

**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,
2. including rape and incest, except where "advised by 2 other physicians as necessary, to
3. save the life of the mother."; and

4. WHEREAS, among undergraduate students, 26.4% of females and 6.8% of males
5. 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
8. Committee, then through the whole board, by simple majority vote, to direct the County
9. Clerk to add non-binding referendum questions to all election ballots distributed to voters
10. registered in Eau Claire County; and

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

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

17. WHEREAS, the deadline to submit nonbinding resolution petitions to the County Clerk is
18. 70 days before a general election. Meaning, that the Eau Claire County Board must
19. 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,
21. through their vote; and

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

24. WHEREAS, the Student Senate of the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire is the
25. representative body elected by the Students; and

26. WHEREAS, students at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire make up nearly 10
27. percent of the population of Eau Claire County.

28. BE IT RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, the Student Senate of the
29. University of Wisconsin Eau Claire calls upon the Eau Claire County Board to add a
30. non-binding referendum question to the April 2023 General Election Ballot regarding the
31. 1849 Wisconsin Abortion Law. The question should ask voters whether they support the
32. repeal of the law, or whether they do not; and

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

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

SOURCES:

1 - "Campus Sexual Violence: Statistics." *RAINN*, <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/campus-sexual-violence>. Accessed 20 November 2022.

2 - "2022 Election: Young Voters Have High Midterm Turnout, Influence Critical Races." *CIRCLE at Tufts*, <https://circle.tufts.edu/2022-election-center>. Accessed 20 November 2022.

3 - Booth, Ruby Belle. "The Abortion Election: How Youth Prioritized and Voted Based on Issues." *CIRCLE at Tufts*, 14 November 2022, <https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/abortion-election-how-youth-prioritized-and-voted-based-issues>. Accessed 20 November 2022.

Authored by:
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At- Large Student Senator