

SENATE RESOLUTION
[NUMBER - [SR-F20-003](#)]

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SPONSOR(S)	
TITLE	Make Voting Day a School Holiday: Non Instructional Day for Nov. 3rd

WHEREAS, November 3rd is the official [election day](#) for the 2020 Election of the United States. In 2018, UCR had a total of [23,922](#) enrolled students. Of those 23,922 students, our school's student voter turnout was represented by only [35%](#) of the population.

WHEREAS, many students plan on voting in the election but may not have the time due to class schedule or employment. It should also be noted that there are no polls on campus grounds due to COVID-19, which will require students that want to vote in-person to travel to the next closest location. Because of this, many students across the country are [advocating](#) to their schools to make Voting Day a School Holiday.

WHEREAS, in 2016 the [University of California entered into a Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) with the Secretary of State to increase civic engagement amongst students crafting policies and practices that would essentially encourage students to perform their civic duties such as voting. Following this memorandum, Governor Newsom had signed [California Bill 963, the Student Civic and Voter Empowerment Act](#), which went into effect on January 1, 2020 to continue these efforts and to uphold the 2016 MOU.

WHEREAS, it is the right to vote, and as a University of California institution, we should ensure that all students have the ability to vote without fear of being reprimanded by university staff and teachers.

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That The Associated Students of UC Riverside -

- (1) Advocates that all professors, teaching assistants, and all other administration officials cancel all instruction for the date of November 3, 2020, to allow ample time for all UCR students to vote.
- (2) Let It Be Further Resolved that the Academic Senate ratify and adopt this resolution as policy for future election voting dates. If passed by the Senate, require a [response](#) from the Academic Senate prior to election day.
- (3) Let It Be Finally Resolved that all future federal, state, and local election dates (TBA) will be considered as an official school holiday so that future Highlanders need not worry about whether they will be able to vote or not.

Cc: Chancellor Kim Wilcox
Vice Chancellor Brian Haynes
Academic Senate Chair Jason Stajich
Academic Senate Vice Chair Christiane Weirauch

Executive Vice President
Natalie Hernandez

SUBMITTED ON - *October 15th, 2020*
COMMITTEE APPROVED ON - *October 16, 2020*
VOTE COUNT - *7-0-0*
SENATE APPROVED ON - *10/21/2020*
VOTE COUNT - *16-0-0*