NATIONAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OF
THE AMERICAN LEGION
May 6-7, 2026
Indianapolis, Indiana

Resolution No. 6: Restoring Civic Knowledge and Patriotism Through Education
Origin: Committee on Youth Education
Submitted by: Americanism Commission

WHEREAS, The American Legion was founded upon the sacred principles of service, patriotism and the defense of the values that define the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, A healthy constitutional republic depends upon an informed, engaged and active citizenry, for liberty can only endure when each generation understands the rights they inherit and the responsibilities they bear; and

WHEREAS, In recent decades, civic education in America's classrooms, from primary schools to universities, has eroded, leaving millions of young Americans without the knowledge necessary to understand how their government functions, what their freedoms mean and why those freedoms must be defended; and

WHEREAS, This decline in civic understanding has contributed to an alarming rise in civic apathy, distrust in institutions and a weakening of the patriotic spirit that binds us as one nation under God; and

WHEREAS, The future of our democracy depends on Americans who know not just their rights, but their responsibilities, and who are inspired to participate in shaping a stronger, freer and more united nation; and

WHEREAS, Only through strong, comprehensive civic education can we rekindle the flame of patriotism, foster a deep respect for the U.S. Constitution and cultivate generations of Americans who are prepared to serve their communities, defend their freedoms and uphold the ideals for which so many have sacrificed; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the National Executive Committee of The American Legion in regular meeting assembled in Indianapolis, Indiana, on May 6-7, 2026, That The American Legion affirms the urgent and critical importance of restoring robust civic education at every level of American schooling; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion calls upon federal, state and local governments, as well as school boards and educational institutions, to adopt and enforce rigorous standards in civic education, ensuring that students gain a deep understanding of the U.S. Constitution, the separation of powers, civil liberties, civic duties and the responsibilities of self-governance in a free society; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That departments, posts and individual Legionnaires are strongly encouraged to engage directly with school boards, state legislatures and educational leaders to advocate for the enhancement of civic education curricula and to partner in initiatives that inspire civic pride and responsibility; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That The American Legion recognizes that revitalizing civic education is essential to cultivating patriotism, civic responsibility and a lifelong commitment to public service among future generations of Americans, ensuring that the blessings of liberty endure for centuries to come; and, be it finally

RESOLVED, That this resolution shall guide The American Legion's continuing efforts to strengthen civic awareness, promote civic engagement and uphold the timeless ideals of American democracy through education.