Promote Our Vote: Draft Campus Resolution

WHEREAS, an individual right to vote is a fundamental American right and fundamental rights should be guaranteed to all Americans in the U.S. Constitution; and

WHEREAS, the United States is one of the 11 nations that does not have the right to vote in its constitution out of the 119 nations that elect their public officials using democratic elections; and

WHEREAS, the 15th, 19th, and 26th Amendments to the U.S. Constitution prohibit discrimination in voting on the basis of race, sex, and age respectively, and the 24th Amendment prohibits poll taxes, these amendments do not guarantee Americans an affirmative right to vote; and

WHEREAS, the United States ranks in the bottom 20% of nations in voter turnout for presidential elections, and lower in congressional and local elections; and

WHEREAS, expanding opportunities for voter education and non-partisan voter registration would promote a more engaged citizenry and increase civic participation; and

WHEREAS local governments like [OUR CITY] have the power to enact laws and procedures for local elections that ensure they meet and ideally surpass federal and state election standards; and

WHEREAS local governments have a long history of being true laboratories of democracy in this nation, establishing new laws involving voting, representation, and governance that influence state and national practices;

WHEREAS students often face difficulties in voting, such as too many students not being registered to vote, too few polling places being on or near campus and absentee voting procedures being complicated to handle;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That we, the students of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, assembled this day of, 20, do hereby affirm that the right to vote is a fundamental citizenship right to be cherished, protected, and exercised; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we do hereby call on our Members of Congress to support an amendment to the U.S. Constitution that would grant an individual right to vote to every American citizen of voting age; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, will urge our city and our county to pass right to vote resolutions committing support for a right to vote in the U.S. Constitution and to review local laws and practices with the goal of creating secure and accessible elections with higher voter participation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will ask our college administration to assist in our efforts to register all eligible voters associated with the college, to encourage their participation and to help address any barriers to participation involving polling places and absentee voting procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we, the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ will publicize information on campus about local elections, including polling stations, a guide to becoming a poll worker and other information students need to exercise their right to vote.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we support establishing a Standing Committee to uphold the right to vote that reviews all student election laws and practices that may affect the right to vote, the power of voters to elect candidates of choice, and their ability to hold representatives accountable; that proposes changes to uphold voting rights; that encourages increased voter participation; and that promotes greater awareness of student government; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution will be provided to the governor, our state legislative representatives, the U.S. Speaker of the House, the U.S. Senate Majority Leader, this state’s congressional delegation, the U.S. President and our city and county elected representatives.