

Resolution in Support of Letter Requesting Asynchronous Instruction on Election Day

WHEREAS, the Rutgers University Senate is a deliberative body that serves in the interest of Rutgers faculty, students, staff, administrators, and alumni, through considering matters of general University interest, and to make recommendations to the University administration on those matters¹; and

WHEREAS, In the United States, Election Day is held annually on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November. This year, Election Day will fall on Tuesday, November 5th, 2024; and

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WHEREAS, due to Election Day occurring during the scheduled academic day, the demands of attending class, specifically in person, can often hinder students' ability to participate in Election Day fully, and ultimately the democratic process. This has affected our commuter population greatly; and

WHEREAS, Individuals who are eligible to vote may vote via mail, early in person, and on election day, and have the right to decide which voting method fits best for them; and

WHEREAS Civic engagement has been central to Rutgers University's values of promoting leadership and social responsibility through supporting activities that promote ethical social action, recognize diverse human interdependence, and prepare students to be engaged citizens; and

WHEREAS, During the summer of 2024, a letter was drafted by an Executive Committee Student Representative to the Rutgers University Senate, Christopher Godoy, and Student Representative to the Board of Trustees, Brielle Fedorko, requesting a university-wide asynchronous method of instruction on Election Day, which falls on Tuesday, November 5th, 2024;

WHEREAS, The letter, which is planned to be sent to Rutgers University President, Johnathan Holloway to review with his leadership team on September 19th, 2024 at 8 AM, has gained the support of key student leaders throughout all three campuses, as well as a Faculty Representative to the Rutgers University Board of Governors. This letter has even been endorsed by the Rutgers University Student Assembly, on the New Brunswick Campus, and students have been made aware of the letter through every campuses respective student government, such as the Rutgers University-Newark Student Governing Association and Rutgers University-Camden Student Governing Association;

WHEREAS, after the letter has been sent to President Holloway, a method of signage will become public to the entire Rutgers University-New Brunswick, Rutgers University-Camden, and Rutgers University-Newark community, highlighting their support for the letter and its request;

WHEREAS, allowing asynchronous instruction on Election Day will help increase voter turnout among the Rutgers University community and foster a culture of active participation in the democratic process;

RESOLVED, that the Rutgers University Senate endorses the letter, requesting an asynchronous method of instruction on election day, made by and endorsed by students, and recommends that the administration from all three campuses consider approving the recommendation made within the letter; and

RESOLVED, per Rutgers University policy, the University Senate holds regulatory power in the establishment of the University calendar. Therefore we resolve that as of the 2025-2026 academic year, and forward in perpetuity, the first Tuesday of November, as Election Day, shall be a university holiday with no classes scheduled or meeting.

¹ [Rutgers University Senate Website](#)

² [Letter Requesting Asynchronous Instruction on Election Day](#)