

**REPORT OF THE
DIVISION OF LEGISLATIVE SERVICES**

**Desirability and Feasibility
of Conducting Elections
on Saturdays or Sundays**

**TO THE GOVERNOR AND
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF VIRGINIA**



SENATE DOCUMENT NO. 33

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA
RICHMOND
1994**

This report resulted from a study assigned to the Division of Legislative Services by the 1993 General Assembly as part of a pilot project. Division staff presented the findings to the Joint Rules Committee on November 17, 1993, and the completed report is now presented to the 1994 General Assembly.

STAFF

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**Report of the Division of Legislative Services
Studying
Desirability and Feasibility of Conducting
Elections on Saturday or Sunday
To
The Joint Rules Committee
Richmond, Virginia
1993**

I. PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

Fifty-five percent of the voting age population of the United States voted in the November 1992 elections according to Election Data Services. Election Data Services compiled data based on registration and turnout figures reported by state election officials¹. The United States Bureau of the Census estimates that 61 percent of the *civilian, noninstitutional* voting age population voted². The Census Bureau bases its estimate on a national survey it conducts after each federal election. The 1992 sample included 57,400 households.

Both sources show increased voting rates in 1992, reversing a downward spiral of voter interest that began in the 1960s. The 1992 turnout was the highest since 1972 by the Census Bureau's estimate and since 1968 according to Election Data Services. These rates are still considerably below those reported in most other democratic countries, however, and turnout in off-year federal, state, and local elections typically falls well below 50 percent.

More Virginians voted in 1992 than ever before. The turnout of 2,558,665 for President represented 52.84 percent of the voting age population according to Election Data Services. This figure does not include the 24,000 voters who went to the polls in 1992 but did not cast a vote in the presidential contest. However, Virginia still lags behind the national average, ranking thirty-seventh nationally in this category in the Election Data Services report.

Concerned observers from time to time propose weekend elections as one antidote to the high rate of nonvoting in the United States, noting that several of the nations where higher percentages of the electorate turn out conduct elections on Saturday or Sunday. Proponents assume that more Americans likewise would vote in a weekend election. They argue that potential voters would have more time and flexibility to get to the polls and could avoid conflicts with work, school, or other workday

activities. Voting might spread more uniformly throughout the day on a weekend, reducing the time spent at the polls and removing that disincentive to voting.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 232 (1993) directed the Division of Legislative Services to investigate the desirability of conducting elections in Virginia on Saturday or Sunday, or on both days. The feasibility of holding federal elections on those days also is to be examined. A number of factors must be considered to determine whether it is feasible or desirable to conduct weekend elections. The factors considered in this study include:

- Experience with Saturday or Sunday voting elsewhere in the United States
- Administrative impacts of weekend voting such as the availability of polling places and election officials willing to serve
- Savings or additional costs that might be associated with weekend voting
- Public reaction to Saturday or Sunday voting, particularly the sentiments of religious faiths and denominations to elections on their day of worship
- Increases or decreases in opportunity to vote if election day is on a weekend
- Federal laws that would affect the ability to hold federal elections on a weekend
- Extent to which holding elections on a workday or a day of rest is a factor in voter turnout

II. HOW DATA WAS COLLECTED

A survey was mailed to a selected list of Virginia election officials, voter groups, religious organizations, and other parties (See Appendix A). Each was asked to assess the effect of Saturday or Sunday elections on its membership and to state its position, if any, on the issue. We obtained information from election officials in Louisiana and Texas, states with recent experience with Saturday elections, and interviewed Virginia's Secretary of Elections, Michael Brown.

We reviewed research on reasons for declining registration and turnout in the United States and comparisons of American election administration with that of other countries. Individuals recognized as knowledgeable in the conduct of American elections were interviewed by telephone.

III. EXPERIENCE WITH SATURDAY OR SUNDAY VOTING

Recent experience with weekend voting in the United States is limited. Louisiana moved the gubernatorial primary to Saturday in 1959 and the general election of the governor to the same day in 1975. Texas conducted its primaries on Saturday until 1988, when it shifted the primary to Tuesday in order to take part in the "Super Tuesday" presidential primary. Reports show only a few scattered instances of local special elections on either Saturday or Sunday.

