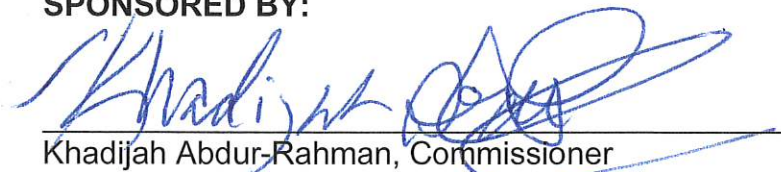
67 **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Fulton County and the Board of
68 Commissioners reinforces its long-standing commitment to the U.S. Voting Rights Act of
69 1965 as amended and applauds the House passage of the John Robert Lewis Voting
70 Rights Advancement Act and urges the U.S. Senate to follow suit and send the legislation
71 to President Joe Biden's desk forthwith.
72

73 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that upon adoption of this Resolution, that the Clerk
74 to the Commission is directed to send copies of this Resolution to each member of the
75 Georgia Congressional Delegation, members of the U.S. Senate, and to the President
76 and Vice President of the United States, forthwith; and
77

78 **BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED**, that all resolutions and parts of resolutions in conflict
79 with this Resolution are hereby repealed to the extent of the conflict.
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81 **PASSED AND ADOPTED** by the Board of Commissioners of Fulton County,
82 Georgia, this 1st day of September 2021.
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84
85 **SPONSORED BY:**

86
87 
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89 Khadijah Abdur-Rahman, Commissioner
90 District 6
91

Natalie Hall

Natalie Hall, Vice-Chair
District 4

ATTEST:

Tonya R. Grier

Tonya R. Grier
Clerk to the Commission



APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Kaye Woodward Burwell

Kaye Woodward Burwell
Interim County Attorney