

**STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION 2018-135**

**TITLE: Resolution Respectfully Requesting President Fuchs to Make Accommodations for an Early Voting Location at the J. Wayne Reitz Union for the 2018 General Election**

**AUTHORS: External Affairs Chairwoman Emily Dempsey, Chomp the Vote Chairman Dylan Santalo, Judiciary Chairwoman Libby Shaw, Internal Affairs Chairman Brett Oehrle**

**SPONSORS: Student Body President Ian Green, Senator Will Sandifer, Senator Meryl Jones, Senator Benjamin Elazar, Senator Katie Hernandez**

**WHEREAS**, civic engagement is an extremely important cause for many University of Florida students; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida student voting rate was 64.2% for the 2016 election; 13.8% higher than the average voting rate for all institutions that participated in the study [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, there are no early voting sites on campus, and there are no direct public transportation routes to the nearest early voting location; and,

**WHEREAS**, it takes approximately 39 minutes for students to walk from the J. Wayne Reitz Union to the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Office, the nearest early voting location to campus [2] ; and,

**WHEREAS**, previously the University of Florida J. Wayne Reitz Union was rejected as an early voting location by Florida Secretary of State Detzner because, “the law could not be construed so broadly as to include the Reitz Union” [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, on July 24, 2018, US District Court Judge Mark Walker issued a preliminary injunction that directed Florida Secretary of State Detzner to send out a directive to all 67 Supervisors of Elections that campus buildings can be used for early voting sites [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in Judge Walker’s statement he specifically cited the University of Florida’s large population of students and faculty that would benefit from this change, specifically referencing UF’s 9,000 students that live in the 26 residential halls on campus [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida also has a faculty and staff population of over 19,000, meaning this voting location would not just benefit students, but the Gainesville community [6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, subsequent to Judge Walker's decision, the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Kim Barton released a statement announcing that she will consider options for placing an early voting site on the University of Florida campus for the 2018 General Election; and,

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor of Elections Barton sent a letter to President Fuchs expressing interest in establishing an early voting site in the J. Wayne Reitz Union for the 2018 General Election [7]; and,

**WHEREAS**, Supervisor of Elections Barton listed several requests to make the J. Wayne Reitz Union suitable for an early voting location, including reserved parking on campus, access to a secure room, access to the voting space one month prior to early voting dates and displayed signs showing voters how to get to the polls [7]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of engaging younger voters and encourages all students to become civically engaged, voting in local, state and federal elections.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the University of Florida Student Senate supports the placement of an Early Voting Site in the J. Wayne Reitz Union for the 2018 General Election and for future elections.

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate respectfully requests President Fuchs to make the appropriate accommodations for an early voting site, per the requests specified by the Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Kim Barton.

[1] <http://www.bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/sites/default/files/2012%20and%202016%20NSLVE%20Report-University%20of%20Florida.pdf>

[2] <https://www.google.com/maps/dir/Reitz+Union+Hotel,+686+Museum+Rd,+Gainesville,+FL+32611/Alachua+County+Supervisor+Of+Elections,+515+N+Main+St,+Gainesville,+FL+32601/@29.6512796,-82.3536413,14z/data=!3m1!4b1!4m14!4m13!1m5!1m1!1s0x88e8a36a54ad413d:0xa928b82852aa36a0!2m2!1d-82.3477534!2d29.6462745!1m5!1m1!1s0x88e8a3f32c5f0ad9:0x79a18348813b455e!2m2!1d-82.32451!2d29.65628713e2>

[3] <https://www.orlandoweekly.com/Blogs/archives/2018/07/25/judge-strikes-down-floridas-discriminatory-early-voting-ban-on-college-campuses>

[4] <http://floridapolitics.com/archives/269743-joe-henderson-judge-rules-college-voting-rights-trumps-incumbent-privilege>

[5] <https://www.floridajusticeinstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/Preliminary-Injunction-Order-07153429xB3B17.pdf>

[6] <https://ir.aa.ufl.edu/uffacts/workforce/>

[7] <https://www.facebook.com/VoteAlachua/posts/1027767130722103>

Danielle Grosse 8/3/18

Danielle Grosse  
Senate President

Date

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President Kent Fuchs, Senior Director of the J. Wayne Reitz Union Myra Morgan, Vice President of Student Affairs David Parrott, Senior Director of Student Engagement Nancy Chrystal-Green, Director of Transportation and Parking Services Scott Fox, Alachua County Commission, Gainesville City Commission, Alachua County Supervisor of Elections Kim Barton, Director of the Bob Graham Center David Colburn, Graham Center Student Fellows President Priya Amilineni.*