

1 **RESOLUTION 1920-013**

2 **A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE UNIVERSITY TO OBSERVE ELECTION DAY AS A PAID**  
3 **HOLIDAY RECOGNIZED AS THE JOHN LEWIS VOTING RIGHTS DAY**

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5 Authors: Madeleine Lomax-Vogt(.2), Government Affairs Chair; Verdaynea Eason Agondanou(.1), Diversity,  
6 Equity, and Inclusion Chair  
7 Sponsors: Executive Committee;  
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9 WHEREAS, the Council of Graduate Students is vested with authority to voice graduate student concerns and  
10 needs to the University; and

11  
12 WHEREAS, the fundamental values and goals of The Ohio State University embrace the mission of preparing a  
13 diverse student body to be leaders and engaged citizens<sup>1</sup>; and

14  
15 WHEREAS, voting is a critical civic duty that impacts the well-being of individuals and our community by  
16 helping us realize the ideals of a vibrant democracy; and

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18 WHEREAS, a recent Census study indicated that 14 percent of registered voters did not vote because they were  
19 too busy or had a scheduling conflict<sup>2</sup>; and

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21 WHEREAS, only 41 percent of The Ohio State University graduate students voted in the 2018 election<sup>3</sup>; and

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23 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenges that students, faculty, and staff already  
24 face when attempting to vote, including scheduling time to vote in between work, classes, and extracurricular  
25 commitments; and

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27 WHEREAS, ample time for democratic participation on Election Day is key in preventing voting disparity  
28 between those who are constrained by work or school from voting and those who have the luxury of time and  
29 access; and

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31 WHEREAS, the Big Ten Voting Challenge encourages member institutions to increase voter turnout and voting  
32 rates in order to “form the habits of active and informed citizenship, make democratic participation a core value  
33 on their campus, and cultivate generations of engaged citizens who are essential to a healthy democracy”<sup>4</sup>; and

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35 WHEREAS, other Big Ten and peer institutions do not recognize election day as a paid holiday<sup>5</sup>; and

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37 WHEREAS, election day is always held on the first Tuesday of November in the State of Ohio;

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39 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students officially recommend that The Ohio  
40 State University observe election day as a paid holiday recognized as the “John Lewis Voting Rights Day”; and  
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<sup>1</sup> Office of Academic Affairs, “Mission, Vision, Values and Goals” <https://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals>

<sup>2</sup> File, Thom, “Characteristics of Voters in the Presidential Election of 2016” (2018)

<sup>3</sup> 2018 Ohio State University NSLVE Campus Report

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.allinchallenge.org/how-it-works/what/>

<sup>5</sup> Except universities in Virginia and Illinois where election day is recognized as a statewide holiday.

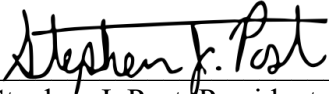
42 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students supports the creation of an Election Day  
43 paid holiday to make The Ohio State University a leader and model of democratic commitment that other Big  
44 Ten and peer institutions may follow; and

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46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students supports the right to vote regardless of a  
47 citizen's race, color, religion, gender, gender expression, age, national origin, disability, marital status, sexual  
48 orientation, or military status; and

49  
50 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to The Ohio State University  
51 President Kristina M. Johnson, Executive Vice President and Provost Bruce McPheron, Vice Provost for  
52 Graduate Studies and Dean of the Graduate School Alicia Bertone, Vice President for Student Life Melissa  
53 Shivers Calhoun, Vice President for Government Affairs Stacy Rastaukas, and the Chair of the Council on  
54 Student Affairs Jordan Vadja.

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56  
57 Approved:  Yes/No

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59 Date: 8/14/20

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62 \_\_\_\_\_  
63 Stephen J. Post, President



Council of Graduate Students  
at The Ohio State University