

## **Resolution 026**

### **A Resolution to Encourage the University to Sanction Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020 as an Academic Holiday**

**Sponsored by: Senator Gerald Sharpe**

**Co-Sponsored by: Senator Aaron Mackisey**

***Whereas,***

The 2020 Presidential Election will be held on Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020. On this day, the citizens of the United States have the opportunity to cast their ballot for President, members of the U.S. House of Representatives, certain members of the U.S. Senate, as well as various positions in state and local governments.

***Whereas,***

An overwhelming majority of students enrolled at The Catholic University of America are eligible to vote.

***Whereas,***

Having class and/or work on Election Day can heavily constrain one from having the opportunity to vote.

***Whereas,***

States where Election Day is a public holiday include but are not limited to Delaware, Hawaii, Kentucky, Louisiana, Montana, New Jersey, New York, West Virginia, and the territory of Puerto Rico.

***Whereas,***

The state of California requires that employees otherwise unable to vote be allowed two hours off with pay to vote.

***Whereas,***

Certain industries in the private sector encourage employers to voluntarily give their employees paid time off on Election Day.

***Whereas,***

According to the Pew Research Center, one-in-ten eligible voters will be members of Generation Z (ages 18-23) in 2020.<sup>1</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.pewsocialtrends.org/essay/an-early-look-at-the-2020-electorate/>

**Whereas,**

In addition to voting, students, faculty, and staff members of Catholic University can participate in Election Day in other ways, such as driving voters to the polls, volunteering as a poll worker at their local precinct, and campaigning for preferred candidates.

**Whereas,**

SGA Senate 2 (2016-2017) passed Resolution 001: A Resolution to Encourage the Creation of an Academic Holiday on November 8th, 2016.

**Be it enacted that,**

The Student Government Association Senate, acting in its official capacity as the representative of the undergraduate student body of The Catholic University of America, hereby requests that:

1. The University grant Tuesday, November 3rd, 2020 as an academic holiday so all students of The Catholic University of America can participate in election day.
2. All staff are given two hours of paid time off to vote.

Agreed to by a vote of \_\_\_\_\_ yeas to \_\_\_\_\_ nays on this date: \_\_\_\_\_ with \_\_\_\_\_ abstaining and \_\_\_\_\_ not present.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jimmy Harrington  
*President of the Student Government Association*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Weston Kirby  
*Vice President of the Student Government Association*