



**Undergraduate
Student Government**

UNIVERSITY OF IOWA UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

**September 20th, 2022
Student Senate Session
S.S.R. #1**

Sponsors: Senator Speer, Senator Ross
Referred to: Governmental Relations Committee
Student Senate Action: Passed/Failed/Tabled

AN ACT

On the subject of establishing the National Election Day as a biannual University holiday beginning in 2024

Section 1. Short Title

This bill may be cited as the “Resolution on Establishing Election Day as a University Holiday”.

Section 2. Background and Discussion

Whereas, Voting is one of the core processes of American democracy. It is how every citizen is able to make their voice heard amongst the masses. As an Undergraduate Student Government, we view voting as a civic duty to our country,

Whereas, College-aged students were not able to vote until 1971 when our nation ratified the 26th amendment. Since that date, college students have voted in lower rates compared to their older counterparts. Under 80% of University of Iowa students are registered to vote and only 67.4% of students cast ballots in the 2020 election;

Whereas, Undergraduate Student Government recognizes the many challenges University of Iowa Students face on Election Day. Many students are forced to choose between voting and attending class on Election Day due to limited time and the time-consuming ballot casting process at the polls. If students prioritize voting, their civic duty, they are often given unexcused absences and suffer academically for their choice;

Whereas, Undergraduate Student Government believes that no student should have to make the choice between their American civic duty and their academic success. Undergraduate Student

Government calls on the University of Iowa and the Iowa Board of Regents to examine the benefits that students and American Democracy would reap if students did not have to make the aforementioned choice.

Whereas, Undergraduate Student Government calls on the Board of Regents and College Deans to declare biannual Election Days beginning in the year 2024, University Holidays. This holiday would give students access to their most important civic duty, voting. The University of Iowa Undergraduate Student Government will continue to advocate for student voting rights on campus until every eligible student is able to cast a ballot without jeopardizing their academic success.

Section 3. Position

Resolved, The University of Iowa Undergraduate Student Government recognizes the need and affirms their support in recognizing Election Day as University Holiday for all students attending the University of Iowa.

Resolved, The Undergraduate Student Government works in tandem with other campus organizations to inform, register, and encourage students to vote,

Resolved, Undergraduate Student Government is committed to continuing their work advocating for student voting rights and encourages the University of Iowa and The Board of Regents to do the same.

Therefore, be it resolved, this resolution shall be sent to the Office of the Dean of the College of Education, the Office of the Dean of the College of Engineering, the Office of the Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, the Office of the Dean of the College of Nursing, the Office of the Dean of the College of Public Health, the Office of the Dean of the Tippie College of Business, the Office of the President, and the Iowa Board of Regents.

Section 4. Enactment Clause

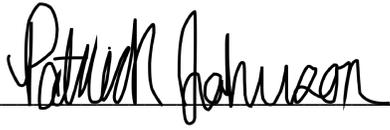
Be it enacted by the Undergraduate Student Government upon the signature of the USG President.

Alexis Carfrae

, **Speaker of the Senate**
Alexis Carfrae

I hereby attest and certify that this bill originated from the 2022-2023 Student Senate Session.

APPROVED on 9/20/2022, by

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patrick Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "P".

USG President
Patrick Johnson