

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

*of*

LOYOLA CHICAGO

**MEASURE OF THE SENATE**

**A Resolution to Recognize Federal Election Days**

*To encourage the University to recognize federal Election Days as a University Holiday thereby instituting the cancelation of all academic activities and offering paid liberal leave to staff and faculty.*

02/23/2021

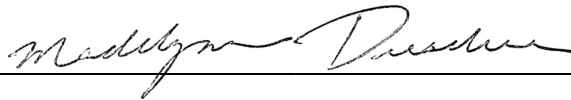
**03/02/2021 Date Passed Senate**

28 - 0 - 0

**to be filed by the Chief Operations Officer of the Senate**

5 - 0 - 0

**to be filed by the Chief Justice**



**Date:** 03/10/2021

Signed by the President of the Student Government of Loyola Chicago



**Date:** 3/15/2021

Signed by the Chief Justice of the Student Government of Loyola Chicago

**Chiefly Sponsored By:**

Senator Claire Harrison  
Senator Anushka Nanda

**Co-Sponsored By:**

Senator Margaret Bronec  
Senator Ella Doyle  
Senator Hannah Kwak

Senator Kennedy Mallory  
Senator Nabhan Rafiq  
Senator Taylor Slonaker

## A Resolution to Recognize Federal Election Days

*To encourage the University to recognize federal Election Days as a University Holiday thereby instituting the cancelation of all academic activities and offering paid liberal leave to staff and faculty.*

<sup>1</sup>**Whereas,** The Global Solidarity value of the Mission Integration of Loyola University Chicago explains that the Jesuit education that Loyola University Chicago provides its students will create students who “will take responsibility for the real world”, who will have “educated awareness of society and culture, a sense of being interrelated and interconnected, and a commitment to act for the rights of others, especially the disadvantaged and the oppressed,”<sup>1</sup> and

<sup>2</sup>**Whereas,** One of the Characteristics of Jesuit Education is, “values-based leadership: Ensuring a consistent focus on personal integrity, ethical behavior in business and in all professions”, and in holding with these practices, ensuring the pay security for all employees of the University of Loyola Chicago,<sup>2</sup> and

<sup>3</sup>**Whereas,** The mission statement of the Student Government of Loyola Chicago, hereafter referred to as SGLC, states:

*“We commit wholeheartedly to voice the concerns of the student body, to act as an instrument for the cooperation of students, faculty and administration, to provide an open forum for dialogue, and to be a voice for student opinions concerning the traditions, idea, and affairs of the University. We shall do so in order to afford all undergraduate students the opportunity to participate in the management of their own affairs,”*<sup>3</sup> and

<sup>4</sup>**Whereas,** The mission statement of the Office of Civic Engagement is:

*“To engage Loyola University Chicago and our students with the civic life of our community, the City of Chicago, Cook County, the State of Illinois, the Federal Government, and beyond, through mutually beneficial activities,”*<sup>4</sup> and

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<sup>1</sup> [Loyola Mission Integration](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Loyola Vision](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Articles of Governance](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Office of Civic Engagement Mission Statement](#)

- <sup>5</sup>Whereas,** According to Loyola’s Voter Information website, “civic engagement is a fundamental part of a transformative Jesuit education, and exercising one’s right to vote is the bedrock of civic engagement,”<sup>5</sup> and
- <sup>6</sup>Whereas,** According to Loyola’s “Guidelines for Political Activities for Students, Faculty, and Staff”, Loyola affirms that all students, faculty, and staff should be politically active, because political activity “is an important expression of citizenship, just as the exploration of opposing points of view on matters of public policy – through an authentic dialogue – is an important and vital learning opportunity,”<sup>6</sup> and
- <sup>7</sup>Whereas,** Loyola’s Voter Information website also states that, “Loyola University Chicago encourages everyone to exercise their right to vote,”<sup>7</sup> and
- <sup>8</sup>Whereas,** When asked by the SGLC in its annual survey if Loyola should offer Election Day off to students, faculty, and staff as a University holiday to allow eligible citizens time to vote and volunteer in U.S. elections, 93.6% of the respondents, who are undergraduate students, indicated that they “Strongly agree” or “Agree” that Loyola should offer Election day off to students, faculty, and staff,<sup>8</sup> and
- <sup>9</sup>Whereas,** Other Jesuit Universities and Institutions such as Fordham University pledge that “during a Presidential election year, Election Day will be observed” as a University<sup>9</sup> and
- <sup>10</sup>Whereas,** Other Jesuit Universities and Institutions, such as Loyola University Marymount, have canceled classes on Election Days in the past,<sup>10</sup> and
- <sup>11</sup>Whereas,** The State of Illinois is among 12 other U.S. states and territories that have formally declared Election Day as a civic holiday,<sup>11</sup> and

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<sup>5</sup> [Loyola's Voter Information Website](#)

<sup>6</sup> [Loyola Guidelines for Political Activity](#)

<sup>7</sup> See note 6 above

<sup>8</sup> [Fall 2020 SGLC Survey Report.pdf](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Fordham's Scheduled Univeristy Holidays](#)

<sup>10</sup> [Loyola Marymount Cancels Classes](#)

<sup>11</sup> [U.S. States that offer Election Day as a Holiday](#)

<sup>12</sup>**Whereas,** The recognition of Election Day as a University Holiday at Loyola fulfills the Characteristics of a Jesuit Education and the Global Solidarity value of the Mission Integration of Loyola, and

<sup>13</sup>**Whereas,** The recognition of Election Day as a University Holiday at Loyola fulfills the “Guidelines for Political Activities for Students, Faculty, and Staff”.

<sup>1</sup>**Be It Resolved,** That the SGLC recommends the Office of the Provost to acknowledge federal election days as a University holiday, federal election days occurring on even-numbered years and including both presidential and midterm congressional elections, allowing all eligible citizens within the student body, faculty, and staff to perform their civic duty and to become involved in civic engagement as outlined in the mission statement of the Office of Civic Engagement, and

<sup>2</sup>**Be It Resolved,** That the SGLC recommends the Office of the Provost to cancel all required academic activities such as classes, meetings, and deadlines on any federal election days to better allow eligible students and faculty to have the opportunity to go and vote, and

<sup>3</sup>**Be It Resolved,** That the SGLC recommends the Human Resources Department of Loyola to provide paid liberal leave to all faculty and staff on all Federal Election days, which occur on even-numbered years and include both presidential and midterm congressional elections, in accordance with the Office of the Provost.