

2021-EC #2 Substitute -- Education -- High School Graduation Requirements; require civic engagement

Steve Carr (Fulton County) and Hugh Esco (Fulton County) offer the following substitute.

Amend the chapter on Education, by adding to the preferatory language, the following:

Georgia Greens recognize the limits of direct democracy models in our complex culture. Nonetheless we believe that a republican form of governance works best when all citizens are informed and educated to engage effectively in the democratic process. That process continues to operate long after the polls have closed and the election results have been certified.

Amend the chapter on Education further, by adding a new plank to read as follows:

#. High School Graduation Requirements; require civic engagement

We urge that high school graduation requirements be revised to require that for a semester of the civics curriculum, students be required on a monthly basis to attend and observe at least one meeting or hearing of a deliberative body or committee governing a civic organization or a public agency or government; and to make an oral and written report to their Civics class on what they learned from the experience. To accommodate the scheduling and transportation challenges associated with civic engagement, we urge that allowances be made for observing such hearings or meetings virtually. We urge that civics faculty in our schools consider the resources made available by iCivics to provide classroom preparation for students' engagement with any community organization as well as their local, state and federal governments.