**Resolution 49: Cornell Civic Holiday**

***Abstract:*** This resolution advocates for the creation of the Cornell Civic Holiday in which all university activities would be suspended to create a day of service and civic engagement. Such Holiday would occur every Election Day, beginning in 2024.

***Sponsored by:*** Patrick J. Mehler ‘23, Duncan Cady ‘23

***Reviewed by:*** Executive Committee, 03/15/2022, 3-0-1

***Type of Action:*** Recommendation

***Originally Presented:*** 03/17/2022

***Current Status:*** New Business

**Whereas,** as an institution dedicated to service, democracy, and civic engagement, Cornell University strives to promote and imbed these values into all students, faculty, and staff; and

**Whereas,** Cornell students, faculty, and staff have become significantly more engaged in the political process both on and off campus; and

**Whereas,** efforts by Cornell Votes have directly impacted and improved student voter turnout in federal elections, with participation increasing from 47.4% in 2016 to 66.1% in 2020, pushing Cornell University over the national average for the first time in recorded history; and

**Whereas,** Cornell Votes has partnered with the Student Assembly to continue voter turnout efforts which resulted in an increase of voter participation by 33% in Spring 2021 and by 31% in Fall 2021; and

**Whereas,** these increases in civic engagement have been accomplished with, and because of, strong partnerships with the Student Assembly, the Cornell University administration, and over one hundred student organizations; and

**Whereas,** to further dedicate itself to service, democracy, and civic engagement, Cornell University should cancel all university activities on Election Day of each year to create a Cornell Civic Holiday; and

**Whereas,** peer institutions such as Columbia University, Stanford University, and, as recently as 2020, Brown University have implemented similar days of service on Election Day; and

**Whereas,** this Civic Holiday shall constitute a day of service, celebration of democracy, and programming that assists and facilitates voting for all Cornell community members; and

**Be it therefore resolved,** that Cornell University recognizes Election Day every year as the Cornell Civic Holiday; and

**Be it further resolved,** Cornell University will continue its partnerships with Cornell Votes, the Einhorn Center for Community Engagement, and other stakeholders to facilitate programming, assist voters, and promote democracy; and

**Be it finally resolved,** that the Cornell Civic Holiday shall begin its inaugural celebration on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.

Respectfully Submitted,

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