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Type of action (*Please select one*):
Act

Final vote
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2021-0031: Election Day Holiday

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Recognizing that in 2016, 6 million young people (ages 18-29) were registered to vote but did not vote. In 2016, this number was 12.5 million. Of this population, 47% said that they were too busy or had a conflict on Election day.¹

Drawing Attention to two schools, Brown University² and Colorado College³, which have made decisions to cancel classes on Election Day. Brown University will cancel classes on Election Day for both Presidential and Midterm Elections. More than 35 schools have attempted cancellation policies.⁴

Understanding Ithaca College's vision of building thriving communities. Civic engagement helps create thriving communities by allowing people to participate in their communities' democratic processes. Per the Center for Civic Engagement, Ithaca College encourages students to move "to a consistent engagement rooted in deep understanding of community needs and the role of citizen leaders in improving the quality of life in their community."⁵

Recognizing that in 2018-19, 45.1% of students attending Ithaca College were from New York.⁶ These students may be voting in person on Election Day.

¹ <https://circle.tufts.edu/latest-research/why-youth-dont-vote-differences-race-and-education>

² <https://www.brown.edu/news/2020-09-09/election>

³ <https://today.coloradocollege.edu/announcements/2553>

⁴ <https://www.dayondemocracy.org/map>

⁵ <https://www.ithaca.edu/center-civic-engagement>

⁶ <https://www.ithaca.edu/analytics-and-institutional-research/facts-brief>

Understanding per New York State laws, employees are eligible for paid time off to vote only if they meet the requirement of “not having sufficient time to vote.” The policies within this law, while encouraging, are not entirely inclusive of all employees.

Understanding making Election Day a holiday would allow equitable access to voting for students, staff, and faculty, who wouldn’t have to worry about teaching classes, going to meetings, or being on campus throughout the day.

It is resolved that Ithaca College makes Election Day a campus-wide holiday.

- a. Every Election Day, including Presidential elections and midterm elections, will be a holiday.
- b. Classes will be cancelled, and the college will be closed.

Section 1. This policy should be clearly stated in the academic calendars and communicated to the Ithaca College community.