

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT BOD

Date:

02/20/2023

Authored by:

Damon Sherry, Director of Student Engagement

Sponsored by:

Mitchell Thatcher, Diversity Affairs Senator

[Approval date by Senate goes here]

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

[Approval date by President goes here]

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

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 University¹, Brown University², Wayne State University³, 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.⁴ 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

¹ [Election day is now a holiday at Stanford University](#)

² [Election Day as University Holiday - Brown University](#)

³ [Election Day 2020, university holiday approach - Wayne State University](#)

⁴ [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.”⁵; 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”⁶; 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 2020⁷, 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.⁸; 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.⁹ As well in 2022,
45. BGSU had a 7.73% voter turnout rate among its 2 precincts.¹⁰ According to data from BGSU
46. Votes a total of 11,144 students voted in the 2020 election, of that 11,144 students 286 voted
47. on campus showing a 2.63% on-campus voting rate.¹¹ ; and

⁵ [BGSU commits to achieving 100% student voter turnout in 2022, future elections](#)

⁶ [Pew Research Center - Why Voters Did Not Vote in 2016](#)

⁷ [College student voting rates skyrocketed in 2020](#)

⁸ [Nontraditional voting trends](#)

⁹ [2020 voter data for Wood County](#)

¹⁰ [2022 voter data for Wood County](#)

¹¹ [BGSU Votes 2020 election voting data](#)

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

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

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

62. **Therefore, let it be resolved that**, the Undergraduate Student Government of Bowling
63. Green State University proposes that a committee be convened, consisting of two
64. representatives from the Undergraduate Student Government, 2 representatives from the
65. Graduate Student Senate, 2 representatives from the Faculty Senate, and 2 representatives
66. from Bowling Green State University, with the charge to the committee being to propose
67. changes to the academic calendar for the 2024-2025 calendar year and beyond that includes
68. 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.

Gyllien Anderson

Speaker of the Senate

I do hereby approve and order this legislation into effect.

Zachary Noesen

President of the Undergraduate Student Government

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

Zachary Noesen

President of the Undergraduate Student Government