

MEMORANDUM


TO: Dean of Students Dr. Margarita Arellano
Assistant Dean of Students Kathryn Weiser

DATE: Monday, May 13, 2019

FROM: Corey Benbow, Student Body President

SUBJECT: S.R. 07 A Resolution Calling for Protection Against Election Intimidation

I approve of this legislation passed by the Student Government Senate which is a call for an administrative response to ensure student safety from political intimidation at on-campus polling places.



Corey F. Benbow

Student Body President '20



AUTHOR

Senator Wicker, Catherine - Director of Student Services
Senator Richardson, Brittlin

SPONSORS

Senator Desalvo, Cody
Senator Schoonmaker, Kalee
Senator Marin, Marliza

S.R.2019-2020.07

Date of First Reading: May 8th, 2019

A Resolution

A Resolution to be known as "A Resolution Calling for Protection against Election Intimidation," which calls for an administrative response to ensure student safety from political intimidation at on-campus polling places.

1 **WHEREAS:**. Texas State University is home to one of the largest
2 voting blocks in Hays County; and

3 **WHEREAS:** Texas State University voter turnout. during early
4 voting for the 2018 midterm elections, "reached 46.6
5 percent, surpassed total early voting turnout in the
6 2016 and 2012 presidential elections and the 2014
7 midterm election,"¹; and

8 **WHEREAS:** Every Texas State University student should have
9 access to the political polls without fear; and

10 **WHEREAS:** During the last election cycle, campaigns, political
11 groups and other students tried to intimidate or
12 pressure studenis to vote; and

¹ Matt Zdun, Chris Essig, and Darla Cameron, Texas Tribune, 2018

13 **WHEREAS:** The student body has expressed concerns for their
14 safety regarding political expression; and

15 **WHEREAS:** The county passed a vote that would shift the county
16 to permanent vote centers; and

17 **WHEREAS:** The location including the placement of Texas State
18 University's polling place should be decided for 2019
19 and forwarded; and

20 **WHEREAS:** Students, post-2018 election cycle, expressed concerns
21 about the placement and the laws that outside groups
22 and campaigns continued to break; and

23 **BE IT RESOLVED:** The Texas State University Student
24 Government strongly calls for the
25 reestablishment of the Voting Task Force and
26 requests University President Denise Trauth
27 and the university staff work with county
28 officials to make suggestions regarding the
29 location; and

30 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The Voting Task Force's recommendations
31 of an on-campus polling placement will
32 best ensure students are free from
33 political intimidation while in line to
34 vote and while voting in accordance
35 with Tex. Elec. Code Title 6 Chapter
36 61; and

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** The policies and the physical placement
38 should be reported to the Texas State
39 University students, the city, county,
40 all political groups and the public no
41 later than 60 days prior to the 2019
42 election cycle and 30 days for future
43 elections; and

44 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** If passed, this simple resolution be
45 forwarded to the Student Body President
46 for action.