

By: Senator(s) Fillingane, Barnett,
McCaughn, Michel, Norwood, Simmons (12th),
Thomas

To: Rules

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 57

1 A RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE MISSISSIPPI
2 POLL WORKERS WHO HAVE SERVED OVER 50 CONSECUTIVE YEARS IN THIS
3 ROLE AS THE "FRONTLINE OF DEMOCRACY."

4 WHEREAS, as the nation and electors in the State of
5 Mississippi vote, it is natural to focus on candidates, policies
6 and outcomes of the elections. Yet, behind every successful
7 election are millions of dedicated election professionals and poll
8 workers who make democracy possible. They are often volunteers
9 who rise to the occasion to serve their communities, ensuring that
10 every eligible voter has the opportunity to make their voice
11 heard; and

12 WHEREAS, election poll workers play a pivotal role in
13 upholding the fabric of democracy through their dedication,
14 resilience and service to their communities. Our election
15 professionals and volunteer poll workers are a shining example of
16 nonpartisan cooperation that puts our democracy and country first.
17 They come together each election cycle to help their community
18 vote; and



19 WHEREAS, with early voting in full swing across the country
20 and record early turnout across states, this is an incredibly busy
21 and exciting time for the elections community. In the past few
22 years, professional election administrators have faced and
23 overcome unprecedented obstacles, including the Covid-19 global
24 health pandemic, personnel changes, extreme weather events, budget
25 cuts, an increase in violent threats, and a more public profile
26 overall. Yet the dedicated local election administrators who
27 choose to stay in this profession have been working for months,
28 even years, to maintain accurate voter rolls, secure voting
29 locations, thoroughly test voting equipment, enhance security
30 protocols, train their permanent and temporary labor force on the
31 latest rules and regulations, and educate voters before they head
32 to the polls; and

33 WHEREAS, as we reflect on the importance of free and fair
34 elections, the state should take a moment to honor and thank those
35 who serve behind the scenes, ensuring that our voices are heard
36 and our democracy remains strong; and

37 WHEREAS, we join Secretary of State Michael Watson and the
38 Secretary of State's Office in recognizing Mississippi poll
39 workers who have served over 50 consecutive years in this role.
40 To commemorate their longstanding tenure, the recipients have been
41 honored with a ceremony at the Capitol on February 27, 2025. The
42 names of the recipients are: Colene Cain, Freddie Byrd Farmer,



43 Rosie Howze, Lelia Peters, Sarah Ratliff, Della Rose Gilmer,
44 Gyrone Kenniel and Jean Sturgus; and

45 WHEREAS, it is with great pride that we celebrate the
46 contributions of all those who make our elections possible:

47 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF
48 MISSISSIPPI, That we do hereby commend and pay tribute to the
49 Mississippi poll workers who have served over 50 consecutive years
50 in this role as the "Frontline of Democracy."

51 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be presented to
52 the Mississippi Poll Workers with over 50 consecutive years of
53 service at a ceremony at the State Capitol on February 27, 2025,
54 and be made available to the Capitol Press Corps.

