

STATEMENT BY J. STROM THURMOND, GOVERNOR OF SOUTH CAROLINA, ON SIGNING ELECTION LAW. APRIL 20, 1950.

It was gratifying to me today to sign the election law passed by the General Assembly.

This law will give to our people many improvements in our election machinery which they have wanted so long and which I have repeatedly recommended and worked for since I became Governor. These include a single secret ballot; one registration as the basis for voting in all County and State elections general, special, and primary; and punishment for fraud and corruption.

The Special Election Laws Committee, which studied our acute situation and submitted the report upon which the new election law is based, rendered the people of South Carolina an outstanding service. As Governor, I commend the members of the Committee for their fine work. I concur in their conclusion that the legislation will meet in the fullest measure possible the election problems facing our people, and will safeguard the right of every person to vote who is entitled to vote under the State constitution.

Fair and honest elections are the very foundation of representative self-government and must be safeguarded to preserve our democratic way of life. I am confident that the overwhelming majority of the people of the State will be happy that the sanctity of their ballot will be protected by law, and the General Assembly is entitled to their appreciation.

It is my hope and belief that this new election law will serve to encourage and promote a greater participation in elections by our people. Those upon whom are placed the right of suffrage enjoy not only a great privilege but a responsibility. Good government thrives on good citizenship, and the basis of good citizenship is participation in elections. I, therefore, urge all qualified citizens to register and vote.

Original
J. Strom Thurmond
Governor