

U.A. Resolution #7

1 **Establishing the first Tuesday in November of each year as “Election Day,” a Cornell**
 2 **University Recognized Civic Holiday**
 [03/22/2022]

3 **Sponsors:** Patrick J. Mehler ’23, Former President of Cornell Votes; Jacob Feit ’22, Executive Vice Chair
 4 of the University Assembly; Duncan Cady ’23 Undergraduate Representative to the University Assembly
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6 **On Behalf Of: Cornell Votes Executive Board: Isaac D. Chasen ’23, Dana Karami ’22, Rahul**
 7 **Verma ’24, Elena Woo ’24, Belle Zachary ’23**
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9 **Whereas**, as an institution dedicated to service, democracy, and civic engagement, Cornell
 10 University strives to promote and imbed these values into all students, faculty, and staff; and
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12 **Whereas**, Cornell students, faculty, and staff have become significantly more engaged in the
 13 political process both on and off campus; and
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15 **Whereas**, efforts by Cornell Votes have directly impacted and improved campus-wide voter turnout in
 16 federal elections, demonstrated by voting participation increases of nearly 20%, from 47.4% in 2016 to
 17 66.1% in 2020, pushing Cornell University *over* the national average of voter turnout for the first time in
 18 recorded history; and
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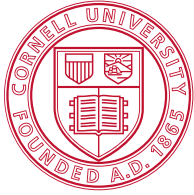
20 **Whereas**, these increases in civic engagement have been accomplished with, and because of, strong
 21 partnerships with the Student Assembly, the Cornell University administration, and over one-hundred
 22 student organizations; and
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24 **Whereas**, peer institutions such as Columbia University, Stanford University, and, as recently as 2020,
 25 Brown University has implemented similar days of service on Federal Election Day; and
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27 **Whereas**, a Civic Holiday shall constitute a day of service, celebration of democracy, and programming
 28 that assists and facilitates voting for all Cornell community members; and
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30 **Be it therefore resolved**, in order to substantively and fully dedicate itself to service, democracy, and
 31 civic engagement, Cornell University must cancel all university activities on Federal Election Day; and
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33 **Be it further resolved**, Cornell University will continue their partnerships with Cornell Votes, the
 34 Einhorn Center for Community Engagement, and other stakeholders to facilitate programming, assist
 35 voters, and promote democracy; and
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Cornell University University Assembly

37 **Be it further resolved,** Cornell University will officially recognize Election Day every year as the
38 Cornell University Civic Holiday, as reflected on University-wide official calendars; and

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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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41 Jacob J. Feit

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43 Executive Vice Chair, University Assembly

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