

# SENATE RESOLUTION No. 55

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# STATE OF NEW JERSEY

## 220th LEGISLATURE

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INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 14, 2022

**Sponsored by:**

**Senator LINDA R. GREENSTEIN**

**District 14 (Mercer and Middlesex)**

### **SYNOPSIS**

Urges Congress to make Election Day federal holiday in US.

### **CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As introduced.



1    **A SENATE RESOLUTION** urging Congress to make Election Day a  
2       federal holiday in the United States.

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4    **WHEREAS**, Election Day, which occurs annually on the first Tuesday  
5       after the first Monday in November, allows United States citizens to  
6       exercise their fundamental right to vote; and

7    **WHEREAS**, Voting is a critical element of democracy because the  
8       public is able to elect leaders and lawmakers, make decisions  
9       concerning public policy, and express opinions at national, state,  
10      and local levels; and

11   **WHEREAS**, Eight states across the country, including New Jersey, and  
12      the United States Territory of Puerto Rico have designated Election  
13      Day as a state holiday to encourage civic participation in elections  
14      and honor the nation's democratic rights; and

15   **WHEREAS**, On average, only half of the nation's voter-eligible public  
16      votes during national general elections and a leading cause among  
17      eligible voters for not voting was having a conflicting schedule that  
18      hindered their ability to vote; and

19   **WHEREAS**, Designating Election Day as a federal holiday will increase  
20      voter participation by ensuring greater flexibility to vote and easing  
21      some of the obstacles that negatively impact voter turnout, such as  
22      work schedules, school schedules, and time constraints; and

23   **WHEREAS**, Other countries, such as Belgium, Austria, France,  
24      Germany, Australia, and New Zealand, whose elections occur on  
25      weekends, and therefore do not interfere with citizens' work-week  
26      schedules, have seen much higher voter turnout rates compared to  
27      those in the United States; and

28   **WHEREAS**, Designating Election Day as a federal holiday will also  
29      allow polling places to run more smoothly by spreading out the  
30      number of voters throughout the day and by limiting long morning  
31      and evening voting lines, which are currently problematic to those  
32      who are only able to vote before or after work; and

33   **WHEREAS**, Increasing voter participation will also ensure elections are  
34      more representative of the country and its communities; and

35   **WHEREAS**, Respecting and championing the vote is essential to  
36      maintaining the highest ideals of the United States, such as liberty,  
37      justice, and equality, and for this reason, Election Day should be  
38      celebrated throughout the nation; now, therefore,

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40        **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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42        1. This House urges Congress to make Election Day a federal  
43        holiday.

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45        2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,  
46        shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the Majority  
47        and Minority Leaders of the United States Senate, the Speaker and

1 Minority Leader of the United States House of Representatives, and  
2 the members of the New Jersey congressional delegation.

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STATEMENT

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7 This resolution urges Congress to make Election Day, which  
8 occurs each year on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in the  
9 month of November, as a federal holiday in the United States.

10 Voting is the most important civic duty granted to the public by  
11 the United States Constitution. By voting, the public is able to  
12 express their choice for who represents the country as public  
13 officials and lawmakers and for important public policy decisions.  
14 However, it is essential to increase voter participation and turnout  
15 in order to ensure elections are truly representative of the public.  
16 Designating Election Day as a federal holiday in the United States  
17 would increase voter turnout by easing some of the obstacles  
18 deterring voters and ensuring greater voter flexibility. In addition,  
19 it would emphasize to the public that the election process, and each  
20 vote, matters.

21 For these reasons, Congress is urged to make Election Day a  
22 federal holiday in the United States.