

## **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MAKING ELECTION DAY A UNH HOLIDAY**

WHEREAS, voting is a fundamental part of our democratic system; and,

Whereas, voting is a civic duty that enables our democracy and helps shape outcomes that impact our individual and community well-being; and,

Whereas, voting is a fundamental right held by most U.S. citizens aged 18 or older; and,

Whereas, civic engagement is critical to realize the ideals of democracy and build vibrant sustainable communities; and,

Whereas, President Huddleston has expressed a call for the UNH community to be civically engaged in upholding our collective social responsibility; and,

Whereas, it is difficult for students who are registered to vote outside the immediate area to travel home to vote on Election Day; and,

Whereas, local public schools often do not have school on election day; and,

Whereas, students attempting to vote in the immediate area can encounter difficulties in scheduling time to vote due to their commute and/or academic and extracurricular commitments; and,

Whereas, these issues can be especially salient for non-traditional students; and,

Whereas, students attempting to vote can be delayed by long lines for registration and/or voting, as well as other factors such as transportation and weather; and,

Whereas, the University Calendar can be altered to compensate for the loss of one day of class time every other year; and,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate recommends that the University Calendar include Election Day as a biennial holiday, and cancel classes for said day, beginning November 6, 2018.