Election officials in Louisiana and Texas offered some insights on administrative issues involved in conducting weekend elections. Both states concluded that voter turnout was not significantly different for Saturday elections³. Reports on experimental Sunday voting in local special elections draw the same conclusion⁴.

Several nations in Europe do conduct national elections on Sunday or over a two-day period of Sunday and Monday. As noted above, voting rates in other democratic nations outstrip that of the United States. The conclusion of those who have made comparative studies, however, is that the availability of Sunday voting is not a determining factor. First, features such as the method of voter registration, compulsory voting requirements in some countries, extent of party efforts to mobilize voters, and statistical differences in reporting on registration and voting all are found to affect the differences in rates of participation between the United States and other countries⁵. Second, the presence or absence of weekend voting has not been found to be a significant factor in explaining the differences in turnout among the other countries⁶.

Differences in approaches to registration and eligibility to vote are considered the key structural determinants in explaining lower American voting. In other countries, voter registration or eligibility procedures generally are either automatic or carried out by public officials akin to a canvass or census. American states, with a few exceptions, place the responsibility for registering and remaining eligible through residential moves and the like on the individual.

TABLE 1

REGISTRATION AND VOTING: 1992 PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

	Election Data Services	Census Bureau*
Percent of Voting Age Population Registered		
United States	72.4%	68.3%
Virginia	63.1%	65.5%
Percent of Voting Age Population Voting		
United States	55.2%	65.4%
Virginia	52.8%	61.2%
Percent of Registered Voters Voting		
United States	78.0%	90.0%
Virginia	83.8%	93.5%

* Excludes non-military and institutional population.

Source: Election Data Services in *Election Administration Reports* (June 14, 1993). EDS figures are compiled from data reported by state election officials.

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P20-466, Voting and Registration in the Election of November 1992 (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1993). Census estimates are from a survey of 57,400 households.

Americans who are registered are likely to vote in Presidential elections (Table 1). If they can vote on that occasion, the day of the election and access to the polls is an unlikely explanation for the significant drop-off in other elections. The Census Bureau estimates that 90 percent of registered voters claim to have voted for President in 1992. Election Data Services, even with inflated registration figures from some states, found that 78 percent of the registered voters turned out. In Virginia, 83.8 percent of those registered voted for President and 84.5 percent in all went to the polls. Virginia ranked fourth nationally in the percent of registered voters who participated, according to Election Data Services.

IV. FEDERAL ELECTION DATE ISSUE

Senate Joint Resolution No. 232 directs us to investigate the extent to which it is feasible under the United States Constitution and federal statutes to change the federal election date to a Saturday, Sunday, or both. The short answer is that federal elections

could not be moved to one of the proposed days. Federal law establishes the Tuesday after the first Monday in November as the day for selecting presidential electors (3 USCS §2), members of the United States House of Representatives (2 USCS §7) and United States Senators (2 USCS § 1). The Commonwealth can only consider changes in the day for state and local elections.

V. ADMINISTRATION ISSUES: POLLING SITES
AND ELECTION OFFICIALS

The availability of polling places is a key concern for local election officials in Virginia. Section 24.2-310 of the Code of Virginia specifies certain requirements for polling places. Polling places must meet handicap accessibility requirements. While polls may be located outside the precinct to a maximum of 1,200 yards, electoral boards for obvious reasons prefer to locate them within the boundaries of the precinct in order to avoid voter confusion. State law expresses a preference for locating precincts in public buildings. A wide range of facilities in fact is used, as reflected in Table 2.

**TABLE 2
LOCATION OF POLLING PLACES**

Polling Site	Number	Percent
Schools	921	44.1%
Governmental	232	11.1%
Churches	253	12.1%
Volunteer Fire and Rescue	233	11.1%
Community Centers	187	8.9%
Fraternal Lodges	89	4.3%
Private Buildings	79	3.8%
Undetermined	<u>96</u>	<u>4.6%</u>
Total	2,090	100%

Source: Classified from computer printout of precincts and polling places as of October 15, 1992, provided by the State Board of Elections.

