



Resolution R2021-002
Election Day Holiday Resolution

WHEREAS: the Nicholls State University Student Government Association Constitution Article I §2.4, as enacted by the student body, reads that the purpose of the Student Government Association exists “to provide an opportunity for students to participate in the governmental processes;” and,

WHEREAS: November 3, 2020 is the United States General Election. It is a sacred right and responsibility of Americans to be at the voting booth on Election Day; and,

WHEREAS: the Student Government Association calls on administration, faculty, staff, and local elected officials to take a stand to get more student voters to the polls; and,

WHEREAS: it is the formal and official opinion as the governing body of the students of Nicholls State University that it is important for students to have a voice in the elections and to encourage them to be civically engaged; and,

WHEREAS: students may not have much time in the day between school and work to go out and vote, with some students preferring the security of in-person voting compared to mail-in ballots; and,

WHEREAS: failure to provide ample time for democratic participation on Election Day effectively precludes those who are constrained from traveling to their precinct due to work or school from voting, thereby creating a large disparity in voter representation between those who have the luxury of time and access and those who do not; and,

WHEREAS: the holding of Election Day on a Tuesday historically has disadvantaged middle- and low-income workers and students in the United States for whom it is the most difficult to get off from work and/or school to vote, according to a recent study published in the *American Journal of Public Health*.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: the Student Government Association of Nicholls State University most strenuously supports that Election Day, November 3, 2020, and every first Tuesday after November 1st in even numbered years, indefinitely, to be declared a class holiday.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that this resolution be sent to Dr. Jay Clune, Nicholls State University President; all Nicholls State University Vice Presidents and Deans; Dr. Jim Henderson, University of Louisiana System President; Hon. Bryan Fontenot, Louisiana House District 55; Hon. Michael Fesi, Louisiana Senate District 20; Hon. Garret Graves, U.S. Congress District 6; Hon. Bill Cassidy, U.S. Senator; Hon. John Kennedy, U.S. Senator; and John Bel Edwards, Governor of the State of Louisiana.

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