

No. R-257. House concurrent resolution honoring Ripton Selectboard Chair Laureen Cox for her exemplary municipal public service.

(H.C.R.210)

Offered by Representative Conlon of Cornwall

Offered by Senators Hardy and Heffernan

Whereas, Laurie Cox traveled east from Seattle, Washington, to attend Middlebury College and graduated in 1971, earned a master's degree from the University of Vermont in 1978, and for 34 years, was a dedicated guidance counselor at the Neshobe School in Brandon, and

Whereas, aside from guiding elementary school students on the best life path forward, Laurie Cox developed a second passion as an active civic volunteer and leader in her hometown of Ripton, and

Whereas, her initial foray into community service was as a volunteer at the public library, and

Whereas, through this role, Laurie Cox familiarized herself with the local issues of greatest concern to the voters in Ripton, and in 1986, when a one-year vacancy opened on the Ripton Selectboard, she stood for election to serve on this municipal governance panel, and

Whereas, she probably never imagined that her inaugural electoral victory would be the start of an extraordinary uninterrupted four-decade tenure as a member of the Ripton Selectboard, including the first quarter century as part of a group of longtime residents who served together, and

Whereas, Laurie Cox's effectiveness, thoughtful participation, and administrative skills all contributed to her 2009 election as Ripton Selectboard chair, and the community has appreciated her great efforts, and

Whereas, when COVID-19 struck, Laurie Cox proved up to the task, taking a leading role organizing assistance and connecting members of the community, and

Whereas, in 2023, in the aftermath of a record rainfall that resulted in major landslides, washouts, and other damage, her leadership was pivotal in the recovery process, and

Whereas, recently, as a member of the Friends of the Ripton Students group, Laurie Cox has endeavored to save the local elementary school, and in 2026, she is concluding her amazing 40-year Ripton Selectboard career, including the last 17 as its highly respected chair, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly honors Ripton Selectboard Chair Laureen Cox for her exemplary municipal public service, *and be it further*

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to Laurie Cox and the Ripton town clerk.