

**THE SENATE OF THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS
CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, LONG BEACH**

Bill Number: Senate Resolution #2019-04
Title: Support Increased Voter Turnout
Sponsored by: Senator-at-Large Melissa Mejia, Senator-at-Large Justin Contreras, Senator for the College of Engineering Mathew Major, Senator for the College of Liberal Arts Megan Kim
Cosponsored by: Chief Government Relations Officer Bryanna Siguenza
Date Submitted: October 4, 2018
Date Approved: October 24, 2018

- WHEREAS** The Associated Students, Inc. (ASI) Board of Directors of California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) is the recognized voice for over 36,000 students; and
- WHEREAS** The 2018 United States elections will be held mostly on Tuesday, November 6, 2018. All 435 seats in the United States House of Representatives and 35 of the 100 seats in the Senate will be contested.¹
- WHEREAS** "Four years ago, voter participation hit its lowest since World War II, with only 36 percent of the voting-age population making it to the polls. A 2014 Pew Research Center study found that voters were likely to miss the midterms because they were indifferent about voting, had trouble with the voting process or because of structural forces, like job or school schedules that couldn't budge."²; and
- WHEREAS** Our student body is comprised of students from all kinds of backgrounds including but not limited to, "adult students who might commute to campus, live at home with their children, and juggle multiple jobs, classes, and family life"³ which oftentimes makes it much more difficult to find time to participate in the elections process, and,
- WHEREAS** In 2014 only 8.2% of eligible youth voters (ages 18-24) in California voted in the midterm election⁴ "This translates into only 285,000 of 3.5 million eligible youth who cast a ballot.", and,
- WHEREAS** California has already begun to pave the way towards higher voter turnout with the introduction of Assembly bill 21-65 which is a current bill in the California legislature that, "would add the day on which a statewide general election is held, which is the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of any even-numbered year, to these lists of holidays"⁵.

¹ <https://www.almanac.com/content/when-election-day>

² https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/business/wp/2018/07/06/patagonia-is-giving-its-workers-election-day-off-and-says-you-should-too/?noredirect=on&utm_term=.703625ac33e2

² <https://collegecampaign.org/ca-non-traditional-low-income-students/>

² <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57b8c7ce15d5dbf599fb46ab/t/580000df197aeafac45bc469/1476395232199/2014+Youth+Vote+Fact+Sheet.pdf>

³ <https://collegecampaign.org/ca-non-traditional-low-income-students/>

⁴ <https://static1.squarespace.com/static/57b8c7ce15d5dbf599fb46ab/t/580000df197aeafac45bc469/1476395232199/2014+Youth+Vote+Fact+Sheet.pdf>

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- WHEREAS** On Friday, September 14, 2018⁵ President Jane Close Conoley signed a Memorandum of Understanding stating that “Long Beach State University is strongly committed to encouraging civic engagement among students,”
- WHEREAS** The “effort to motivate students to register to vote and participate in the November election”⁶, needs to become an issue of utmost importance and must bring student, staff, faculty and administration voices to the table,
- WHEREAS** Due to the need of increased student and youth representation in all aspects of the democratic system, students need more flexibility in regards to fulfilling their civic duty when it comes to casting a vote or participating as a volunteer or poll worker, and,
- RESOLVED** That the 2018-19 CSULB Board of Directors urges our university to continue efforts towards increasing voter registration resulting in increased voter turnout by considering adding voting to the list of excusable absences, in addition be it,
- RESOLVED** That the 2018-19 CSULB Board of Directors urges the University to continue to support student access to polling locations despite several institutional barriers they may face and encourage conversations regarding the importance of voting both in and out of the classroom, and be it further,
- RESOLVED** That classes normally meeting on the day of California state elections in 2018 taking place on Tuesday, November 6, 2018, if agreed upon by faculty members, will have optional attendance and no midterms or in class deadlines on that day, and be it finally,
- RESOLVED** that an electronic copy of this resolution, upon its approval by the ASI President be distributed to CSULB President Jane Conoley, Vice President of Student Affairs Carmen Taylor, Dean of Students Piya Bose, Vice President for Administration and Finance Scott Apel, Provost Brian Jersky, Coordinator for the Women’s & Gender Equity Center Pam Rayburn, ASI Associate Director of Facility Operations Arnecia Bryant, Director of University Student Union/Student Recreation and Wellness Center Sylvana Cicero, Recycling Coordinator Eric Bryan, Assistant Directors of the Office of Multicultural Affairs Christian Lozano and Jon Higgins, the California State Student Association, CSU Chancellor Timothy White, all current ASI Officers, the Daily 49er, and the 22 West Magazine.

⁵<https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/news-releases-and-advisories/2018-news-releases-and-advisories/media-advisory-california-secretary-state-alex-padilla-lead-voter-registration-roundtable-long-beach-state-university/>

⁶<https://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/news-releases-and-advisories/2018-news-releases-and-advisories/media-advisory-california-secretary-state-alex-padilla-lead-voter-registration-roundtable-long-beach-state-university/>

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Leen Almahdi

Leen Almahdi, Vice President & Chair, Associated Students Board of Directors

Delivered to the President of the Associated Students on:

Genesis Jara

Genesis Jara, Associated Students President

10/24/18

Date

10/24/18

Date

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