

RESOLUTION NO. 2018-08-037R

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING OUR SUPPORT FOR
THE VOTING RIGHTS ACT OF 1965 AND ITS AMENDMENTS**

WHEREAS, the City of Urbana (the "City") is an Illinois home rule unit of local government pursuant to Section 6 of Article VII of the Illinois Constitution of 1970 and the statutes of the State of Illinois; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is a landmark piece of federal legislation in the United States that prohibits racial discrimination in voting.

WHEREAS, 53 years ago today, August 6, 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson, during the height of the Civil Rights Movement, signed the Voting Rights Act into law; and

WHEREAS, Congress later amended the Act five times to expand its protections; and

WHEREAS, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was designed to enforce the voting rights guaranteed by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the Act secured the right to vote for racial minorities throughout the country, especially in the South; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Department of Justice, the Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended from time to time by Congress, is considered to be the most effective piece of federal civil rights legislation ever enacted in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes that it is appropriate and beneficial for the City to respect the right for all eligible citizens to vote; and

WHEREAS, the right to vote is the most fundamental component of our democracy; and

WHEREAS, the City supports all reasonable and lawful efforts to protect citizens' rights to vote.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Urbana, Illinois, as follows:

Section 1:

The City of Urbana supports all lawful and reasonable efforts to cause the the Illinois General Assembly to pass and the Governor of the State of Illinois to sign into law legislation that protects and guarantees to every citizen of the State of Illinois the right and opportunity to vote.

