

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 7-041

**A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING CSG'S 90% PLEDGE IN SUPPORT OF THE BIG  
TEN VOTE CHALLENGE**

- WHEREAS,** the Constitution of the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor student body says, "AN EDUCATED CITIZENRY being indispensable to the preservation of our civic rights and liberties; creating, securing, and applying knowledge and wisdom among the people being the chief mission of our university; and active participation in our own education being imperative to the success of these undertakings; we, the students of the University of Michigan's Ann Arbor campus, hereby establish this Constitution to promote academic freedom and responsibility, foster fellowship and collaboration among the students, and guarantee a public forum for student expression,"<sup>1</sup> **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Part of upholding this responsibility is leadership in advancing legitimate social change for the good of our campus, and more so, society at large; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** For those who can vote, exercising this right actively and collectively is imperative to a truly democratic society ; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Students have an important stake in elected representation, as many legislative bills and laws directly impact the lives of students on university campuses; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Despite the stake students hold in elected representation, only 21 percent of those under 30 turned out to vote in 2014, compared with 36 percent of voters overall<sup>2</sup>; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** Voter turnout on college and university campuses across the country was at 19% percent in 2014<sup>3,4</sup>; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** voter turnout at the University of Michigan in 2014 was even lower than

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<sup>1</sup> <https://umcsg.files.wordpress.com/2016/09/final-amended-acc.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <http://now.tufts.edu/articles/going-after-youth-vote>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/11/12/opinion/the-worst-voter-turnout-in-72-years.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/2014-midterm-election-turnout-lowest-in-70-years>

the national university average, at 14%<sup>5</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** midterm elections are often treated as secondary elections to presidential elections, when in fact these elections directly impact students<sup>6</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Central Student Government (CSG) recognizes the importance of a civically engaged student body and has thus signed on as a sponsor of the Big Ten Voting Challenge<sup>7</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** The Big Ten Voting Challenge aims to increase the number of eligible student voters across the country and encourage participation at the polls for all elections<sup>8</sup>; **AND**

**WHEREAS,** Each of the 14 schools within the Big Ten Conference is competing for the highest percentage of eligible voter turnout (based on the Fall 2018 midterm elections) and the school with the most improved percentage of turnout comparing 2014 to 2018 elections<sup>9</sup>; **THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** this resolution officially confirms CSG's commitment to the 90% pledge, a public commitment to actively encourage 90% registration and increased turnout in the 2018 midterm elections by taking measures of encouragement as outlined in the 90% Pledge Checklist created by organizers of the Big Ten Voting Challenge<sup>10</sup>; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED,** this resolution, as well as a copy of our signed pledge, will be hung up in the CSG offices, posted on our website, posted on the Big Ten Voting website, and be sent to the incoming President and Vice President to remind of and ensure commitment to the pledge.

### Authors

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<sup>5</sup> <https://record.umich.edu/articles/big-ten-challenge-aims-boost-student-voter-turnout>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2018/1/2/16795804/elections-2018-midterms-consequences>

<sup>7</sup> <https://president.umich.edu/news-communications/letters-to-the-community/welcome-to-the-big-ten-voting-challenge/>

<sup>8</sup> <https://ginsberg.umich.edu/B1G-voting-challenge>

<sup>9</sup> <https://record.umich.edu/articles/big-ten-challenge-aims-boost-student-voter-turnout>

<sup>10</sup> Document attached, though it is being condensed and shortened.

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Nadine Jawad, Ford School of Public Policy

Sponsors

\_\_\_\_\_  
Zoha Qureshi, Ford School of Public Policy

Attest

\_\_\_\_\_

President's Approval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Anushka Sarkar

Presented to the Assembly for *First Reads* on \_\_\_\_\_

Presented to the Assembly for *Second Reads* on \_\_\_\_\_

Yes: \_\_\_\_\_ No: \_\_\_\_\_ Abs: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature Necessary: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature Received By \_\_\_\_\_: \_\_\_\_\_





