

Resolution Endorsing the California Automatic Student Voter Registration Program's Implementation in the University of California

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WHEREAS, The University of California Student Association was founded during the Free Speech Movement as the UC Student Lobby to ensure University of California students had a permanent representative voice to advocate in the State Capital,¹

WHEREAS, The mission of the UCSA is to advance higher education by empowering current and future students to advocate on their own behalf for the accessibility, affordability, and quality of the University of California system,

WHEREAS, Legislative advocacy is core to the UCSA mission, in addition to shared governance with the University of California system and direct action,

WHEREAS, The UCSA coordinates a long-standing campaign, UCweVOTE, that aims to register students to vote, provide voter education, and get out the vote on Election Day,²

WHEREAS, In preparation for the 2012 Presidential Election the UCSA registered nearly 52,000 students to vote,

WHEREAS, The UCSA hosts the annual Student Lobby Conference in Sacramento each spring where 400 UC students develop lobbying skills, learn more about issues affecting students and CA higher education, and directly engage elected officials on these issues,³

WHEREAS, Voter registration continues to be one of the greatest barriers to public participation in California's democracy,

WHEREAS, In the 2014 general elections, the 18-24 year old population in California had the lowest turnout for all age groups, making up a meager 3.9% of those who voted,⁴

¹ <http://ucsa.org/about/>

² <http://ucsa.org/category/standing-campaigns/ucwevote/>

³ <http://ucsa.org/category/conferences/student-lobby-conference/>

⁴ http://explore.regionalchange.ucdavis.edu/ourwork/projects/copy_of_UCDavisCCEPPolicyBrief92014YouthVote.pdf/view

WHEREAS, Voter registration efforts and voter turnout are solely dependant on the year long manual efforts, organizing, and financing of students,

WHEREAS, Young people, like minority and low-income communities, have higher rates of geographic mobility, which consequently affects their ability to maintain their voter registration records up to date,⁵

WHEREAS, While voting rights are on the defense in many states with restrictive voting laws, such as cutbacks on early voting periods and the elimination of same-day registration, California continues to lead in modernizing strategies for voter engagement and removing obstacles to the ballot,⁶

WHEREAS, In October 2015, Governor Brown signed a landmark legislation establishing a program that automatically registers to vote any eligible California citizen who interacts with the Department of Motor Vehicles in order to increase voter participation,⁷

WHEREAS, The Automatic Student Voter Registration Using University Enrollment⁸ program has the potential to fundamentally change California's political landscape by creating greater access to the legislative process for students and a ready-made platform for youth civic engagement,

WHEREAS, Under such automatic voter registration programs voters retain their right to opt out or cancel their voter registration at any time,

WHEREAS, Automatic voter registration programs are designed to set forth adequate safeguards and procedures that protect the privacy, security and confidentiality of student information, especially that of vulnerable student populations such as undocumented students and students who are victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking,

WHEREAS, The Automatic Student Voter Registration has the support of Assemblymembers David Chiu (D-San Francisco) and Rob Bonta (D-Alameda), who are currently drafting legislation to formalize this program proposal as an official state policy,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That the UCSA endorses the Proposal to Expand the Political Participation of California's UC, CSU, and Community College Students through Automatic Student Voter Registration Using University Enrollment,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the UCSA Board of Directors urges the UC Office of the President to implement the Automatic Student Voter Registration in time for the November 2016 Presidential Election,

RESOLVED, The University Affairs Committee will discuss Automatic Voter Student Registration in upcoming meetings with the UC Office of the President during the Regent's Pre-meeting with Student Affairs in March and Quarterly meeting with President Napolitano in April,

⁵ http://www.projectvote.org/wp-content/uploads/2010/09/2010_Policy_Paper-Enfranchising_American_Youth.pdf

⁶ <http://www.brennancenter.org/new-voting-restrictions-2010-election>

⁷ <http://www.sos.ca.gov/administration/news-releases-and-advisories/2015-news-releases-and-advisories/governor-br own-signs- california-new-motor-voter-act/>

⁸ [file:///Users/iman/Downloads/CA%20Automatic%20Student%20Voter%20Registration%20Proposal%201.18.16%20 %20V.1%20\(1\).pdf](file:///Users/iman/Downloads/CA%20Automatic%20Student%20Voter%20Registration%20Proposal%201.18.16%20 %20V.1%20(1).pdf)

RESOLVED, The University Affairs Committee will ask for the support of the Council of Student Body Presidents, Student Regents, and student government associations to advance the proposal,

RESOLVED, The University Affairs Committee will incorporate Automatic Student Voter Registration into StARs Talking Points and Public Comment at the March and May Regents' Meetings in order to garner support from the UC Board of Regents,

RESOLVED, The Campus Affairs Committee will develop training materials for teach-ins and public forums to educate students about the importance of voting and why supporting this proposal is crucial to building student power,

RESOLVED, The UCSA President will announce our support for Automatic Student Voter Registration during the address to the Board of Regents in March,

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, The UCSA President and Communications Director will release a press statement in support of Automatic Student Voter Registration and hold a press conference during SLC to bring greater media attention to the proposal.