



To: Rutgers University Senate Executive Committee

RE: Charge to Declare United States Election Day a University Holiday

We write to express our support for the recently proposed charge to declare the United States Election Day a University holiday. Practicing the civic duty to vote is the responsibility of all citizens of the United States in order to ensure a thriving democracy representative of all beliefs and opinions. The future of this nation lies in the hands of young Americans. As mentioned in the proposal, statistics show that only about 58% of eligible voters between the ages of 18 and 24 voted in the 2016 United States Presidential Election.

A University Election Day holiday would allow students to travel to their respective home districts and vote at a polling station. As the vast majority of students of Rutgers University reside within the state, numerous members of RUSA's constituency would be able to vote with ease. The cancellation of classes would underscore the significance of Election Day and encourage members of the community to take part in their civic duty. Members of the Rutgers community would be able to act and reflect on the importance of voting, ultimately allowing for a larger voter turnout among the population.

We strongly urge the Executive Committee of the Rutgers University Senate to consider this charge for further investigation. Rutgers University prides itself on its revolutionary values, and declaring Election Day a University holiday would exemplify our principles and standards. In addition, we would be the first member of the Big Ten Conference to establish such a holiday, setting a precedent for the other universities to follow. We urge you to live up to our revolutionary principles by promoting civic engagement.

Justin Schulberg

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Justin Schulberg".

President

Rutgers University Student Assembly

Evan Covello

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evan Covello".

Vice President

Rutgers University Student Assembly