

Sponsor: Senator Karen M. Kedrowski, Liberal Arts and Sciences at large.

Rationale: This resolution encourages students to participate in the 2024 general election and also encourages faculty members to refrain from scheduling exams or major assignments on Election Day, and to excuse tardiness or absences resulting from students exercising their right to vote.

There are significant variations in student voter turnout based upon various demographic variables. In addition, recent changes to the Iowa voting laws may have a negative impact on students' ability to vote absentee by mail or absentee in person.

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT STUDENT VOTING ON ELECTION DAY

Whereas the Iowa Board of Regents Mission Statement seeks to “enhance the quality of life for Iowans;”

Whereas the Iowa Board of Regents recently reaffirmed its commitment to civic education;

Whereas Iowa State University’s aspires “to be the most student-centric leading research university;”

Whereas Iowa State graduate students, students in STEM fields, and nonwhite students vote at lower rates than their peers;

Whereas Iowa State students might face hidden barriers that interfere with their ability to vote early or by mail;

Whereas in most recent elections, most Iowa State students voted on Election Day; and

Whereas Election Day is November 5, 2024:

Therefore be it Resolved:

That the Iowa State University Faculty Senate encourages its students who are eligible to vote to cast ballots in the 2024 general election;

Be it Further Resolved:

That the Iowa State University Faculty Senate encourages instructional faculty, on election day (November 5, 2024), to hold classes asynchronously whenever feasible, to refrain from scheduling exams or major assignments, and/or to excuse student absences or tardiness that may result from voting.