

**Draft:** Final

**University of Houston-Clear Lake**

**Student Government Association**

On the General Election Days at the University of Houston-Clear Lake

Resolution Author(s): Senator J. Scates, President Loya

October 2020

At a meeting of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston-Clear Lake held on 15 October 2020, the Student Senate moved for changes to *General Election Days* at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. This motion passed unanimously.

**Whereas,** the Student Government Association (SGA) of the University of Houston-Clear Lake is vested with the authority to be the voice for the student body; and,

**Whereas,** the University of Houston-Clear Lake Core Values calls for Service; and,

**Whereas,** the impact of Service is further defined as developing leaders who foster the growth and well-being of the communities they serve; and,

**Whereas,** to be an effective leader one must demonstrate responsible stewardship of a democracy through active citizenship**;** and,

 **Whereas,** active citizens should have the opportunity to participate in every election in which they are allowed to vote; and,

**Whereas,** as Americans, voting is our right and a privilege**;** and,

**Whereas,** there is no more important place for any person to be on Election Day than the voting booth**;** and,

**Whereas,** members of the university community may not have time between school and activities to go out and vote**;** and

**Whereas,** a day of online learning in 2020 and a day off of classes the first Tuesday after November 1st in even-numbered years hereafter, would allow members of the university community to vote**;** and

**Whereas,** according to a 2018 Pew Research study the United States is one of 7 countries in the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development made up of 37 democratic states that doesn’t have voting on a weekend or federal holiday to make voting more accessible**;** and

**Whereas,** in a joint memorandum released by the Tufts institute, the Andrew Goodman Foundation and the Fair Election Center’s Campus Vote Project, students living on or near campus who register there tend to vote at high rates, but residential students who vote absentee or by mail do not follow through as regularly**;** and

**Whereas,** according to the same memorandum, student’s absentee or mailed-in ballots are rejected at disproportionately higher rates and absent interventions, the removal of barriers to voting by mail, and education, voting rates for students will be low in 2020**;** and

**Whereas,** members of the university community would have the opportunity to travel to their precincts to vote if they did not want to vote by mail or were unable to register to vote by mail or through absentee ballot in time**;** and

**Whereas,** the members of the University of Houston-Clear Lake could represent themselves, and thereby the university, in the government through their choosing of elected leaders**;** and

**Therefore, be it resolved** by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston-Clear Lake that November 3rd, 2020, be an asynchronous virtual day for all of campus.

**Be it further resolved** the first Tuesday after November 1st in even number years will be declared a class holiday.

**Be it further resolved** that the Faculty Senate discourage assignments being due the first Wednesday following the class holiday.