

1 **RESOLUTION 2021-002**

2 **A RESOLUTION CALLING UPON THE UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE TRANSPORTATION TO THE**
3 **2020 ELECTION EARLY VOTE AT THE FRANKLIN COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS**

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5 Authors: Madeleine Lomax-Vogt(.2), Government Affairs Chair; Brandon Free(.41), Delegate, Material
6 Science & Welding Engineering
7 Sponsors: Government Affairs 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

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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 citizens¹; and

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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, only 41 percent of The Ohio State University graduate students voted in the 2018 election²; and

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20 WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the challenges that students who do not drive or do not
21 have access to a vehicle face when attempting to vote early or on election day in-person; and

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23 WHEREAS, robust access to early voting reduces the congregate density, waiting times, and demands on
24 polling stations on Election Day; and

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26 WHEREAS, in-person early voting for the 2020 Election lasts from October 6, 2020 to November 2, 2020; and

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28 WHEREAS, The Ohio State University and OSU Votes provided transportation to the Franklin County Board
29 of Elections during the 2018 Election early vote^{3,4}; and

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31 WHEREAS, The Ohio State University has already established transportation networks including CABS and
32 partnerships with Lyft and COTA to provide students with discounted or free transportation around Central
33 Ohio^{5,6};

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35 WHEREAS, students who wish to return their absentee ballots in-person may use this free, safe, socially distant
36 transportation; and

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38 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of Graduate Students officially recommends that The Ohio State
39 University fund and coordinate safe, socially distant, and free transportation from the campus area to the
40 Franklin County Board of Elections for students who wish to vote during early vote; and

¹ Office of Academic Affairs, “Mission, Vision, Values and Goals” <https://oaa.osu.edu/mission-vision-values-and-core-goals>

² 2018 Ohio State University NSLVE Campus Report <https://activities.osu.edu/posts/documents/2014-2018-nslve-report-ohio-state-university.pdf>

³ https://activities.osu.edu/involvement/osuvotes/early_voting_transportati/

⁴ https://activities.osu.edu/involvement/osuvotes/early_voting_transportati/sign_up_for_bus_transport/

⁵ <https://ttm.osu.edu/ride-smart>

⁶ <https://ttm.osu.edu/bus/cota>

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

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

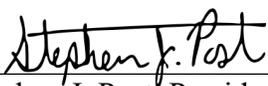
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52 Approved: Yes/No

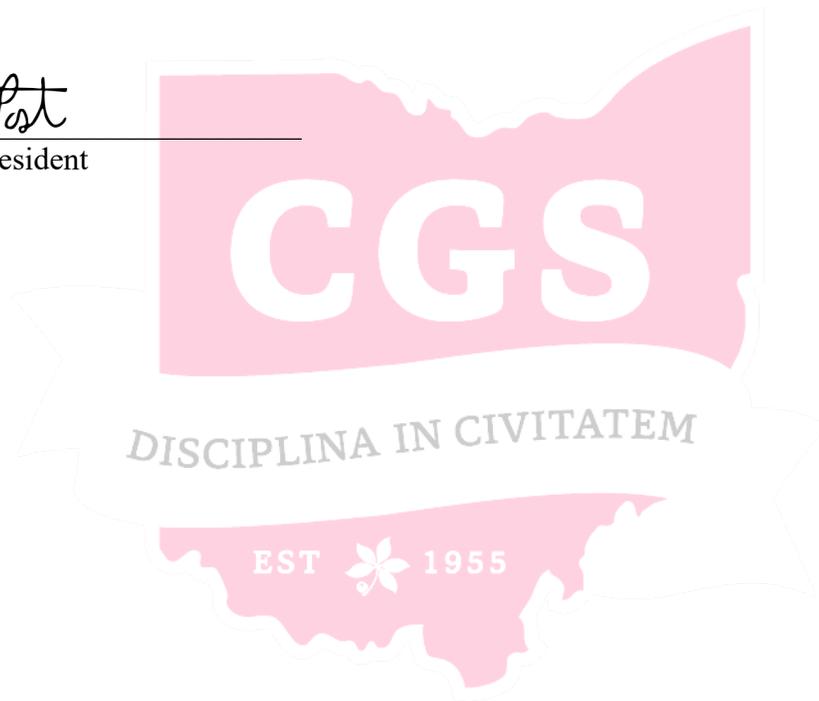
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54 Date: _9/11/2020_

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58 Stephen J. Post, President



Council of Graduate Students
at The Ohio State University