

RESOLUTION
Department Headquarters, The American Legion of Ohio

RESOLUTION No.: 22-03A

ORIGIN: Department Americanism Committee

SUBJECT: To Strengthen the Quality of Civics Education In the State of Ohio

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON: Department Legislative Committee

WHEREAS, Two of the four pillars of the American Legion are Americanism and Children and Youth; and

WHEREAS, As an organization value principle, The American Legion advocates for upholding and defending the United States Constitution, equal justice and opportunity for everyone, discrimination against no one, youth education, responsible citizenship, and honoring military service by observing and participating in patriotic and memorial events; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Department of Ohio connects Ohio's youth through Buckeye Boy's State, Americanism & Government Test and Educational Trip, and the Oratorical Constitutional Speech Contest which educates youth about federal and state government; and

WHEREAS, The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service published an *Inspire to Serve* report that defines *civic education* includes teaching the fundamental principles enshrined in the Constitution, Declaration of Independence, and other founding documents; deepening students' understanding of how those principles apply to civic life; and providing experiences that intentionally prepare students for informed, engaged participation in civic life; and

WHEREAS, A strong America requires a citizenry that has a basic understanding of how their Federal, State, and Local governments work, the rights and obligations of the citizens, the ability to identify the difference between real journalism and commentary; and the willingness and aptitude to listen and understand both sides to any given issue and how to work towards a solution that best serves the community-at-large; and

WHEREAS, The National Commission on Military, National, and Public Service found that 22 percent of American adults cannot name any of the three branches of government, and 37 percent cannot name any of the rights guaranteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution, and only 22 States require high school students to be tested on civics or U.S. government before they graduate; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Education adopted Ohio's Learning Standards for Social Studies in 2018, which established the philosophy, guidance, and standards for K-12 education, with four disciplines of history, geography, government, and economics; and

WHEREAS, The Social Studies learning standards are heavily focused on the world and American history and the government strand in course curriculum does not begin until the eighth grade; and

This is to certify that this resolution was adopted by our Department but with National action substituted for local resolving clause.

Adjutant

Department

Other authorized source:

(To be used when resolution is submitted from another authorized source or to comply with Resolution 21, May 4-5, 2016)

BELOW THIS LINE FOR NATIONAL CONVENTION COMMITTEE USE ONLY

Approved	Approved with Amendment	Rejected	Received and Recorded	Consolidated with
Referred to Standing Commission or Committee on				
Other Action				
Signature of Chairman or Secretary	_____			

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WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Education requires only one US Government course as a requirement for high school graduation and it is the only course that includes civic participation and skills as a required course topic; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Education does provide high school students the option to enroll and complete an Advanced Placement United States Government Course; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio Department of Education does offer a *Social Science and Civic Engagement Honors Diploma*, which requires a minimum GPA of 3.5, a minimum ACT score of 27, or a minimum SAT score of 1280, and five completed units of Social Studies in which course offerings are history, financial literacy, and US Government; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio Revised Code 3301.079(B)(3), states that it is the responsibility of Ohio Local boards of education to vet and approve curriculum and educational materials for their District; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio General Assembly may pass legislation that requires new educational standards or course requirements; and

WHEREAS, The Ohio State Board of Education may study, review, and adopt newly revised standards and/or model curriculum for districts to implement with a well-defined transition plan; and, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By The American Legion Department of Ohio, Department Executive Committee assembled in regular session, in Delaware, Ohio, on April 2, 2022, that we call upon The Ohio General Assembly and/or The Ohio State Board of Education, to expand high-quality, age-appropriate, evidence-based civic education to all K-12 students by revising Ohio's Learning Standards for Social Studies; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Ohio's Learning Standards for Social Studies shall include a new required course on U.S. Government for seventh or eighth graders; a new required Ohio State Government Course as a requirement for high school graduation, and be it further

RESOLVED, To promote hands-on civic learning through visits to local and state public hearings, courtroom visits, local boards of elections, and simulated learning opportunities; and be it further

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RESOLVED, That hard copies of the U.S. Constitution; The Declaration of Independence, The U.S. Flag Code; and The Ohio State Constitution shall be issued to every eighth-grader and every senior in high school; and it is added to required reading.

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