U.A. Resolution #7

Establishing the first Tuesday in November of each year as “Election Day,” a Cornell University Recognized Civic Holiday

[03/22/2022]

Sponsors: Patrick J. Mehler ’23, Former President of Cornell Votes; Jacob Feit ’22, Executive Vice Chair of the University Assembly; Duncan Cady ’23 Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly

On Behalf Of: Cornell Votes Executive Board: Isaac D. Chasen ’23, Dana Karami ’22, Rahul Verma ’24, Elena Woo ’24, Belle Zachary ’23

Whereas, as an institution dedicated to service, democracy, and civic engagement, Cornell University strives to promote and imbued these values into all students, faculty, and staff; and

Whereas, Cornell students, faculty, and staff have become significantly more engaged in the political process both on and off campus; and

Whereas, efforts by Cornell Votes have directly impacted and improved campus-wide voter turnout in federal elections, demonstrated by voting participation increases of nearly 20%, from 47.4% in 2016 to 66.1% in 2020, pushing Cornell University over the national average of voter turnout for the first time in recorded history; and

Whereas, these increases in civic engagement have been accomplished with, and because of, strong partnerships with the Student Assembly, the Cornell University administration, and over one-hundred student organizations; and

Whereas, peer institutions such as Columbia University, Stanford University, and, as recently as 2020, Brown University has implemented similar days of service on Federal Election Day; and

Whereas, a Civic Holiday shall constitute a day of service, celebration of democracy, and programming that assists and facilitates voting for all Cornell community members; and

Be it therefore resolved, in order to substantively and fully dedicate itself to service, democracy, and civic engagement, Cornell University must cancel all university activities on Federal Election Day; and

Be it further resolved, Cornell University will continue their partnerships with Cornell Votes, the Einhorn Center for Community Engagement, and other stakeholders to facilitate programming, assist voters, and promote democracy; and
Be it further resolved, Cornell University will officially recognize Election Day every year as the Cornell University Civic Holiday, as reflected on University-wide official calendars; and

Be it finally resolved, that the Cornell Civic Holiday shall begin its inaugural celebration on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacob J. Feit
Executive Vice Chair, University Assembly