

# HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 9

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By: **Delegates Cain, Acevero, Bagnall, Bartlett, Chang, Charkoudian, Guyton, Lehman, Palakovich Carr, Solomon, Terrasa, Valderrama, and P. Young**

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Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

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## HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A House Joint Resolution concerning

2 **Democracy Day**

3 FOR the purpose of designating December 23 as Democracy Day; and generally relating to  
4 Democracy Day.

5 WHEREAS, The Declaration of Independence, signed on July 4, 1776, stated that  
6 government is formed by the consent of the people, through which the rights to life, liberty,  
7 and the pursuit of happiness can be sought in accordance with the belief that all are created  
8 equal; and

9 WHEREAS, The ratification of the Declaration of Independence contributed to the  
10 start of the Revolutionary War, which inspired hundreds of thousands of patriots to fight  
11 for their liberty, despite great personal sacrifice, under General George Washington; and

12 WHEREAS, While others urged him to become king, on December 23, 1783, George  
13 Washington stood before the Continental Congress in the Maryland Statehouse in  
14 Annapolis, thanked those assembled for the opportunity to lead the nation to independence  
15 and sovereignty, and eschewed power, stepping aside and setting the nation on a path of  
16 civil government “of, by and for the people” in what artist John Trumbull described as “one  
17 of the highest moral lessons given to the world”; and

18 WHEREAS, King George III, the monarch defeated in America’s Revolutionary War,  
19 is claimed to have called Washington the “most distinguished of any man living” and “the  
20 greatest character of the age” for Washington’s renouncement of absolute power on  
21 December 23, and historian Thomas Fleming called Washington’s renouncement “the most  
22 important moment in American History”; and

23 WHEREAS, George Washington’s resignation decidedly ended America’s era of  
24 monarchical rule, ushering in the era of American democracy; and



**HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 9**

1           WHEREAS, The world's great act of statesmanship began in Annapolis, the capital  
2 city of Maryland, where Washington's resignation speech now lies, providing all  
3 Marylanders with a reminder of the sacrifice and devotion necessary to enshrine them with  
4 the power of democracy; and

5           WHEREAS, Democracy "of, by and for the people" suggested by philosopher John  
6 Locke 200 years earlier, was unique in the world at the time and remains elusive for many  
7 nations today; and

8           WHEREAS, Democracy continues to allow Americans to seek representation in their  
9 government and pursue the rights and ideas declared many years ago, and must not be  
10 forgotten; and

11           WHEREAS, Trust in the people and the power of their vote led the United States to  
12 become a world leader; now, therefore, be it

13           RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the General  
14 Assembly of Maryland designates December 23 as "Democracy Day" to encourage  
15 contemplation of the importance of service to American freedom and inspire active  
16 participation in democracy; and be it further

17           RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of  
18 Legislative Services to the Honorable Lawrence J. Hogan, Jr., Governor of Maryland; the  
19 Honorable William C. Ferguson, IV, President of the Senate of Maryland; and the  
20 Honorable Adrienne A. Jones, Speaker of the House of Delegates.