School buildings make up the single largest set of polling places and account for almost half the sites across the Commonwealth. The second largest grouping of polling locations (12.1 percent) is churches and a few synagogues. Several other types of facilities also contribute significantly to the mix of polling places. One significant way of

grouping several of these types is to note that they frequently are used as a location for community social activities. Volunteer fire and rescue squad buildings, community centers, and fraternal lodges all fall into this category and together comprise roughly one quarter of all polling places in the state.

Weekend voting would require local election officials to move some polling sites. Sunday elections clearly would cause the greater dislocation, given that most churches are unlikely to allow poll operations to interfere with the normal use of church facilities. Some businesses and privately owned polling sites also may normally be closed on Sunday. Conducting an election on Saturday would not preclude continued use of most of these buildings since only a handful of polling places are located in synagogues. However, polling sites where social activities commonly occur would face increased scheduling conflicts on Saturday and, to a lesser extent, Sunday.

The extent to which polls would have to be moved for weekend elections is speculative. A reasonable conclusion is that at least ten percent of the polls might have to be relocated if elections were held on Sunday or on Saturday and Sunday combined since churches alone account for 12 percent of all polling places. Relocation for Saturday elections presumably would be below 10 percent, although it is unknown how many churches and social organizations would also consider Saturday to interfere with their primary operating purpose. Local election officials, working with the owners of polling sites, should be able to negotiate continued use in some instances.

Most of the schools and publicly owned buildings that serve as polling sites are closed on Saturday and Sunday. Election officials generally should encounter little problem in opening these facilities on a weekend. The cost of doing so is addressed below.

In addition to the location of polling places, weekend elections can affect the availability of election officials and poll workers. The same consideration applies to political party poll watchers and election-day workers and volunteers. One school of thought is that the pool of qualified election officials would increase. Workers whose employment prevents them from serving on Tuesday could be recruited on the weekend. This argument has been used in Louisiana to support Saturday elections.

The other view is that fewer people would be willing to give up a day of rest, travel, vacation or other activity. Several of the religious organizations that responded indicated that they believed the typical member of their faith or denomination would feel bound by religious teaching and belief not to work at polls on the Sabbath recognized by that faith. This factor would affect a larger number if the proposal were to hold elections on Sunday. However, groups for whom Saturday is the Sabbath, particularly Jews and Seventh Day Adventists, are among those likely to have the most strongly held convictions against serving as an election official on the Sabbath.

The Voter Registrars Association of Virginia in its survey response concluded that it would be more difficult to recruit election workers for Saturday or Sunday

elections. Some individual registrars believe that the opposite would be true, however, perhaps reflecting experience in certain localities.

A positive result of weekend elections would be less disruption of school operations. To the extent that schedules and classrooms have to be changed to accommodate election officials, equipment, and voters, elections on a weekend day could be beneficial. Conflicts have not been a major problem in Virginia apparently, given the large number of schools that local school boards continue to make available.

Another theoretical benefit claimed for weekend voting is that voting will take less time and administration of the election will be smoother because voting will be spaced more evenly throughout the day rather than concentrated at two peak times. This argument has been made in Louisiana, according to the Secretary of State's office, as a reason not to return to Tuesday elections.

Given the limited American experience with weekend elections, the true effect of Saturday or Sunday polling has not been empirically tested in this area. An interesting case is that of Quebec, Canada, which conducted an experimental election on Sunday in 1966⁷. The unexpected result was that many voters spent the day traveling or otherwise relaxing, planning to vote at the last hour. Massive traffic jams ensued on the bridges to Montreal and voter turnout was lower than normal or expected.

VI. COST OF WEEKEND ELECTIONS

The cost of conducting elections will be slightly higher on a weekend than on Tuesday. Texas, for example, reported a savings when it moved its primaries from Saturday to Tuesday in 1988. The reason was that rent that had been paid in many places to schools and other public buildings to open on Saturday was not required on Tuesday.

