

A RESOLUTION recognizing April as National County Government Month.

WHEREAS, every state in the United States of America uses a form of county government in some capacity; and

WHEREAS, in the days before the creation of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, the land that would become sovereign territory of the Commonwealth was part of Fincastle County in Virginia, and in 1776, George Rogers Clark oversaw the legislation creating Kentucky County therefrom; and

WHEREAS, recognizing this genesis, the Commonwealth's very roots were steeped in the county form of government; and

WHEREAS, for many years, counties performed a judicial capacity, as well as an administrative capacity, establishing their utmost importance in the daily lives of their residents early on in the nascent history of the Commonwealth of Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, after the passage of the Judicial Article in 1976, the judicial capacity formerly resident with the county courts was assigned to the Circuit and District Courts, and the county courts cast their focus on their fiscal and administrative duties for the citizens of their counties; and

WHEREAS, the county serves as an interface between the citizens of the Commonwealth of Kentucky, through their proper assessment and collection of revenues for the Commonwealth, and as a point of contact for receiving revenues from the state and federal government for capital projects as well as for other services which improve the quality of life for the residents of the county; and

WHEREAS, county governments themselves provide inestimable services for their citizens, such as preservation of the peace; protection of persons and property from fire and other emergent and dangerous conditions; provision of potable water; collection and treatment of waste; provision of roads and other transportation infrastructure; provision of healthcare; protection of the population from criminals through the provision of houses of detention; conservation, preservation, and protection of natural spaces, including the flora

and fauna therein; provision of utility services that are vital to the health and comfort of the counties' residents; and promotion of health and recreation through programs and facilities, including public works, libraries, and museums; and

WHEREAS, each year on a national level, county governments' investment in water systems, public facilities, broadband services, and transportation alone exceeds \$100 billion; and

WHEREAS, it shall be further noted that county governments own and maintain the greater amount of miles of roads which directly serve to enhance and sustain the nation's economy and the citizens' vitality and security; and

WHEREAS, it must be emphasized that while the county governments provide these services that promote the health, enjoyment, and well-being of the citizens of the counties, the government itself is an abstraction that is dependent upon the county officials and employees constituting that government form; and

WHEREAS, these officials and employees work for the county not only for a living, but in a majority of instances, out of a sense of civic duty and a desire to promote the prosperity, health, and well-being of the citizens of the county; and

WHEREAS, in recent times, with the downturn of the economy, county officials and employees have been placed in positions where they are asked to keep providing these manifold services with less fiscal resources, and through creativity and earnest contemplation and difficult decision-making, these officials and employees have risen to meet this challenge and have excelled in doing so; and

WHEREAS, in consideration of the inestimable services provided at the county level, it is fitting and proper to recognize counties, and their officials and employees, for their service; and

WHEREAS, the Kentucky Association of Counties works tirelessly to promote the welfare of county governments, and, in turn, the welfare of the citizens of those counties;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the House of Representatives of the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

➔Section 1. The House of Representatives recognizes April as National County Government Month and commends the elected and appointed county officials, county employees, and volunteers on their civic-mindedness and willingness to serve in these vital roles in such an excellent manner.

➔Section 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Representative Chris Harris for presentation to the Kentucky Association of Counties, 4000 Englewood Drive, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601.