

# House Joint Resolution 36

Sponsored by Representative WHISNANT, Senator BONAMICI; Representatives FREEMAN, HUFFMAN, MCLANE, THATCHER

## SUMMARY

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure **as introduced**.

Urges school districts to require students to successfully complete course in civics education prior to graduation from high school.

## JOINT RESOLUTION

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2       Whereas an informed and capable citizenry is vital to the preservation of a free and democratic  
3 government; and

4       Whereas schools have a clear civic mission to prepare students for life in their communities and  
5 in our democratic society; and

6       Whereas 29 states require high school students to take a course in government; and

7       Whereas a 2003 report by the National Conference of State Legislatures revealed that students  
8 who had a course in civics or American government were two or three times more likely to engage  
9 in civic activities and more likely to believe that they are personally responsible for making things  
10 better in society; and

11       Whereas a 2006 study of students without civic education showed that less than a third of eighth  
12 graders could identify the historic purpose of the Declaration of Independence and less than a fifth  
13 of high school seniors could explain how citizen participation benefits democracy; and

14       Whereas the Department of Education should require school districts to provide a one-half  
15 credit course in civics education as a graduation requirement; and

16       Whereas school districts should consider using nonprofit organizations as a source of free civics  
17 education curricula; now, therefore,

### 18 **Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon:**

19       That we, the members of the Seventy-sixth Legislative Assembly, urge school districts to require  
20 students to successfully complete a course in civics education prior to graduation from high school.

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**NOTE:** Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.