

THE STUDENT SENATE OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

59th Legislative Assembly, 2nd Session

S.R. 59.2-2

A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND THAT ELECTION DAY BE A NO-CLASS DAY
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

Short Title: Election Day Act
Primary Sponsor(s): Sophie Tanker, *Parliamentarian*
Isaiah Grayson, *Speaker Pro Tempore*
Secondary Sponsor(s): Tatiyana Larson, *Student Body President*
Clay Freeze, *Sergeant at Arms*
First Reading: 20th October 2022
Second Reading:
Referred To:
Committee Report:
Passage: 20th October 2022
Enacted:

Whereas, the International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance has labeled the United States as a “backsliding democracy” for the first time in history, and

Whereas, Generation Z will compose 17% of eligible voters in the 2024 election, thus could have a major influence on electoral outcomes in 2024, and

Whereas, having professors allow flexibility for students' attendance on Election Day will allow students to vote without feelings of stress and anxiety preventing them from doing so, and

Whereas, North Carolina passed S.B. 326 which reduced the time to request an absentee ballot from 14 days to 7 days from the election; and

Whereas, nearly half of college students who did not vote cited being too busy as a reason for why they did not vote, and

Whereas, voter turnout has increased, on average, by almost 10% when universities implemented a no-class election day, and

Whereas, Universities such as Elon University instituted a no-class election day and saw a 25.2% increase in turnout from the 2016 election to the 2020 election, and

Whereas, by drawing attention to this issue now we can recommend that in future years that Election Day be a no-class day on the Academic Calendar.

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Senate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, as follows:

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SECTION 1: The Student Senate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte recognizes that the Academic Calendar can not be changed for the 2022-2023 Academic year. The Senate therefore strongly recommends that Professors be flexible with students on Election Day during the 2022-2023 Academic year.

SECTION 2: The Student Senate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte strongly recommends that the University institutes a no-class Election Day in all future University Calendars that have not already been finalized.

Mandates:

Dr. Sharon Gaber, *Chancellor*

Dr. Joan Lorden, *Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*

Dr. Kevin Bailey, *Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs*

Brook Muller, *Dean of the College of Arts & Architecture*

Jennifer Troyer, *Dean of the College of Business*

Bojan Cukic, *Interim Dean of the College of Computing and Informatics*

Malcolm Butler, *Dean of the College of Education*

Robert Keynton, *Dean of the College of Engineering*

Catrine Tudor-Locke, *Dean of the College of Health and Human Services*

John Smail, *Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences*

Tom Reynolds, *Dean of the Graduate School*

Lisa Walker, *Dean of the University College*

Christine Davis, *Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Dean of Students*

Karen Shaffer, *Assistant Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and Director of Student Engagement*

Adam Burden, *Advisor to the Senate and Director of Student Involvement*

Sharifa Fatao, *Press Secretary*

Sunnya Hadavi, *Niner Times*

Tatiyana Larson, *Student Body President*

Donjrey Cuthbertson, *Student Body Webmaster*

Daniel Acree, *Legislative Clerk*

I, Isaiah Grayson, hereby certify that this legislation was considered and adopted by the Student Senate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in accordance with the Constitution of the Student Body and the By-Laws of the Student Senate on this 20th day of October, 2022.

Isaiah Grayson

Isaiah Grayson

Speaker Pro Tempore of the Student Senate

THE STUDENT SENATE OF
THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHARLOTTE

I, Tatiyana Larson, hereby signify my approval of this legislation as adopted by the Student Senate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, this 24th day of October, 2022.

Tatiyana Larson

Tatiyana Larson
Student Body President