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A Resolution

To be entitled “Student Voter Run-Off Policy” that encourages Texas State administration to have a standing relationship with the City of San Marcos to always have an on-campus polling station during run-off elections and to ensure run-off elections happen prior to Spring and Fall final exams weeks.

WHEREAS: Most students are of legal voting age; and

WHEREAS: As members of Student Government we value civic engagement and representation; and

WHEREAS: Texas State students care about their civic engagement and representation (Sandra Sadek, Battle Erupts for Extended Early Voting at Texas State University); and

WHEREAS: Texas State students often leave San Marcos or Hays county after their finals; and

WHEREAS: College students have incredibly busy schedules or difficulty voting off-campus, as demonstrated in the primary elections earlier this year in which 7.62% of voters in Hays County participated (Hays County Texas Official Cumulative Report May 22, 2018 Primary Run-off Election, Hays County Government Website); and

WHEREAS: In the November 2017 General Election, 1.07% of Precinct 334’s registered voters participated (Hays County, Texas Unofficial Canvass
WHEREAS: In the May 24, 2016 Primary Runoff election, there were no on-campus run-off polling stations and the selected run-off date fell after finals week was well over, 1 of the 2,659 registered voters in precinct 334 voted (Hays County Official Canvass Report Total Voters Run-Off Primary May 24th 2016, Hays County Government Website); and

WHEREAS: Voter suppression is a strategy to influence the outcome of an election by discouraging or preventing specific groups of people from voting (1965 Voting Rights Act); and

WHEREAS: Hosting San Marcos, Hays County, and Caldwell County run-off elections on a date when most students are not in San Marcos is voter suppression; and

WHEREAS: Voter precinct 334 historically has the lowest voter turnout in San Marcos; and

WHEREAS: Voter precinct 334’s designated polling location is at Crockett Elementary, which is not convenient or accessible for many students within this precinct (Hays County Government Website); and

WHEREAS: Texas State University already hosts polling stations during early voting; and

WHEREAS: Hosting an on-campus polling station would provide consistency, convenience, accessibility, and support for our voting Bobcats; therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED: Texas State University Student Government calls on Texas State University administration to coordinate and secure an on-campus polling station for early-voting and voting day run-off elections for all run-off elections henceforth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That Texas State University administration work to ensure that San Marcos, Hays County, and Caldwell County run-off elections henceforth fall on a date prior to Texas State University Spring and Fall final exams; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: Student Government Marketing Commission attempt to work in conjunction with University Marketing to advertise this resource; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That upon passage, this legislation be forwarded to the Student Body President for further action.