



<b>Resolution Number:</b>	<b>F-18-04</b>	<b>Sponsored By:</b>	<b>Senator Austin Marsman Senator Eric-John Szczepaniak</b>
<b>Introduced On:</b>	<b>11/29/2018</b>		
<b>Voted On:</b>	<b>12/06/2018</b>		
<b>Result:</b>	<b>Passed</b>		
<b>Vote Count:</b>	<b>34-1-6</b>		

**A RESOLUTION TO:** Support the Creation of a University Policy Prohibiting In-person Assessments, Examinations, and Presentations on Election Day for all Subsequent Election Cycles.

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**Recognizing**, Grand Valley State University encourages students to be active citizens as an integral part of the mission of GVSU to “educate students to shape their lives, their professions, and their societies”<sup>1</sup>,

**Recognizing**, students may be registered at their permanent address rather than their current address in the vicinity of GVSU due to the fact that the State of Michigan allows one principal address<sup>2</sup>,

**Recognizing**, state laws regarding voting vary and some out-of-state students may choose to vote at their permanent address in another state,

**Recognizing**, many students may have the opportunity to vote for the first time during their time at Grand Valley State University,

**Recognizing**, college-age students voted at a higher rate in 2018 than in the 25 years prior in midterm elections<sup>3</sup>,

**Whereas**, the passage of Proposal 18–3, Promote the Vote, assists in college voter turnout by allowing for any voter to apply and receive an absentee ballot for any reason<sup>4</sup>,

**Recognizing**, classroom attendance is essential to learning and the University is currently taking action to promote the use of absentee ballots for students,

**Recognizing**, the passage of Proposal 18–3 will allow students to register to vote on election day and students will be able to choose to re-register at their GVSU address with proof of residency and may choose this option on election day,

**Recognizing**, the State of Michigan requires that “a person who registers to vote by mail must vote in person in the first election in which he or she participates”<sup>5</sup>,

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.gvsu.edu/housing/employment/grand-valley-mission-statement-5.htm>

<sup>2</sup> [http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633\\_8716\\_8726\\_47669-175879--,00.html](http://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,1607,7-127-1633_8716_8726_47669-175879--,00.html)

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.insidehighered.com/news/2018/11/09/college-age-students-tuned-out-big-time-2018-midterm-elections>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/elections/2018/11/06/michigan-voting-proposal-3-results/188526600/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633\\_8716\\_8728-21037--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/sos/0,4670,7-127-1633_8716_8728-21037--,00.html)

**Recognizing**, nationwide, students have expressed that classes on Election Day may prevent them from voting<sup>6</sup>,

**Recognizing**, faculty and staff may inadvertently add to the difficulty of student participation in an election by scheduling an examination, large test, quiz, presentation, project or hard copy due dates on the date of a state election,

**Whereas**, professors will still be able to utilize Blackboard as a resource for assessment and/or collecting assignments electronically as opposed to in-class assignments,

**Whereas**, students at Grand Valley State University should be encouraged to exercise their right of citizenship without being penalized academically,

**Let It Be Resolved**, that the Grand Valley State University Student Senate supports the creation of a university policy prohibiting in-person assessments, examinations, and presentations on the date of a U.S. election (held the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November) for all subsequent election cycles.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/lsu-students-classes-limit-voting-on-election-day/>