

**STUDENT SENATE BILL 2023-1142**

**TITLE:** Resolution Advocating for Greater Civic Engagement Initiatives for Students at the University of Florida

**AUTHOR(S):** Majority Party Leader Liang

**SPONSOR(S):** Judiciary Chair Jonathan C. Stephens, Judiciary Vice-Chair Joaquin R.C. Marcelino, Senator Chalisa Budhai, Senator Christian Rodriguez, Senator Anthony Hockman, Senator Raj Mia, Senator Anamika Naidu, Senator Kaavya Polavarapu

**WHEREAS**, the term “civic engagement” refers to any actions an individual may undertake to play an active role in addressing issues in one’s community, including but not limited to voting, volunteering with organizations, and engaging in activism [1]; and,

**WHEREAS**, civic engagement ensures individuals participate in democratic processes, promotes community decision-making, and fosters solutions to public issues [2]; and,

**WHEREAS**, around 27% of youth (ages 18-29) are reported to have cast a ballot in the 2022 midterm elections, marking the second-highest youth voter turnout in almost three decades [3]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida has recognized the importance of civic engagement in the past and former President Kent Fuchs signed on to the All In Democracy Challenge, a national, nonpartisan initiative encouraging higher education institutions to increase student civic learning, political engagement and especially, voter participation on their campuses [4]; and,

**WHEREAS**, in the 2020 presidential election, UF students reached a 76.7% voter turnout rate, which was around 10% higher than the average voter turnout at universities at the time [5]; and,

**WHEREAS**, several institutions and organizations exist on campus to promote greater civic engagement through educational public programming, voter registration, and strategic outreach, such as the Bob Graham Center for Public Service, Chomp the Vote Student Government Agency, Brown Center for Leadership & Service, and the Social Justice and Civic Engagement Living Learning Community [6]; and,

**WHEREAS**, the University of Florida has used online resources in the past such as TurboVote since 2012, which provides students who enroll in the service text or email reminders regarding voter registration deadlines and mail-in ballot information [7]; then,

**THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate recognizes the importance of civic engagement initiatives on campus and advocates for increased resources and support for students, especially in regard to voter registration.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the university to adopt an optional Canvas module that includes TurboVote enrollment options and information regarding voter registration that all affiliated UF professors may opt-into and integrate into the existing modules for their course.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate encourages the Chomp the Vote Student Government Agency to have a tabling presence during future Preview sessions that includes opportunities for incoming freshmen to register to vote.

**THEREFORE, LET IT FINALLY BE RESOLVED** that the University of Florida Student Senate urges the university to continue to participate in the All in Democracy Challenge and commit to increasing voter education and turnout rates among its students.

*Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to University President Ben Sasse, Vice President for Student Life Dr. Heather White, Interim Provost Scott Angle, Bob Graham Center Civic Engagement Coordinator Dr. Teresa Cornacchione, David and Wanda Brown Center for Leadership & Service Interim Director Dr. Taylor Stokes, Academic Affairs Secretary Parker Rossignol, and Chomp the Vote Agency Head Sam Rosenkranz.*

[1] <https://circle.tufts.edu/understanding-youth-civic-engagement/what-it>

[2] <https://www.nationalcivicleague.org/civic-engagement-matters/>

[3] <https://thehill.com/changing-america/respect/diversity-inclusion/3730922-researchers-say-2022-election-had-second-highest-young-voter-turnout-in-last-30-years/>

[4] <https://bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/gators-vote/full-student-voter-participation/>

[5] <https://bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/138/2022/07/NSLVE-Report-2020-001535.pdf>

[6] [https://bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/138/2022/11/UF-Campus-Action-Plan-2022\\_november-2022.pdf](https://bobgrahamcenter.ufl.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/138/2022/11/UF-Campus-Action-Plan-2022_november-2022.pdf)

[7] <https://news.clas.ufl.edu/get-out-the-vote-uf/>

  
Oscar Santiago Perez  
Senate President

Date