

ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION 7-051

A Resolution Supporting the Promote the Vote Ballot Proposal

- WHEREAS,** according to the US Census Bureau, only 45% of eligible voters between 18-29 years of age voted in the 2012 US elections¹; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** in 2012 and 2014, 64.2% and 59.6% of U-M students, respectively, were registered to vote, with respective student voter turnout rates of 44% and 14.3%²; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** voter turnout on university campuses across the country was at 19% percent in 2014^{3,4}; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the University of Michigan has begun taking active measures to institutionally address low voter turnout and civic participation of students by creating and launching the Big Ten Voting Challenge⁵; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the U-M Central Student Government (hereafter, CSG) has been active in these measures, both sponsoring the Big Ten Vote challenge and committing to the 90% pledge of registering students to vote⁶; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** there is ample research to support the idea that more than just programming is needed to increase voter turnout, as voter laws inhibit many students from actively exercising their right to vote^{7,8}; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** current Michigan Election Law disenfranchises many potential student voters at the University of Michigan and throughout the state⁹; **AND**
- WHEREAS,** the Michigan Constitution supposedly grants all Michigan residents the right to vote, recognizing each voter as an “elector”; **BUT**
- WHEREAS,** state law in Michigan does not allow all persons who are eligible to vote to do so easily nor in a manner that is fair and free;

¹ <https://www.census.gov/prod/2014pubs/p20-573.pdf>

² http://obp.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/pubdata/surveys/NSLVE_UMAA_2014.pdf

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

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

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

⁶ <https://www.michigandaily.com/section/student-government/csg-passes-resolutions-concerning-winter-2018-budget-anti-semitism>

⁷ https://ssir.org/articles/entry/increasing_voter_turnout_what_if_anything_can_be_done

⁸ <https://thinkprogress.org/5-ways-to-fix-americas-dismal-voter-turnout-problem-6342bc2d1190/>

⁹ <https://www.michigandaily.com/content/politics-student-voting>

WHEREAS, the absentee votes of military service members who are overseas are not always counted nor protected in Michigan today¹⁰; **AND**

WHEREAS, the option to vote straight party is not currently protected under Michigan law, despite the rejection by voters, twice over, of ballot proposals to ban straight party voting, and the striking down by the U.S. Supreme Court of a Michigan law banning straight party voting¹¹; **AND**

WHEREAS, despite evidence that opt-out automatic voter registration has increased voter participation in many states, Michigan does not engage in this practice¹²; **AND**

WHEREAS, Michigan law ought to allow a citizen to register to vote until 15 days before an election by mail or in person and after that to register to vote in person with proof of residency up to and on Election Day¹³; **AND**

WHEREAS, a truly fair and free enfranchisement requires that all registered voters have access to an absentee ballot for any reason, as is already the law in over half of states¹⁴; **AND**

WHEREAS, the right to keep your vote private by secret ballot is considered to be sacred in our democracy but is not yet enshrined in the Michigan constitution¹⁵; **AND**

WHEREAS, ensuring the integrity of our electoral process is more important today than ever and can be accomplished through automatically auditing election results by comparing paper ballot totals to the totals reported by the electronic voting systems in randomly selected precincts¹⁶; **AND**

WHEREAS, the Promote the Vote Michigan ballot proposal would address each of the foregoing issues¹⁷; **AND**

¹⁰ <https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=96437123>

¹¹ https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/courts_law/supreme-court-rejects-michigan-ban-on-straight-ticket-voting/2016/09/09/7ce6bff6-7533-11e6-be4f-3f42f2e5a49e_story.html

¹² <https://www.thenation.com/article/how-oregon-increased-voter-turnout-more-than-any-other-state/>

¹³ <http://www.demos.org/publication/2012-election-lessons-learned-how-voters-stood-against-suppression-id-and-intimidation>

¹⁴ http://www.mlive.com/lansing-news/index.ssf/2015/06/new_no-reason_absentee_voting.html

¹⁵ https://www.peri.umass.edu/fileadmin/pdf/other_publication_types/efca_files/Lafer_on_card_check_WUSA_Marc_h_2008.pdf

¹⁶ <https://www.verifiedvoting.org/resources/post-election-audits/>

¹⁷ <https://promotethevotemi.com/>

WHEREAS, passing this proposal would be beneficial to University of Michigan students and those at campuses across the state by making voting more accessible; **AND**

WHEREAS, the proposal is backed by the ACLU, NAACP, League of Women Voters, ACCESS, and other large organizations in the State of Michigan;
THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, CSG supports amending the Michigan Constitution with the Promote the Vote ballot proposal to support voting rights by ensuring voting is accessible and all votes are secure and counted; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, CSG urges local elected officials, elected State Representatives and Senators, and the people of the State of Michigan to support this proposal and vote YES in the November election.

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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 _____: _____

