

**JEFFERSON COUNTY, TENNESSEE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

RESOLUTION 2022-11

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF
TENNESSEE ENACT LEGISLATION TO PROVIDE LOCAL COMMUNITIES WITH THE
OPTION OF ELECTING SCHOOL DIRECTORS**

WHEREAS, the voters of a school district, city, or county deserve to have the choice of having an elected school director that is directly accountable to the voters and parents of the school district in which they manage school budgets and policy; and

WHEREAS, the Education Improvement Act of 1992, Public Chapter 535, fundamentally changed the way school directors are chosen in the state of Tennessee by removing the choice of school director from the voting public; and

WHEREAS, appointed school directors work at the pleasure of boards of education, and not necessarily at the pleasure of the taxpayers and parents of a school district, concentrating political power to a small number, or simple majority, of school board members, disenfranchising voters that would otherwise be able to directly choose their director of schools by election; and

WHEREAS, unelected school directors are less likely to be grounded in the communities they serve because they are generally hired by school boards from a pool of applicants that are often screened by paid consultants that recruit candidates from areas far removed from the school district; and

WHEREAS, elected school directors, through campaign activities, would be more connected to voters, and the wishes of voters, and directly accountable to the parents and taxpayers within the school district that they are elected to serve; and

WHEREAS, school directors manage and control a substantial amount of public funds in the many school districts, cities, and counties in the state of Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, voters exercise the constitutional power to elect public officials such as sheriff, trustee, mayor, road superintendent, and many other officials charged with public policy and financial responsibility.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Jefferson County, Tennessee, meeting this 18th day of January 2022 as follows:

SECTION 1: That the General Assembly of the State of Tennessee is urged to enact legislation that will provide local communities with the option of choosing their school director by election.

SECTION 2: That upon approval and signing of this resolution, a copy be transmitted to the State Representatives and State Senator that represent Jefferson County, Tennessee.

