KIDS VOTING

WHEREAS, The mission of Kids Voting USA and Kids Voting Tennessee is to secure the future democracy of the United States by educating and involving children and youth in the election process today and to combat the crisis of low voter turnout; and

WHEREAS, Low voter turnout puts the future of American democracy at risk, and Kids Voting USA and Kids Voting Tennessee provides a result proven alternative, safeguarding democracy for future generations; and

WHEREAS, One of the objects of the PTA is to develop between educators and the general public such united efforts as will secure for all children and youth the highest advantages in physical, mental, social and education; and

WHEREAS, Kids Voting USA and Kids Voting Tennessee teaches youth – through a special curriculum, family participation and community involvement – the importance of being informed and the responsibilities of voting. It is the only program of its kind that enables students to visit official polling sites on election day, accompanied by parent or guardian, and to cast a ballot similar in content to the official ballot; and

WHEREAS, In 1998, 13,295 students voted in the Governor’s race in the cities of Knoxville and Nashville. Not only building youth involvement in democracy, Kids Voting USA increased adult voter turnout between 5 – 10%; and

WHEREAS, Kids Voting USA’s Network of state organizations is growing fast, presently reaching: 40 states plus the District of Columbia, 5 million students, 200,000 teachers, 6,000 schools, 100,000 volunteers and 16,000 voter precincts; be it therefore

RESOLVED, The Tennessee PTA encourages all local units to promote and actively participate in Kids Voting Tennessee by volunteering their services.

Adopted by the 1999 Convention Delegates

Referred to Legislative Committee – 11, 2003