

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

Rationale: This resolution encourages students to participate in the 2022 midterm election and also encourages faculty members to refrain from scheduling exams or major assignments on Election Day, and to be flexible with 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 embraces "civic responsibility that enhances the quality of life;"

Whereas Iowa State University's Strategic Plan calls upon the University to produce students who are "well-rounded citizens;"

Whereas Iowa State University's student voter turnout rate is 30-40% lower in midterm elections than in presidential elections;

Whereas students enrolled in STEM fields have lower voter turnout rates than do students enrolled in other disciplines;

Whereas male students have lower voter turnout rates than female students;

Whereas students who identify as Asian, African American, Hispanic, and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander have lower voter turnout rates than their peers who identify as white, multi-racial and Native American;

Whereas graduate students vote at lower rates than undergraduate students;

Whereas working and parenting students may face barriers to voting that are not readily apparent;

Whereas in most recent elections, most ISU students have voted on Election Day; and

Whereas Election Day is November 8, 2022:

Therefore be it Resolved:

That the Iowa State University Faculty Senate University encourages its students who are eligible to vote to cast ballots in the 2022 midterm election;

Be it Further Resolved:

That the Iowa State University Faculty Senate encourages instructional faculty to refrain from scheduling exams or major assignments on Election Day, November 8, 2022, and to be flexible with their attendance policy to accommodate student absences or tardiness that may result from voting.