Faculty Senate

Approved Resolution
October 13, 2026

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Whereas, Faculty Senate supports students' right to vote and exercise civic duties related to the November 3rd, 2026 election; and,

Whereas, Students consistently inform their student and other campus leaders and representatives that academic commitments have, and continue to, prevent them from voting; and,

Whereas, Students consistently inform their student and other campus leaders and representatives that academic commitments have, and continue to, prevent them from taking part in other election-day related civic engagement, including poll working, poll monitoring, get out the vote (GOTV) work, voter protection work, and other election-day specific volunteer activities; and,

Whereas, The share of student voters at on-campus precincts voting in-person on election day consistently is over 50%, even when extensive early voting opportunities are present and well-known; therefore, be it,

Resolved, That Faculty Senate encourages university leadership to advise instructors that exams, quizzes, and other synchronous assignments, unless urgent, should not take place on election day; and

Resolved, That Faculty Senate encourages university leadership to advise instructors that, except for special circumstances, students should not be penalized for class absence for classes on November 3rd, if their absence is due to election day-related civic engagement, including voting and/or election day-specific civic engagement volunteering activities.