

**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-EAU CLAIRE
STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION**

**Calling on the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire to Add Voting
to the List of Authorized Absences**

- 1 WHEREAS, youth voter turnout in Wisconsin reached record levels in the 2022 November General
2 Election, showing more young people want to exercise their voting privileges (1); and
3 WHEREAS, In Ward 20, which houses the upper campus dormitories, saw a 656 percent increase in
4 turnout in the Wisconsin 2023 February Primary Election compared to the primary in 2022; and
5 WHEREAS, many students reported that their professors gave them time off of class to
6 go and vote, as well as incentives like extra credit for proving that they had voted; and
7 WHEREAS, average youth voter turnout in the State of Wisconsin is just 42 percent (2); and
8 WHEREAS, the State of Wisconsin allows same day voter registration, which creates opportunities
9 for students to vote where they reside for school, if they forgot to vote absentee; and
10 WHEREAS, Students who have forgotten to vote absentee and prefer to vote at home, will have the
11 ability to travel back home on election day to vote if they so choose, because they will have the ability to
12 authorize any absence from class; and
13 WHEREAS, many students are unsure about how to vote in Wisconsin. Allowing students an
14 authorized absence from classes on election day, would allow students time to gather the necessary
15 documents, and find their polling location. This could potentially reduce lines as students will have more
16 available time to cast their ballot and will be more prepared. Additionally, this will reduce confusion, and
17 streamline the process for polling workers. Especially with students who are registering for the first time,
18 or re-registering to vote; and
19 BE IT RESOLVED, that upon passage of this resolution, the Student Senate of the University of
20 Wisconsin Eau Claire, calls upon the University Executive Committee and University Provost to add voting
21 to the list of authorized absences at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire; and
22 BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that upon passage of this bill, President Gaitan will transmit a copy to Dr.
23 James Schmidt, Chancellor; Dr. Patricia Kleine, Provost and Vice Chancellor, Academic Affairs; Grace
24 Crickette, Vice Chancellor, Finance and Administration; Billy Felz, Vice Chancellor of Enrollment
25 Management; Gregory Heinselmann, Dean of Students; Quincy Nesgodá, Student Body President, UW- Eau
26 Claire-Barron County; Evan Weiher, Chair, University Senate

AUTHORED BY:

Matthew Lehner, At Large Student Senator

SOURCES:

- 1 - "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.
- 2 - Booth, Ruby Belle. "The Youth Vote Could be Decisive in Wisconsin 2022 Midterm Races." *CIRCLE at Tufts*, 26 August 2022, <https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/youth-vote-could-be-decisive-wisconsin-2022-midterm-races>. Accessed 20 November 2022.