UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION

Calling On The Eau Claire County Board To Add A Non-Binding Referendum Question To The April 2023 General Election Ballot Regarding Wisconsin’s 1849 Abortion Law

1. WHEREAS, Wisconsin’s 1849 Abortion Law states that abortion is illegal in all cases, including rape and incest, except where “advised by 2 other physicians as necessary, to save the life of the mother.”; and

4. WHEREAS, among undergraduate students, 26.4% of females and 6.8% of males experience rape or sexual assault through physical force, violence, or incapacitation. (1); and

6. WHEREAS, average youth voter turnout in the State of Wisconsin is just 42 percent (2); and

7. WHEREAS, the Eau Claire County Board has the ability first through the Administration Committee, then through the whole board, by simple majority vote, to direct the County Clerk to add non-binding referendum questions to all election ballots distributed to voters registered in Eau Claire County; and

11. WHEREAS, the Eau Claire County Board has placed two non-binding referendum questions on ballots within the past year, including a question regarding a right to clean water in April, and the legalization of Marijuana in November; and

14. WHEREAS, the results of non-binding referendums once tabulated and officially certified by the County Clerk, are shared with the Wisconsin State Legislature, since County Government falls under state jurisdiction; and

17. WHEREAS, the deadline to submit nonbinding resolution petitions to the County Clerk is 70 days before a general election. Meaning, that the Eau Claire County Board must consider such a proposal no later than the December 20th meeting; and

20. WHEREAS, non-binding referendums offer voters the opportunity to send a message, through their vote; and

22. WHEREAS, 44 percent of people aged 18-29 consider Abortion to be their number one issue (3); and

24. WHEREAS, the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire is the representative body elected by the Students; and
WHEREAS, students at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire make up nearly 10 percent of the population of Eau Claire County.

BE IT RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire calls upon the Eau Claire County Board to add a non-binding referendum question to the April 2023 General Election Ballot regarding the 1849 Wisconsin Abortion Law. The question should ask voters whether they support the repeal of the law, or whether they do not; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that upon passage of this Resolution, the Student Body President shall share the results of this vote, along with the resolution with the Chair of the Eau Claire County Board, Nick Smair, Supervisor Jim Dunning, Supervisor Katherine Schnieder and Supervisor Judy Gatlin, as these County Supervisors represent the majority of the Students that attend the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this bill, President Gaitan will transmit a copy to Dr. James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Grace Crickette, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Billy Felz, Vice Chancellor of Enrollment Management; Brian Drollinger, Director of Risk Management, Safety, and Sustainability; Gregory Heinselman, Dean of Students; Kristin Schumacher, Director, University Centers; MJ Burkhart, Executive Director of Marketing and Planning, Special Assistant to the Chancellor; Troy Terhark, Tracy Drier, Associate Director, Budget and Resource Planning; Quincy Nesgoda, Student Body President, UW-Eau Claire-Barron County; Evan Weiher, Chair, University Senate; Nicole Owen, Chair, University Staff Council; Julia Diggins, Interim President and Interim Executive Director of University Advancement;

SOURCES:


Authored by:
Matthew Lehner
At- Large Student Senator