WHEREAS, according to the US Census Bureau, only 45% of eligible voters between 18-29 years of age voted in the 2012 US elections; AND

WHEREAS, in 2012 and 2014, 72% and 65.5% of WSU students, respectively, were registered to vote, with respective student voter turnout rates of 57% and 27%; AND

WHEREAS, voter turnout on university campuses across the country was at 19% percent in 2014; AND

WHEREAS, Wayne State University has begun taking active measures to institutionally address low voter turnout and civic participation of students by sharing voter registration resources with students; AND

WHEREAS, the Wayne State University Student Senate has been active in these measures, both hosting the Secretary of State Mobile Office on campus and working to establish a polling location on campus; AND

2 WSU 2014 NSLVE Report
5 http://i.wayne.edu/view/57ebe89d6f079
6 https://events.wayne.edu/2017/10/03/michigan-secretary-of-state-mobile-office-voter-registration-drive-72185/
7 https://www.thesouthend.wayne.edu/news/article_18899538-d6ad-11e7-a4f6-8fa04e94fa12.html
WHEREAS, there is ample research to support the idea that more than just programming is needed to increase voter turnout, as voter laws inhibit many students from actively exercising their right to vote\(^8\); AND

WHEREAS, current Michigan Election Law disenfranchises many potential student voters at Wayne State University and throughout the state\(^9\); AND

WHEREAS, the Michigan Constitution supposedly grants all Michigan residents the right to vote, recognizing each voter as an “elector”; BUT

WHEREAS, state law in Michigan does not allow all persons who are eligible to vote to do so easily nor in a manner that is fair and free; AND

WHEREAS, the absentee votes of military service members who are overseas are not always counted nor protected in Michigan today\(^10\); AND

WHEREAS, the option to vote straight party is not currently protected under Michigan law, despite the rejection by voters, twice over, of ballot proposals to ban straight party voting, and the striking down by the U.S. Supreme Court of a Michigan law banning straight party voting\(^11\); AND

WHEREAS, despite evidence that opt-out automatic voter registration has increased voter participation in many states, Michigan does not engage in this practice\(^12\); AND

WHEREAS, Michigan law ought to allow a citizen to register to vote

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\(^8\) https://ssir.org/articles/entry/increasing_voter_turnout_what_if Anything_can_be_done
\(^9\) https://www.brennancenter.org/analysis/student-voting-guide-michigan
\(^11\)https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/courts_law/supreme-court-rejects-michigan-ban-on-straight-ticket-voting/2016/09/09/7ce6bff6-7533-11e6-be4f-3f42f2e5a49e_story.html
\(^12\) https://www.thenation.com/article/how-oregon-increased-voter-turnout-more-than-any-other-state/
until 15 days before an election by mail or in person and after that to register to vote in person with proof of residency up to and on Election Day; AND

WHEREAS, a truly fair and free enfranchisement requires that all registered voters have access to an absentee ballot for any reason, as is already the law in over half of states; AND

WHEREAS, the right to keep your vote private by secret ballot is considered to be sacred in our democracy but is not yet enshrined in the Michigan constitution; AND

WHEREAS, ensuring the integrity of our electoral process is more important today than ever and can be accomplished through automatically auditing election results by comparing paper ballot totals to the totals reported by the electronic voting systems in randomly selected precincts; AND

WHEREAS, the Promote the Vote Michigan ballot proposal would address each of the foregoing issues; AND

WHEREAS, passing this proposal would be beneficial to Wayne State University students and those at campuses across the state by making voting more accessible; AND

WHEREAS, the proposal is backed by the ACLU, NAACP, League of Women Voters, ACCESS, and other large organizations in the State of Michigan.

16 https://www.verifiedvoting.org/resources/post-election-audits/
17 https://promotethevotemi.com/
1. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED,** that the Wayne State University Student Senate supports amending the Michigan Constitution with the Promote the Vote ballot proposal to support voting rights by ensuring voting is accessible and all votes are secure and counted;

2. **AND FINALLY BE IT ORDERED,** that the Wayne State University Student Senate urges local elected officials, elected State Representatives and Senators, and the people of the State of Michigan to support this proposal and vote YES in the November election.

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Nourhan Hamadi              Dalia Ibrahim
President                   Vice President