

# SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 100

## STATE OF NEW JERSEY

### 220th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED OCTOBER 3, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator GORDON M. JOHNSON**

**District 37 (Bergen)**

**Assemblyman HERB CONAWAY, JR.**

**District 7 (Burlington)**

**Assemblywoman SADAF F. JAFFER**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Assemblywoman ANGELA V. MCKNIGHT**

**District 31 (Hudson)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

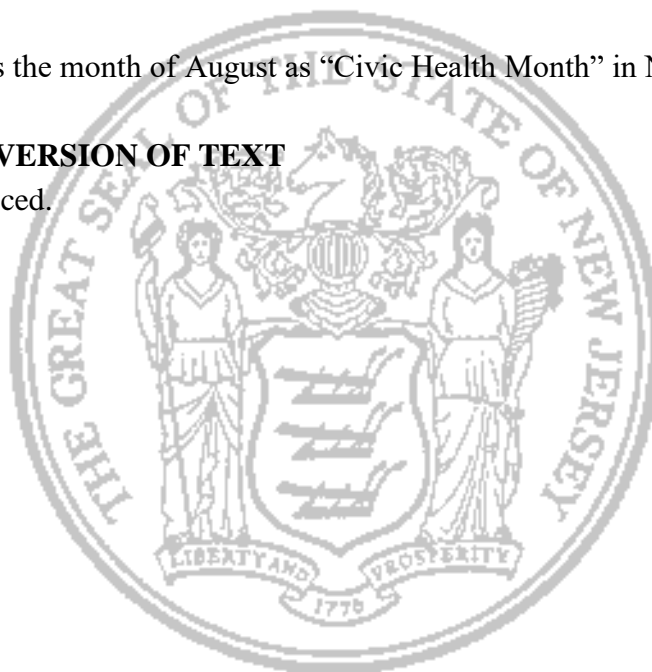
**Senator Pou, Assemblywomen Speight, Reynolds-Jackson, Carter and  
Assemblyman Moen**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates the month of August as “Civic Health Month” in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/25/2023)

1   **A JOINT RESOLUTION** permanently designating the month of  
2       August as “Civic Health Month” in New Jersey.

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4   **WHEREAS**, Civic engagement is a critical opportunity for a voter to  
5       shape the policies that affect the health challenges facing the voter’s  
6       local community; and

7   **WHEREAS**, Civic health describes the capacity of a community to  
8       address issues that impact the well-being of community members  
9       through participation in elections and other civic engagement  
10      activities; and

11   **WHEREAS**, Civic participation gives a voter the ability to shape the  
12      policies that affect a voter’s personal health outcomes; and

13   **WHEREAS**, Civic health is recognized as a social determinant of an  
14      individual’s health and an individual who votes as a form of civic  
15      participation self-reports better health than an individual who does  
16      not vote; and

17   **WHEREAS**, Health outcomes may be determined by non-medical  
18      factors including access to food, transportation, and affordable  
19      housing; and

20   **WHEREAS**, Medical professionals have made great strides in  
21      addressing the underlying social conditions that make their patients  
22      sick including hunger, drug addiction, and homelessness; and

23   **WHEREAS**, By checking civic vital signs including voter registration  
24      and participation when talking to colleagues and patients,  
25      healthcare providers can promote better civic health; and

26   **WHEREAS**, Nonpartisan voter registration in medical settings has been  
27      successful in registering patients to vote and expanding the number  
28      of engaged voters; and

29   **WHEREAS**, Empowering community members to register to vote and  
30      participate in elections is a critical action healthcare institutions can  
31      take to improve not only community-level civic health, but also  
32      individual-level physical and mental health; and

33   **WHEREAS**, Over 200 hospitals, healthcare associations, and civic  
34      engagement organizations unite to celebrate “Civic Health Month”  
35      each August; and

36   **WHEREAS**, Given that civic health strengthens democracy and  
37      improves health outcomes, it is altogether fitting and proper, to  
38      designate August of each year as “Civic Health Month” in New  
39      Jersey; now, therefore,

40  
41       **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
42       *State of New Jersey:*

43  
44       1. The month of August shall be permanently designated as  
45       “Civic Health Month” in the State of New Jersey in order to  
46       recognize the efforts of advocacy organizations and physicians  
47       Statewide and bring awareness to the importance of civic health.

## SJR100 JOHNSON, CONAWAY

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2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a proclamation recognizing the month of August as “Civic Health Month” in New Jersey, and calling upon public officials and citizens of the State to observe this week with appropriate activities and programs.

3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

## STATEMENT

This resolution designates the month of August as “Civic Health Month” in New Jersey.

Civic engagement provides a voter the opportunity to shape the policies that affect the health of a voter's local community. Civic health describes the capacity of a community to address issues that impact the well-being of community members by participating in elections and other civic engagement.

Health outcomes may be determined by non-medical factors, often called social determinants of health, such as access to food, transportation, and affordable housing. Civic health is also recognized as a social determinant of an individual's health. Medical professionals have made great strides in addressing many social determinants of health that affect a patient's health including hunger, drug addiction, and homelessness.

Empowering community members to register to vote and participate in elections improves community-level civic health and individual-level physical and mental health. Over 200 hospitals, healthcare associations, and civic engagement organizations celebrate “Civic Health Month” each August. Therefore, it is altogether and fitting and proper, to designate August of each year as “Civic Health Month” in New Jersey.