



"Serving Western Legislatures"

RESOLUTION 98-1

Civic Education on Representative Democracy

Urging Western State Legislatures to Take Steps to Promote Civic Education on Representative Democracy

Introduced by the Executive Committee

WHEREAS, public confidence and trust in government institutions and political leaders are critical to the survival of our republic; and

WHEREAS, negative public attitudes result when there are negative media coverage of government, divisive political campaigns and a lack of understanding of the fundamental principles and operations of representative democracy; and

WHEREAS, balanced information and effective education regarding the basic tenets of representative democracy would serve to bolster public awareness of the institutions and processes of government; and

WHEREAS, state legislatures bear a special responsibility to foster public trust in the institutions of representative democracy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that CSG-WEST (Council of State Governments-WEST, Serving Western Legislatures) recognizes the importance of dispelling the public's distrust and growing cynicism toward government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CSG-WEST sees effective civic education as a key to restoring public support for the institutions and processes of representative democracy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that CSG-WEST urges state legislatures to address these needs by taking the lead in promoting and/or providing effective civic education regarding the principles, institutions and operations of representative democracy.

***ADOPTED BY THE CSG-WEST EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON SEPTEMBER 22, 1998
ASSEMBLED IN ANNUAL MEETING IN ANCHORAGE, ALASKA.***