TJCSGA General Assembly Resolution

A TJCSGA Resolution on Voting Rights and Opposing Efforts to Make Voting Harder in Texas

WHEREAS, the TJCSGA is dedicated to facilitating a greater understanding of democracy in our schools and making sure students’ voices are heard in our communities, our state, and our nation; and

WHEREAS, voting is fundamental to our democracy and should be free, fair and accessible to all and actively encouraged; and

WHEREAS, Texas already has numerous unnecessary barriers to voting; and

WHEREAS, voter turnout surged in 2020. According to The Texas Tribune, about 66% of registered voters cast ballots this year. That made it the highest turnout election in Texas since 1992 (Cai and Najmabadi). Local leaders took extraordinary efforts to make casting a ballot safe and secure during the global pandemic; and

WHEREAS, it is important to continue progress on expanding voting access after the state’s electorate in 2018 and 2020 became younger and more ethnically and racially diverse (Cai and Najmabadi); and

WHEREAS, it is wrong for leaders to mislead voters by suggesting past elections were corrupted without any evidence, discouraging voters to trust the democratic process and using those statements as an excuse to pass measures that make voting harder; and

WHEREAS, old Jim Crow voting restrictions wrongly barred access to the ballot for generations (*Minority Voter Suppression: Jim Crow Laws in Texas*); and

WHEREAS, proposed new voting restrictions under consideration in the Texas Legislature would make voting lines longer and ballot access harder especially in large, more densely populated counties (Wines);

BE IT RESOLVED, that the TJCSGA hereby opposes efforts by legislative and other

leaders to make voting harder in Texas, especially through unnecessary measures such as shortening early voting hours and banning drive-thru and mobile voting and 24-hour voting centers (Wines);

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TJCSGA hereby opposes legislative proposals that add unnecessary bureaucratic burdens for disabled students and students who help disabled Texans exercise their right to vote;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the TJCSGA supports laws that promote democracy by making voting easier for all Texans, including students, by finally adding Texas to the 40 states and District of Columbia that allow online voter registration, allowing students to use their school-issued IDs to satisfy voter ID requirements, and ensuring that all

large college campuses have voting locations for the thousands of students on their campuses.

Submitted by:

The TJCSGA Resolutions Committee

Respectfully Submitted on the 10th day of April 2021.

Works Cited

Cai, Mandi, and Shannon Najmabadi. *Democrats Hoped High Turnout Would Usher in a Blue Wave across Texas. It Didn't.* 5 Nov. 2020, www.texastribune.org/2020/11/04/texas-voter-turnout-democrats/.

“Minority Voter Suppression: Jim Crow Laws in Texas.” *Texas Women’s Foundation* , Texas Women's Foundation, 2020, www.txwf.org/minority-voter-suppression-jim-crow-laws-in-texas/.

Wines, Michael. “Texas Lawmakers Advance a Bill That Would Make Voting More Difficult, Drawing Comparisons to Georgia.” *The New York Times*, The New York Times, 1 Apr. 2021, www.nytimes.com/2021/04/01/us/texas-voting-restrictions.html.