



WAYNE STATE

Student Senate

Student Senate

2017-2018 Academic Year

A Resolution Supporting the Promote the Vote Ballot Proposal.

Presented on March 22nd, 2018

Sponsors: Stuart Baum, Director of Governmental Affairs

Co-Sponsors: Nourhan Hamadi, President

WHEREAS, according to the US Census Bureau, only 45% of eligible voters between 18-29 years of age voted in the 2012 US elections¹; **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%²; **AND**

WHEREAS, voter turnout on university campuses across the country was at 19% percent in 2014^{3,4}; **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 students⁵; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Wayne State University Student Senate has been active in these measures, both hosting the Secretary of State Mobile Office on campus⁶ and working to establish a polling location on campus⁷; **AND**

¹ <https://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p20-573.pdf>

² WSU 2014 NSLVE Report

³ <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/12/opinion/the-worst-voter-turnout-in-72-years.html>

⁴ <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/2014-midterm-election-turnout-lowest-in-70-years>

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 vote⁸ ; **AND**

WHEREAS, current Michigan Election Law disenfranchises many potential student voters at Wayne State University and throughout the state⁹ ; **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 today¹⁰ ; **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 voting¹¹ ; **AND**

WHEREAS, despite evidence that opt-out automatic voter registration has increased voter participation in many states, Michigan does not engage in this practice¹² ; **AND**

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

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>

¹⁰ <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=96437123>

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 Day¹³; **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 states¹⁴; **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 constitution¹⁵; **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 precincts¹⁶; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Promote the Vote Michigan ballot proposal would address each of the foregoing issues¹⁷; **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.

¹³<http://www.demos.org/publication/2012-election-lessons-learned-how-voters-stood-against-suppression-id-and-intimidation>

¹⁴ http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/06/new_no-reason_absentee_voting.html

¹⁵<http://legislature.mi.gov/doc.aspx?mcl-Article-II-4>

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..

Nourhan Hamadi
President

Dalia Ibrahim
Vice President