



Introduced By: Senator Fritz Farrow
Sponsored By:
Contact: sganscm2@ucf.edu
First Reading: October 11, 2018
Committee Action: Passed Favorably 9-1-0
Second Reading: October 25, 2018; Passed 39-15-0
Third Reading: November 8, 2018
Final Vote: 35-2-0

University of Central Florida
Fifty-First Student Body Senate
Resolution 51-01

[Resolution Encouraging the State of Florida to Extend Primary Voting Eligibility to 17-year-olds]

1 **WHEREAS**, Senate Rule 2.01(G) (2) states that the Student Body Advocacy (SBA) Committee is to be in constant
2 review of legislation at the national, state, and local level that affects the students at the University of Central Florida
3 (UCF);
4 **WHEREAS**, Senate Rule 5.01 (B) (2) states that a Resolution pertains to every measure expressing the sentiment of
5 the Student Senate;
6 **WHEREAS**, The Florida Department of State describes primaries as a preliminary election that gives voters the
7 opportunity to “express their preference for the candidates they would like to see representing their party on the
8 General Election ballot”;
9 **WHEREAS**, The State of Florida currently does not allow 17-year-olds to vote in primary elections even if they
10 will be 18 on or before a general election;
11 **WHEREAS**, There are 636 students aged 17-years-old or younger currently enrolled at UCF for the Fall 2018
12 semester, according to the Institutional Knowledge Management, which is the official source of institutional data for
13 UCF;
14 **WHEREAS**, Millennials have a record of low voter turnout during elections, something that the Pew Research
15 Center says is in part due to lack of voter engagement;
16 **WHEREAS**, Florida’s sixty-seven Supervisors of Elections are required to conduct voter outreach and education
17 initiatives targeted at high school and college students to increase civic knowledge and engagement and report
18 outreach efforts to the Florida Secretary of State’s office;
19 **WHEREAS**, A University of California, Irvine study concluded that making it easier for young people to vote and
20 register to vote will result in greater voter engagement and turnout;
21 **WHEREAS**, In 2008, the Florida Legislature passed Senate Bill 866 which made 16-year-olds eligible to
22 preregister to vote;
23 **WHEREAS**, A study conducted by George Mason University professors found that young people were 4.7 percent
24 more likely to vote if they pre-registered to vote and were politically engaged early when compared to those who
25 were not;
26 **WHEREAS**, Florida youth voter registration increased by 41 percent after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High
27 School shooting, the Miami Herald reported, illustrating a recent desire by young people to be politically active;
28 **WHEREAS**, The states of Alaska, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maine,
29 Maryland, Mississippi, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Vermont,
30 Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wyoming and the District of Columbia allow 17-year-olds to vote in primary
31 elections or caucuses, according to the National Conference of State Legislatures; and
32 **WHEREAS**, The non-partisan American Bar Association says that “every vote is a building block in our
33 democracy. The more people who vote, the stronger our system of government becomes. As a nation, we should do
34 much better. We can do much better”.
35
36 **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, That it is the opinion of the Fifty-First Student Senate of the University of
37 Central Florida that primary election eligibility in the State of Florida should be extended to 17-year-olds who
38 would turn 18 on or before general election day; and
39 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That a copy of this Resolution be sent to members of the Florida Senate
40 Committee on Ethics and Elections.

Sierra Scott
Senate President
11/15/18
Date

AUTHORIZING SIGNATURES

Forrest McClellan
Senate President Pro Tempore
13 Nov 2018
Date