

Florida A & M University Student Government Association
49th Student Senate
SR20SP-005

Author: Senator Brown and Senator Gilbert

Sponsor: Senator Palmer

First Reading: January 20, 2020

Second Reading: February 3, 2020

Title: Voting is a Right

Legislation: Senate Resolution Bill

Whereas, The Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (Florida A&M University) Student Government Association is the governing entity of the Student Body, and is empowered to express the general interest of the Student Body, and to provide for full student participation in student government; and

Whereas, According to Section 1 of the XV Amendment to the United States Constitution, “The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude”, and

Whereas, According to the U.S. Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Sentencing Project, Florida has the highest disenfranchisement rate in the United States with over 10.4% of the Florida population disenfranchised as compared to 2.47% of the total population of the United States, with over 21% of Black citizens (~500,000 citizens) disenfranchised in Florida, and

Whereas, The Governor of Florida, Ron DeSantis recently tweeted from his official account that “Voting is a privilege”, a harmful public statement, rooted in the historical discrimination of minority groups’ participation in the right to vote, and

Whereas, Florida A&M University, as the only Historically Black University within the State University System of Florida, has an inherent responsibility to stand up for the voices of minority citizens within the State of Florida, now

Therefore, **Be it resolved** that the Florida A&M University Student Government Association on behalf of the Student Body strongly states that voting should be considered a right in an advanced, inclusive democracy, and cautions against the dangerous rhetoric that the right to vote should be a privilege.

***Proviso Language:** This piece of legislation will, upon signage by the Student Body President, and upon approval by the Florida A&M University administration, be officially disseminated to the FAMUAN and other local news sources, as well as the Florida Supreme Court, The office of the Governor, and all other relevant entities.*

For Office Use Only

For: 23 Opposed: 0 Abstain: 0

Pass: PASS Fail:

Student Senate President *Christopher V. Miller* **Date:** 02/04/2020

Student Body President *Richard Moricette* **Date:** 02/05/2020