

STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1056

TITLE: Resolution Demanding the Expansion of On-Campus Polling Locations in Student Government Elections

AUTHOR(S): Minority Party Leader Nathaniel Pelton

SPONSOR(S): Senator Isha Khan, Senator Hunter Monson

WHEREAS, the Spring 2023 Student Government Election saw the second highest voter turnout for a Spring Election in Student Government history, with 12,472 students casting a ballot [1]; and,

WHEREAS, the Fall 2023 Student Government Election saw the highest voter turnout for a Fall Election in Student Government history, with 12,166 students casting a ballot [1]; and,

WHEREAS, with such high turnout, polling locations remained over capacity on voting days, with many students turned away due to long lines and low capacity at existing polling locations; and,

WHEREAS, the Marston Science Library maintained polling location status for years prior to the Fall 2020 semester Student Government elections, with the library originally closed as a polling location due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and,

WHEREAS, regular operation of the Marston Science Library, Student Government Elections, and the University of Florida as a whole have been reinstated following the reopening of campus after the COVID-19 pandemic's conclusion; and,

WHEREAS, the Election Commission of the University of Florida Student Government failed to include Marston Science Library as a polling location at the September 18, 2023 Election Commission meeting to determine polling locations for the Fall 2023 Student Government Election; and,

WHEREAS, the continued exclusion of Marston Science Library as a polling location disproportionately affects students commuting through the area, limiting their accessibility to participate in the democratic process; and,

WHEREAS, ensuring equal and convenient access to voting locations is essential for fostering a vibrant and inclusive student government that represents the diverse voices of our student body; and,

WHEREAS, promoting voter engagement among students is crucial for the overall health of our university's democratic system and encourages active participation in the decision-making processes that shape our campus community; and,

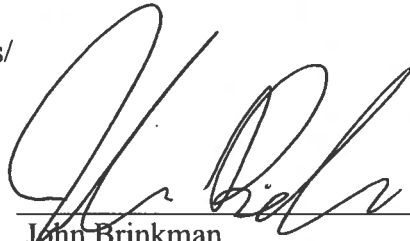
WHEREAS, recognizing the urgent need to address the challenges posed by high voter turnout and limited polling locations, proactive measures must be taken to expand voter access and accommodate the increasing interest in participating in Student Government Elections; then,

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the University of Florida Student Senate demand the immediate expansion of voter access in Student Government Elections by reinstating Marston Science Library as a polling location for all future elections.

THEREFORE, LET IT FURTHER BE RESOLVED that the Election Commission of the University of Florida Student Government rectify the oversight made during the September 18, 2023 meeting by ensuring Marston Science Library's inclusion as a polling location for the upcoming Spring 2024 Student Government Election.

Proviso: A copy of this resolution shall be sent to Supervisor of Elections Ethan Halle, Elections Commissioner Four Adreanne Martinez, Elections Commissioner Five Pelumi Okeowo, and Election Commissioner Six Jesse Dieterle.

[1] <https://sg.ufl.edu/elections/financial-reports/>



John Brinkman
Senate President

2/7/2024
Date