

**Resolution to Support a University Policy that Excuses Absences on Election Day**  
Educational Policy and Student Affairs (EPSA) Committee  
Faculty Senate  
First Reading—October 10, 2022

*Whereas*, Ohio University operates according to Enlightenment democratic principles of liberty, citizen participation, and progressive societal improvements;

*Whereas*, voting is a crucial component of participatory democracy;

*Whereas*, Ohio University is committed to advocating for the rights of students to engage in civic participation and shared governance;

*Whereas*, Ohio University lacks an official policy addressing excused absences on Election Day, and relies on individual faculty members to make that determination;

*Whereas*, there is a need to ensure that obstacles to voter participation created by university-related obligations on Election Day are minimized;

*Whereas*, students must often choose between participating in civic duties or attending to educational responsibilities on Election Day;

*Whereas*, the Graduate Student Senate has proposed and passed a similar resolution which requests that the Faculty Senate create, implement, and enforce a university-wide policy that includes absence on Election Day an official absence;

*Be It Resolved a University-Wide Policy Excusing Student Absences on Election Day be Implemented by AY 2023-2024 for the Undergraduate Student Handbook and the Graduate Student Handbook*

*And, Be It Further Resolved that prior to AY 2023, students who wish to participate in election day by voting, working the polls, or any other related activities be given an excused absence for doing so, just as students with a family emergency/death in the family, religious holiday, medical emergency/illness/Covid, or university sponsored event are automatically awarded an excused absence.*