Whether a locality rents or makes "donations" for any of its polling places varies in Virginia. It is common practice, although by no means uniform, that local electoral boards make some payment when churches and other private facilities are used. Fairfax County, for example, makes a donation to most of the churches whose facilities it uses for polling places. The amount currently paid probably would not change in most instances were elections moved to Saturday or Sunday. On the other hand, if the loss of existing polling places presents a problem in finding replacement locations, it might be necessary in some instances to enter into more formal agreements, such as rental contracts, to acquire space at a shopping center or other private facility. The City of Alexandria, for example, was unable to locate a replacement polling place in one precinct when it lost the existing site and incurred expenses of roughly \$5,000 to acquire and equip a trailer as a substitute polling place.

A small cost increase is likely for using public facilities on the weekend. Most of the schools and other government-owned facilities would have to be opened expressly

for Saturday or Sunday elections. The typical electoral board in Virginia now incurs some minor costs to use public school buildings. Fairfax County, to illustrate, pays for two hours of additional custodial time to use schools since the custodial staff must open the school at 5 a.m. rather than 7 a.m. on election day. The total cost was \$6,800 for the last election.

Some custodial staff probably would have to be paid to work the entire day on the Saturday or Sunday of the election. Two shifts might be required in some instances to open, maintain, and close the building for the 16 or more hours that the building is actually in use. Likewise, employees of the registrar, clerk, and electoral board covered by federal rules would have to be paid overtime for weekend duty. Registrars and other top level personnel are not subject to coverage but secretarial and similar personnel would have to be paid. The Voter Registrars Association noted that weekend elections would increase the uncompensated overtime work that registrars now perform.

Utility, heat, and other costs of operating a building are not an issue for Tuesday elections since the buildings are already open. Whether school systems and other governmental agencies might change the general current policy if the building had to be opened specifically for a weekend day election is unknown.

Finally, it should be noted that the evaluation of the administrative and cost effects of weekend voting presented previously is based on the assumption that either Saturday or Sunday would be chosen as the election day. Administrative disruption and election costs would increase significantly if the election were extended over the entire two-day weekend period. Saturday and Sunday polling conflicts would be combined. Personnel costs, including payments to election officials, would double.

VII. ELECTIONS AND RELIGION

Table 3 categorizes the responses that we received to our survey. Religious faiths and denominations expressed the strongest negative attitudes towards Saturday or Sunday voting.

TABLE 3

SURVEY RESPONSES: EFFECT OF WEEKEND VOTING ON MEMBERS/CLIENTELE

Anticipated Effect

Share Likely Affected	Positive	Negative
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High	League of Women Voters Roman Catholic Diocese, Arlington United Church of Christ, Southern Conference Common Cause of Virginia Va. AFL-CIO	Voter Registrars Association Evangelical Lutheran Church, Va. Synod Jewish Community Federation, Richmond Anti-Defamation League Va. Baptist General Association United Methodist Church, Va. Annual Conference Church of the Brethren, Va District Abingdon Presbytery Keneseth Beth Israel, Richmond Seventh-Day Adventists, Potomac Conference Dept. for Rights of Virginians with Disabilities
Low	Va. Dept. of Social Services United Methodist Church, VA Annual Conference* Church of the Brethren, Virginia District* Abingdon Presbytery* Dept. for Rights of Virginians with Disabilities *Saturday only	Va. Dept. of Social Services United Church of Christ, Southern Conference

According to the Congressional Research Service, the United States Congress established Tuesday as the day for federal elections because of religious objections to holding elections on Sunday. Reports indicate that the issue surfaced when a few special Saturday or Sunday elections recently were held in the United States. In the survey conducted for this study, several religious denominations stated opposition on religious grounds to Sunday elections or believed that whether it was proper to hold Sunday elections could be an issue for significant numbers of their denominations.

Those who observe Saturday as the Sabbath were particularly strong in their objections to Saturday elections. The Community Relations Committee, Jewish Community Federation of Richmond, noted that the National Jewish Community

Relations Advisory Board in 1972-73 took the following position, for example: "We recommend that Jewish community relations agencies demand that community elections be held on days other than the Sabbath or Jewish Holy Days." Likewise, the Potomac Conference of Seventh Day Adventists registered strong opposition to Saturday elections.

