

To: Dr. Rodney Rogers, President; Dr. Joe Whitehead, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs; Dr. Glenn Davis, Vice Provost for Academic Affairs; Ms. Sherideen Stoll, Chief Financial Officer; Dr. Jacob Clemens, Senior Director of the C. Raymond Marvin Center for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement; Dr. V Rosser, Director of Civic Engagement of the C. Raymond Marvin Center for Student Leadership and Civic Engagement; Dr. Katherine Stygles, Director of Multicultural Affairs and LGBTQ+ Programming; Mr. Christopher H. Bullins, Assistant Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students; Dr. Jennifer Waldron, Dean of the Graduate College; Dr. Jennifer Percival, Dean of the Schmidthorst College of Business; Dr. Ellen Schendel, Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences; Dr. William Mathis, Dean of the College of Musical Arts; Dr. Dawn Shinew, Dean of the College of Education and Human Development; Dr. Jennie Gallimore, Dean of the College of the College of Technology, Architecture and Applied Engineering; Dr. James Ciesla, Dean of the College of Health and Human Services; Dr. Simon Morgan-Russell, Dean of the Honors College; Ms. Sara Bushong, Dean of University Libraries.

CC: Ms. Jodi Webb, Associate Vice President for Student Affairs; Mr. Alex Solis, Chief of Staff for the Office of the President; Dr. Allen Rogel, Faculty Senate Chair; Dr. Montana Miller, Secretary to Faculty Senate; Ms. Amanda Taylor, Graduate Student Senate President; Ms. Gyllien Anderson, Speaker of the Senate; Ms. Rose Brookhart, Undergraduate Student Government Vice President; Mx. Damon Sherry, Director of Student Engagement; Ms. Emily Gerome, Internal Affairs Committee Chair, Mr. Mitchell Thatcher, Senator of Diversity Affairs; Mr. Luke Clark, Senator of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Date: February 28th, 2023

Subject: Undergraduate Student Government: S.R. 2022-2023 03

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Good Afternoon,

On Monday, February 27, the Undergraduate Student Government convened for our weekly General Assembly and in so doing, unanimously voted to pass Senate Resolution 03, entitled “A Resolution Formally Supporting The Recognition of Election Day as a Campus Holiday.”

In passing this resolution, the Undergraduate Student Government recognizes the importance of student voices in civic engagement. We further recognize that students often do not vote in the quantities that they could be voting. As the resolution suggests, allowing for the free use of time on voting days will increase access to the polls and decrease the barriers to them.

However, the passing of this resolution also serves to reaffirm the Undergraduate Student Government's eagerness to work collaboratively with Bowling Green State University's administration and constituent groups on campus on initiatives that are mutually beneficial. Access to voting is one such initiative that must be approached with a spirit of mutuality and collaboration. The Undergraduate Student Government looks forward to strengthening partnerships as this initiative continues to develop.

If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to me via email at [znoesen@bgsu.edu](mailto:znoesen@bgsu.edu).

Thank you,

Zachary Noesen

Undergraduate Student Government

THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

**S.R. 2022/2023 – 03**

**A Resolution Formally Supporting The Recognition of Election Day as a Campus Holiday**

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**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY**

Date:

02/20/2023

Authored by:

**Damon Sherry**- Director of Student Engagement

Sponsored by:


**Mitchell Thatcher**-Diversity Affairs Senator, **Emily Gerome**- Internal Affairs Chair,  
**Luke Clark**- College of Arts and Sciences

02/27/23

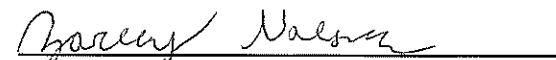
Approved by the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body, and prepared for the presentation to  
the president of the Undergraduate Student Government

03/01/23

Approved by the president of the Undergraduate Student Government, and so order into effect.

  
Gyllien Anderson

Speaker of the Senate

  
Zachary Noesen

President of the Undergraduate Student Government

# S.R. 2022/2023 – 03

## A Resolution Formally Supporting The Recognition of Election Day as a Campus Holiday

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*In the Senate of the Undergraduate Student Body here assembled,*

1. **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government represents the undergraduate student voice
2. at Bowling Green State University; and
3. **Whereas**, Bowling Green State University and the Undergraduate Student Government
4. aim to ensure all student voices are represented within the Senate; and
5. **Whereas**, The Undergraduate Student Government has a promise to represent all students at
6. this University to ensure student voices are represented; and
7. **Whereas**, Bowling Green State University does not currently recognize Election Day as a
8. campus holiday, and
9. **Whereas**, recognizing Election Day, on the first Tuesday after the first Monday of November,
10. encourages students to vote or to work as poll workers, as well as, to engage in our
11. democracy as a public good; and
12. **Whereas**, many other colleges and universities across the United States and abroad recognize
13. Election Day as a campus holiday that encourages students to vote in their respective
14. Elections such as Stanford University<sup>1</sup>, Brown University<sup>2</sup>, Wayne State University<sup>3</sup>, The
15. University of Utah, Colorado College, The University of Illinois, The University of
16. Kentucky, and many more; and,
17. **Whereas**, 19 states have laws that give residents of the states time off in order to vote on
18. their election day.<sup>4</sup> 3 states allow time off for primary and general elections. 1 state allows for
19. a legal half-holiday. 9 states recognize general elections as a holiday and 4 states allow
20. even year election days off.
21. **Whereas**, Bowling Green State University is a public university for the public good, and
22. should recognize voting and elections as a public good; and

