

STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2018-113

TITLE: Resolution Declaring Support for Early Voting Locations at College Campuses

AUTHORS: Megan Newsome, Jaime Roy, Jenna Tingum, Riley Redington, Senator Sam Jenkins, Senator Katie Hernandez, Senator Fraleigh Krause, Former Senator Wallace Mazon, Jeremy O'Brien, Bob Graham Center Student Fellows President Austin Young, and Chomp the Vote Chairwoman Nathalia Ortega

SPONSORS: Andrew Goodman Foundation Vote Everywhere Ambassadors, Bob Graham Center Student Fellows, Chomp the Vote, External Affairs, University of Florida College Libertarians, Gators for Underrepresented Voters, Indivisible UF

WHEREAS, after CS/HB 7013 was codified into law in the form of Florida Statute 101.657, the University of Florida was denied an early voting location because, as per Florida Secretary of State Ken Detzner's Office, the verbiage of the law could not be "construed so broadly as to include the Reitz Union"; and,

WHEREAS, Florida Statute 101.657 states that a supervisor of elections may designate one early voting site per election and the current additional location is not readily accessible to students; and,

WHEREAS, the nearest early voting location from the University of Florida on-campus polling location requires one to walk approximately 43 minutes from the J. Wayne Reitz Student Union; and,

WHEREAS, approximately only 15% of University of Florida Students have access to parking passes on campus; and,

WHEREAS, there are no direct public transportation routes from the University of Florida campus to the nearest voting location; and,

WHEREAS, the J. Wayne Reitz Union and Florida Natural History Museum already serve as polling locations for election day and are heavily used by the University of Florida student population; and,

WHEREAS, according to the National Study of Learning, Voting and Engagement, 62.4% of all University of Florida students voted at city-wide polling locations in the 2016 General Election with the help of easy access to voter registration information, election materials and transportation to polling places; and,

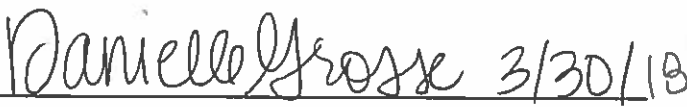
WHEREAS, the 2018 primary elections begin on August 28th and the 2018 general election begins on November 6th, and;

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes nearly 1.1 million affected voters in the Florida public colleges and universities deserve equitable access to early voting polling locations.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that in the meantime, the University of Florida Student Senate encourages students to seek alternative methods to voting, including carpooling to the polls and Vote-by-Mail options.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the State of Florida to permit facilities on college and university campuses otherwise eligible for early voting sites, such as stadiums and convention centers, as properly constituted options for early voting sites.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of passing legislation to update Florida Statute 101.657 to explicitly allow early voting sites at public colleges and universities across Florida.


Danielle Grosse 3/30/18
Senate President Date

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Governor Rick Scott, Secretary of State Ken Detzner, Representative Chuck Clemons, Representative Clovis Watson, Senator Keith Perry, Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Kim Barton, Mayor Lauren Poe, City Attorney Nicole Shalley, Vice President of Student Affairs Dr. David Parrott, League of Women Voters of Florida President Pamela S. Goodman, League of Women Voters of Alachua County President Carole Fernandez and Florida State University Student Senate, University of Central Florida Student Senate, University of South Florida Student Senate, University of West Florida Student Senate, University of North Florida Student Senate, Florida A&M University Student Senate, Florida Atlantic University Student Senate, Florida Gulf Coast University Student Senate, Florida Polytechnic University Student Senate, New College of Florida Student Senate, Santa Fe College and Miami Dade College.