Several respondents also noted the potential conflicts with the use of churches and synagogues as polling places and stated that members would either be precluded from or reluctant to serve as election officials because of religious requirements and beliefs.

The possibility of a two-day election period was raised but not actively promoted by a few religious organizations in our survey. A few, such as the Seventh Day Adventists, also stated that they generally would oppose elections on the day of the weekend which was not their Sabbath because of its effect on other faiths.

VIII. ISSUES RELATED TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO VOTE

Several arguments are made to support the thesis that weekend elections would increase fairness, and perhaps thereby improve turnout. It is argued that voters are not equal in the access they have to the polls on weekday elections. The Virginia State AFL-CIO, for example, endorsed Saturday or Sunday elections in its response to our survey. Wage employees who are paid by the hour may face costs to vote if they are unable to do so before or after work hours. Typically, these workers must take time off, with loss of pay, to vote during the work day, assuming that they in fact are allowed to take the time off to vote. Salaried personnel likewise, it has been suggested, may not be able to take time off during the day or may be too busy to do so. The location of their employment may be a considerable distance from the precinct where they are supposed to vote.

To those who respond that time is available before and after work - polls are open in Virginia from 6 a.m. to 7 p.m. - critics of the present schedule argue that long lines at those times may make it difficult or impossible to vote and in any event discourage those who might be inclined to do so.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 232 suggested that persons who depend on family members or others for transportation may not be able to get to the polls if those upon whom they depend for transportation cannot get off from work on Tuesday. Saturday or Sunday elections presumably would help alleviate this problem. The reaction of one segment of this population came from the Department for the Rights of Virginians with Disabilities which, in response to our survey, surveyed 15 disability organizations. The Department reported a few comments supporting the proposition that people with disabilities might be more likely to "catch a ride" with someone who is not working on the weekend. On the other hand, a majority of the comments received by the Department argued that persons with disabilities, who already experience significant

transportation problems, would find these problems magnified due to very limited transportation services on the weekend. Other persons who depend upon public transportation likely would experience the same increased difficulty.

IX. THE "EARLY VOTING" ALTERNATIVE TO WEEKEND ELECTIONS

Attention recently has focused on alternatives, other than weekend voting, to increase the convenience of voting and to reduce congestion at the polls. Experiments have been conducted in California and elsewhere with elections by mail, for example. Probably the most attention has been paid to the "early voting" system which Texas has tried. Early voting in Texas requires at least one early voting station in each locality to be open between 20 days and 4 days before the election. Larger counties must open additional voting stations. A third of the electorate in Texas used the early ballot at the 1992 election. However, the evidence is that it did not increase overall turnout⁸.

The "early voting" system in effect is a variant of absentee voting upon demand. Virginia has liberalized its absentee voting procedures in recent years, making it possible for a person who will be out of the county or city of residence for business, vacation, or education reasons to cast an absentee ballot. The eligible voter may make an in-person application for an absentee ballot and vote the ballot in person at that time if the ballots have been printed. Registrars must also keep their offices open the two Saturdays immediately preceding the regular election for in-person applications.

X. CONCLUSION

The desirability and feasibility of conducting elections on Saturday or Sunday, or both, is highly speculative. There simply is not enough experience in this country with an alternative to Tuesday as the day of election to predict with any certainty the effects that would ensue from weekend elections. The primary intent of this study has been to identify the issues likely to arise if elections in Virginia were to be changed. To recapitulate the major findings:

- Federal law precludes moving federal elections to the weekend.
- The effect on voter turnout of conducting elections on the weekend cannot be determined. Reports on Louisiana, Texas, and special local elections conclude that overall turnout is not significantly different between Tuesday elections and Saturday or Sunday voting.
- Voting on Saturday or Sunday could be more convenient for some types of voters who now find it difficult to take time off from work to vote. On the other hand, religious convictions would create a dilemma for others if faced with Saturday or Sunday elections.