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<sup>1</sup> Election day is now a holiday at Stanford University

<sup>2</sup> Election Day as University Holiday - Brown University

<sup>3</sup> Election Day 2020, university holiday approach - Wayne State University

<sup>4</sup> Where is election day a holiday?

23. **Whereas,** The Undergraduate Student Government recognizes the efforts of BGSU Votes to  
24. encourage student voter registration and voter turnout on BGSU's campus; and

25. **Whereas,** On October 6th, Bowling Green State University signed its commitment to 100%  
26. voter turnout in the 2022 election and beyond, "The University plans to develop and  
27. implement a data-driven action plan to improve civic learning, political engagement and  
28. voter Participation." <sup>5</sup>; and

29. **Whereas,** a reason that many students ages 18-24 do not turn out in elections is that many  
30. colleges and universities do not recognize Election Day as a university holiday causing  
31. students to prioritize classes instead of engaging in their rights to vote; and

32. **Whereas,** the Pew Research Center asked registered voters why they did not vote in 2016,  
33. 14% said they were "too busy or conflicting schedule"<sup>6</sup>; and

34. **Whereas,** the Institute for Democracy & Higher Education states, in the 2020 election  
35. college student voter turnout increased heavily from 2016's 52% turnout to a new 66% voter  
36. turnout in 2020 and 97% of the nearly 1,200 campuses said that they saw some level of  
37. increase in voter turnout in 2020<sup>7</sup>, proving that college students are dedicated to voting, but  
38. do not have the means necessary to do so; and

39. **Whereas,** nontraditional voting trends in the United States, such as absentee, early voting,  
40. and voting by mail, remain below the 50% line of Americans with 2020 being the outlier at  
41. 69.4% mostly in part to the surge of COVID-19. 2016 is the highest non-traditional voting  
42. method in the pre-pandemic United States at 40.1% of the votes cast.<sup>8</sup>; and

43. **Whereas,** according to the Wood County Board of Election precinct data the 2020 election  
44. had a combined 11.86% turnout rate among its BGSU's 2 precincts.<sup>9</sup> As well in 2022,  
45. BGSU had a 7.73% voter turnout rate among its 2 precincts.<sup>10</sup> According to data from  
46. NSLVE, The National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement, a total of 11,144 students  
47. voted in the 2020 election, of that 11,144 students 286 voted on campus showing a 2.63%  
48. on-campus voting rate.<sup>11</sup>; and

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<sup>5</sup> BGSU commits to achieving 100% student voter turnout in 2022, future elections

<sup>6</sup> Pew Research Center - Why Voters Did Not Vote in 2016

<sup>7</sup> College student voting rates skyrocketed in 2020

<sup>8</sup> Nontraditional voting trends

<sup>9</sup> 2020 voter data for Wood County

<sup>10</sup> 2022 voter data for Wood County

<sup>11</sup> BGSU Votes (NSLVE) 2020 election voting data

49. **Whereas**, we acknowledge the academic calendar set in stone by Bowling Green State  
50. University for the 2023-2024 Academic Year; and

51. **Whereas**, the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling Green State University  
52. supports the addition of Election Day, as a campus holiday and supports the efforts driven by  
53. BGSU Votes in their effort to register voters and get them out to vote; and

54. **Whereas**, that the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling Green State University  
55. believes that students should not be forced to choose between their classes and their right to  
56. vote in our democracy, as many other universities do.

57. **Therefore, let it be resolved that**, the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling  
58. Green State University proposes that a committee be convened, consisting of 2  
59. representatives from the Undergraduate Student Government, 2 representatives from the  
60. Graduate Student Senate, 2 representatives from the Faculty Senate, and 2 representatives  
61. from Bowling Green State University, with the charge to the committee being to propose  
62. changes to the academic calendar for the 2024-2025 calendar year and beyond that includes  
63. Election Day as a University Holiday.

## THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BODY

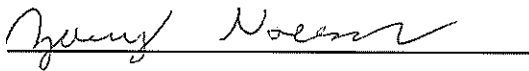
*Passed by the Senate and ordered presented to the president of the Undergraduate Student Body for Approval or Veto.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Gyllien Anderson", written over a horizontal line.

Gyllien Anderson

Speaker of the Senate

*I do hereby approve and order this legislation into effect.*

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Zachary Noesen", written over a horizontal line.

Zachary Noesen

President of the Undergraduate Student Government

*I do hereby disapprove and order this legislation to be returned to the Senate.*

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Zachary Noesen

President of the Undergraduate Student Government