

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. RES. 728

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the actions of terrorists will never cause the date of any Presidential election to be postponed and that no single individual or agency should be given the authority to postpone the date of a Presidential election.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 2004

Mr. NEY (for himself, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. DELAY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. BUYER, Mr. RENZI, Mr. POMBO, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. ISTOOK, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. BASS, Mr. HERGER, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. MICA, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. MCCREERY, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. COBLE, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. OXLEY, Ms. HART, Mr. COLE, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. OSE, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. HYDE, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GOSS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. AKIN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. OTTER, Mr. SCHROCK, Mr. VITTER, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. WALSH, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. REGULA, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. CARTER, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. NUNES, Mr. EHLERS, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. DEFazio, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. MALONEY, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

RESOLUTION

Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the actions of terrorists will never cause the date of

any Presidential election to be postponed and that no single individual or agency should be given the authority to postpone the date of a Presidential election.

Whereas no regularly scheduled national election for Federal office has ever been postponed for any reason;

Whereas regularly scheduled Federal elections took place as scheduled during the Civil War, World War I, and World War II;

Whereas after having been re-elected in an election that took place while the Civil War continued to rage, Abraham Lincoln said “We can not have free government without elections; and if the rebellion could force us to forego, or postpone a national election it might fairly claim to have already conquered and ruined us. . . . [T]he election, along with its incidental and undesirable strife, has done good too. It has demonstrated that a people’s government can sustain a national election, in the midst of a great civil war. Until now it has not been known to the world that this was a possibility.”;

Whereas the terrorist bombings that took place in Spain on the eve of the Spanish elections in March 2004 were almost certainly perceived by Al Qaeda as having contributed to the defeat of the government that had stood with the United States in the Global War on Terror;

Whereas terrorists may attempt to strike again against the United States in the months leading up to the November 2004 Presidential election in an attempt to alter or affect the election’s outcome;

Whereas in the event that such a horrific attack were to occur, the actions of millions of Americans across the Na-

tion casting their ballots would demonstrate powerfully the strength and resilience of our democracy;

Whereas there is no reason to believe that the men and women who administer elections in jurisdictions across the Nation would be incapable of determining how to react to a terrorist attack;

Whereas postponing an election in the aftermath of a terrorist attack would demonstrate weakness, not strength, and would be interpreted as a victory for the terrorists; and

Whereas under section 4 of article II of the Constitution, Congress has the authority to determine the date on which a Presidential election shall take place: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That it is the sense of the House of Rep-
2 resentatives that—

3 (1) the actions of terrorists will never cause the
4 date of any Presidential election to be postponed;
5 and

6 (2) no single individual or agency should be
7 given the authority to postpone the date of a Presi-
8 dential election.

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