

Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota Office of the Governor

Whereas, Voting is one of the fundamental pillars of a democracy; and,

Whereas, The national nonprofit organization Rock the Vote, whose mission is to engage and build the political power of young people, created the Democracy Class program in 2011 to provide teachers with a tool to enhance civic education for high school students; and,

Whereas, Rock the Vote launched the Democracy Class program in its inaugural year by recognizing March 23, 2012, as Democracy Day, celebrating the 40th anniversary of the day that the 26th Amendment, lowering the minimum voting age to 18, was first presented to the states for ratification; and,

Whereas, South Dakota subsequently enacted law granting voting privileges to its citizens as young as 18 years old; and,

Whereas, Elections offer the citizens of South Dakota and the United States, including young adults, opportunities to exercise their voting privileges; and,

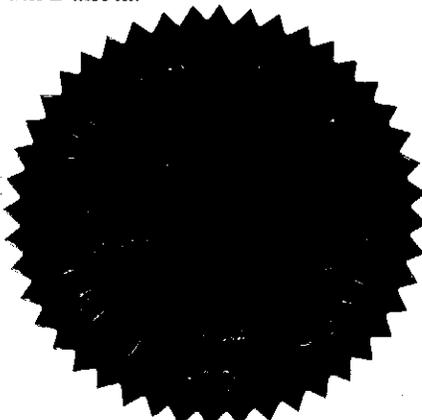
Whereas, Secretary of State Jason Gant is the chief elections officer of South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Secretary Gant will visit select schools in the state on March 23, 2012, to lead Democracy Class, fostering civic education and participation among the state's young people:

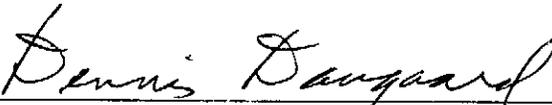
Now, Therefore, I, Dennis Daugaard, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 23, 2012, as

DEMOCRACY DAY

in South Dakota.

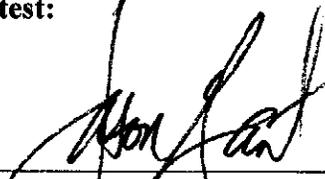


In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this First Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Twelve.



Dennis Daugaard, Governor

Attest:



Jason M. Gant, Secretary of State