- Weekend voting would require relocation of some polling places, primarily but not exclusively because churches and synagogues would be unable or unwilling to allow voting to interfere with religious activities. Sunday elections clearly would create the greater conflict and might require ten percent or more of polling places to be changed.
- Localities would incur some additional cost as a result of weekend elections. The costs primarily would be for personnel, both overtime for staff of election officials and payments to personnel who maintain the facilities being used as polling places.
- A two-day voting period designed to overcome religious objections to voting on one or the other day of rest would compound administration problems. Polling places that cannot be used on one day or the other would be eliminated, personnel and other costs would double, and the willingness of election officials to serve an entire weekend would be more doubtful.
- Election administrators looking for alternatives that will make it easier for voters to cast their votes and ease the crunch of election day poll management appear to be less interested in weekend voting than in other options. Particular interest and attention has focused on the "early voting" system used in Texas in 1992.

ENDNOTES

¹Election Data Services data reported in "Voter Registration and Turnout in the 1992 General Election," *Election Administration Reports* (June 14, 1993), p. 3.

²U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P10-466, *Voting and Registration in the Elections of November 1992* (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC: 1993), p. v.

³Tony J. Servello III, Supervisor of Elections, Harris County, Texas, and Director at large for Election Officials, IACREOT, telephone interview, July 21, 1993; Brad Casey, Legislative Services, Louisiana House of Representatives, letter and attached statistics to Mr. Ed Garner, Council of State Governments, July 29, 1993.

⁴Richard G. Smolka, "Can Sunday Voting Make a Difference?" *Voting for Democracy, a Symposium on American Voter Participation*, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, and American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. (1983); Richard G. Smolka, "Weekend Voting and Voter Turnout," *IIMC News Digest*, May 1992 (International Institute for Municipal Clerks, San Dimas, CA).

⁵Smolka, "Can Sunday Voting Make a Difference?"; "Why America Doesn't Vote," *Editorial Research Reports*, Vol. 1, No. 7 (February 19, 1988).

⁶Raw voting percentages can show higher turnouts in some countries with elections on a day of rest. See, for instance, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, "Voting on a Rest Day or Work Day: Comparative Voting Information," Memorandum to The Honorable Mario Biaggi, May 23, 1985. As the authors of the memorandum caution, however: "This information should not be viewed in isolation. There may be numerous factors affecting electoral turnout in the countries selected that has no relation to what days elections are held." (p. 5)

⁷Smolka, "Can Sunday Voting Make a Difference?"

⁸"Florida Supervisors of Elections Ponder Early Voting, New Voter Registration Law," *Election Administration Reports* (June 14, 1993), p. 5.

APPENDIX A

Organizations Receiving Survey (Responding in bold print)

Abingdon Presbytery	Presbyterian Church USA
African Methodist Episcopal Church	Presbytery of Eastern Virginia
African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church	Presbytery of the James
American Civil Liberties Union of Virginia	Presbytery of the Peaks
Anti-Defamation League	Presbytery of the Shenandoah
Association of Community Action Agencies	Richmond Rabbinic Council (Keneseth Beth Israel)
Baptist General Association of Virginia	Roman Catholic Church - Diocese of Arlington
Baptist General Convention	Roman Catholic Church - Diocese of Richmond
Christian Churches in Virginia	Seventh-Day Adventists, Potomac Conference
Christian Methodist Episcopal Church	United Church of Christ - Central Atlantic Conference
Church of the Brethren - Maryland	United Church of Christ - Southern Conference
Church of the Brethren - Virginia, Dayton	United Methodist Church - Holston Conference
Church of the Brethren - Virginia District	United Methodist Church - Virginia Conference
Common Cause of Virginia	Virginia Association of Counties
Community Relations Committee	Virginia Chapter - NAACP
Department for Rights of Virginians with Disabilities	Virginia Chapter of Commerce
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia	Virginia Department of Social Services
Episcopal Diocese of Virginia	Virginia Education Association
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - Virginia	Virginia Electoral Boards Association
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America - Washington, DC	Virginia Friends Conference
Greek Orthodox Church	Virginia League of Social Services Directors
Jewish Community Federation of Richmond	Greensville-Emporia Dept. of Social Services
League of Women Voters of Virginia	Virginia Municipal League
Lutheran Church	Virginia Registrars Association of Virginia
Moravian Church of America	Virginia Retail Merchants Association
National Capitol Presbytery	Virginia State AFL-CIO
	Virginia Unit - Southern Christian Leadership Conference

