

1 **Associated Student Government**
2 *University of Arkansas*



3
4 *ASG Senate Resolution 1*

5 Author(s): Chair of Senate Gabrielle Gies, Director of Academics Hailey Hoog,
6 Senator Ky Mengler, Senator Jackson Terrell, Senator Lillian Taylor, Senator
7 Henry Holtkamp, Director of Policy Cael Losenegger
8 Sponsor(s): Senator Abigail Lindsey, Senator Mary Eichenberger

9

10 **A Resolution to Support the Development of a University Holiday on**
11 **Election Day**

12

13 Whereas, one of the most important rights and civic duties in the
14 United States of America is the right to vote; and

15

16 Whereas, politics have a direct impact on student life, including but
17 not limited to issues of education material regulation, federal
18 aid and loans, food and housing, healthcare access, research
19 funding, and post-graduate job availability and pay; and

20

21 Whereas, Arkansas elections this year will include the offices of
22 Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, US
23 Senator, and several US House Representatives, in addition
24 to representatives for the state legislature; and

25

26 Whereas, unlike other states that allow for broad mail-in voting, a
27 resident of Arkansas must be unable to attend the physical
28 polling site on Election Day due to one of the following
29 criteria: unavoidable absence, illness or physical disability,
30 military-related absence of one or their dependent, or
31 temporary residence outside the United States¹; and

32

33 Whereas, early in-person voting is not a protected right and several
34 nearby states including Alabama and Mississippi have
35 recently reduced or eliminated early in-person voting²; and

36

¹ "Voter Information," Arkansas Secretary of State, accessed August 29, 2022,
<https://www.sos.arkansas.gov/elections/voter-information/absentee-voting>.

² Wendy Underhill, "Early In-Person Voting," National Conference of State Legislatures, August 30, 2022,
<https://www.ncsl.org/research/elections-and-campaigns/early-voting-in-state-elections.aspx>.

37 Whereas, according to 2022 Fall enrollment data at the University of
38 Arkansas, 3561 students are from Washington County, 221
39 students are from Crawford County, 111 students are from
40 Madison County, and 3243 students are from Benton
41 County³. Assuming all persons are registered to vote, 7136
42 students and 4779 faculty and staff⁴ would be eligible to vote
43 in-person on Election Day; and
44

45 Whereas, civic duties extend beyond simple voting, including
46 volunteering for candidates or serving as a poll worker,
47 which require at least Election Day off; and
48

49 Whereas, Election Day is an official University holiday at the
50 University of Kentucky⁵, Clemson University⁶, and
51 University of South Carolina⁷; and
52

53 Whereas, in Fall 2020 the Associated Student Government Senate
54 passed “A Resolution to Expand Students’ and Faculty the
55 Opportunity to Vote,” which supported asynchronous
56 learning on election day to allow students and faculty better
57 opportunity to cast their vote; and
58

59 Whereas, asynchronous classes on Election Day would allow students
60 and faculty better opportunity to vote but will not expand
61 staff opportunity.
62

63 Be it therefore resolved: the Associated Student Government Senate
64 strongly supports the use of asynchronous
65 classes on November 8th, 2022.
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³ “Office of Institutional Research and Assessment,” Enrollment by Arkansas County | Institutional Research and Assessment | University of Arkansas, accessed August 29, 2022, <https://oir.uark.edu/datasets/student/headcounts/enrollment-county.php>.

⁴ “Serving Arkansas and Beyond,” University of Arkansas, accessed August 29, 2022, <https://www.uark.edu/about/quick-facts.php>.

⁵ “Upcoming Staff Holidays Include Election Day and Bonus Days,” Upcoming staff holidays include election day and bonus days | UK Human Resources (University of Kentucky), accessed August 29, 2022, <https://www.uky.edu/hr/news/upcoming-staff-holidays-include-election-day-and-bonus-days>.

⁶ Holiday schedule (Clemson University Office of Human Resources), accessed September 25, 2022, <https://www.clemson.edu/human-resources/benefits/holiday.html>.

⁷ “Tools & Resources,” University of South Carolina, accessed August 29, 2022, https://sc.edu/calendar/uofsc/academic_calendar/index.php?trumbaEmbed=view%3Devent%26eventid%3D628077703.

67 Be it further resolved: the Associated Student Government supports
68 the creation of a University Holiday on future
69 Election Days in order to expand student,
70 faculty, and staff voting and civic engagement
71 opportunities. The authors of this legislation
72 and their predecessors will work with Faculty
73 Senate and administration to accomplish this
74 goal over the next two years.

75
76 Be it finally resolved: a copy of this resolution be sent to Interim
77 Chancellor Charles Robinson, Interim Vice
78 Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of
79 Students Harwood-Rom, Interim Provost and
80 Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs Terry
81 Martin, Staff Senate, and Faculty Senate.

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83 Amendments: _____

84
85 Vote Count: Aye 45 Nay 0 Abstentions 0

86
87 Legislation Status: **Passed** Failed Other

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89 _____
90 Gabrielle Gies, ASG Chair of the Senate Date

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92 _____
93 Lauren Loftin, ASG President Date