

SENATE RESOLUTION
SR-F18-001

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TITLE	Resolution in Support of the Student Democracy Day Initiative

We, the Associated Students of the University of California, Riverside, formally call upon UC Riverside’s Office of the Chancellor and the University of California Office of the President to recognize the Tuesday after the first Monday in November in each even-numbered year, as a Student Democracy Day.

WHEREAS, Student Democracy Day would be an opportunity for students to vote without the need to worry about academic and on campus work obligations at the University of California, Riverside;

WHEREAS, Student Democracy Day would allow students the opportunity to exercise their constitutional rights and participate in the United States electoral process;

WHEREAS, the University of California, Riverside attained only a 9% voting rate in the 2014 Midterm election [1];

WHEREAS, the National voter turnout rate during the 2014 midterm election for the youth vote (18-29) was 13% in 2014 [2];

WHEREAS, the University of California, Riverside’s voter participation rate was 4% lower than the national average for a comparable demographic;

WHEREAS, the lack of voter participation at the University of California, Riverside shows a need for improved civic engagement measures to be undertaken by the University of California to engage students in the electoral process;

WHEREAS, the University of California is under both federal and state mandates to maximize opportunities to register to vote, voter registration is only one facet of civic engagement;

WHEREAS, allowing students to not worry about their academic and work commitments on election day would provide students the opportunity to vote freely without reservation;

WHEREAS, students of a publicly funded institution like the University of California, Riverside have a vested interest in participating in elections to ensure that publicly funded higher education is attainable for future generations of students;

WHEREAS, the University of California, Riverside would be one of the first universities in the United States to provide its students with a Student Democracy Day;

Therefore, let it be resolved that the Associated Students of the University of California, Riverside will support and advocate the adoption of Student Democracy Day;

Therefore, let it be further resolved, the Associated Students of the University of California, Riverside call upon the Office of the Chancellor and all other members of UC Riverside's administration to take actions to support and implement of a Student Democracy Day.

[1] National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE)

[2] <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/the-young-voter-turnout-in-2014/>

Cc: UCR Chancellor
UCR Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs
Highlander Newspaper



Andrea Cuevas

Executive Vice President

SUBMITTED ON - October 10th, 2018

COMMITTEE APPROVED ON - October 10th, 2018

VOTE COUNT - 7-0-0

SENATE APPROVED ON - October 17th, 2018

VOTE COUNT - 14-0-2