APPENDIX B

INTERVIEWS

Beverly Beidler, Registrar, City of Alexandria; President, Voter Registrars Association of Virginia (Telephone interview, November 12, 1993)

Michael Brown, Secretary, State Board of Elections (Interview, November 8, 1993)

Judy Flaig, Clerk, Fairfax County Electoral Board (Telephone interview, November 12, 1993)

Tony J. Servello III, Supervisor of Elections, Harris County, Texas; Director at large for Election Officials, IACREOT (Telephone interview, July 21, 1993)

Richard Smolka, Editor, *Election Administration Reports* (Telephone interview)

OTHER RESOURCES

Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, "Making the General Election Day a Holiday or Changing the General Election Day to Sunday" (CRS Report to Congress, 87-596 A, June 2, 1987)

Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress, "Voting on a Rest Day or Work Day: Comparative Voting Information," Memorandum to The Honorable Mario Biaggi, May 23, 1985

"Florida Supervisors of Elections Ponder Early Voting, New Voter Registration Law," *Election Administration Reports* (June 14, 1993, p. 5)

Legislative Services, Louisiana House of Representatives, material on Saturday elections

Piven, Frances Fox and Richard A. Cloward. *Why Americans Don't Vote*. New York: Pantheon Books, 1988

Smolka, Richard G., *Can Sunday Voting Make a Difference?* Symposium on American Voter Participation, John F. Kennedy School of Government of Harvard University and American Broadcasting Companies, Inc. (1983)

Teixeira, Ruy A. *Why Americans Don't Vote: Turnout Decline in the United States 1960 - 1984*. New York: Greenwood Press, 1987

U.S. Bureau of the Census, Current Population Reports, P10-466, *Voting and Registration in the Elections of November 1992* (U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC, 1993). Census estimates are from a survey of 57,400 households

"Voter Registration and Turnout in the 1992 General Election," *Election Administration Reports* (June 14, 1993, p. 3)

"Why America Doesn't Vote," *Editorial Research Reports*, Volume 1, No. 7 (February 19, 1988)

Wolfinger, Raymond and Steven Rosenstone. *Who Votes?* New Haven: Yale University Press, 1980

APPENDIX C

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 232

Directing the Division of Legislative Services to study the day for conducting elections.

Agreed to by the Senate, February 25, 1993

Agreed to by the House of Delegates, February 23, 1993

WHEREAS, barely more than half of the American voting age population takes part in presidential elections, and progressively fewer vote in state and local elections; and

WHEREAS, participation by those Virginians old enough to vote is disturbingly low even by this weak national benchmark; and

WHEREAS, the conduct of elections on a weekday likely is a deterrent to significant numbers of potential voters who work, or who depend for child care and transportation on family members or friends who work; and

WHEREAS, elections in many other countries are held on the weekend and voter turnout in these countries far surpasses that in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the possibility of adopting Saturday, Sunday or both as the time for conducting election day in the Commonwealth merits serious consideration as a means of removing a major obstacle to participation and increasing the number of citizens of the Commonwealth who will be able to partake in this most fundamental right of citizenship; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the Division of Legislative Services be directed to study the desirability of establishing Saturday, Sunday or both as the time for conducting all state and local elections in the Commonwealth and to investigate the extent to which it is feasible, under the Constitution of the United States and federal statutes, to hold federal elections on that same day of the week.

The Division shall submit its findings and conclusions to the Joint Committee on Rules as provided in the procedures of the Division of Legislative Automated Systems for processing legislative documents.

Implementation of this resolution is subject to the subsequent approval and certification of the Joint Committee on Rules. The Committee may withhold the expenditures and delay the period for the conduct of the study.

