



## Resolution Relative to Politeness in Politics

(Proposed by the California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research in 1996. Today, California Women Lead)

**Whereas**, political debate throughout California and its many communities has in many cases become factious and foolish;

**Whereas**, "negative mailers" and "hit pieces" have become commonplace and acceptable political campaign techniques;

**Whereas**, some campaigns derive their "message" from opinion polls and not through thoughtful consideration of the issues or involvement in the community,

**Whereas**, voters in this state are increasingly disenchanted with and are disengaging from the political process;

**Whereas**, a healthy democracy requires a citizenry engaged in the free flow of ideas and purposeful, civil debate on a range of issues;

**Whereas**, negative campaigns and blatant manipulation of voter opinion undermine the fundamental trust that an electorate must have for a democracy to function,

**Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved** that (the citizens of your community/the board members of your elected jurisdiction) join with California Women Lead (formerly California Elected Women's Association for Education and Research) in calling for an ethic of "politeness in politics;"

**And, Be It Further Resolved** that each citizen, political candidate and elected official in this state is called upon to commit to political dialogue that is thorough, respectful, straight forward, and honest;

**And, Be It Further Resolved** that we call up the Governor, members of the Legislature, locally elected officials and leaders in the political parties of this great state of California to commit to revitalizing our political dialogue through spirited and civil debate;

**And, Be It Further Resolved** that [Insert date] be designated "Politeness in Politics Day" to make our renewed commitment to civil political discourse.