

Calling on the Pennsylvania General Assembly to adopt House Bill 2340, which establishes Election day as a State Holiday by substituting it for the existing Columbus Day holiday.

WHEREAS, Around the world elections are held on weekends or declared public holidays to allow for maximum participation by the electorate; and

WHEREAS, The United States has among the lowest voter participation rates in elections in the world; and

WHEREAS, As President Johnson said “The right to vote is the basic right without which all others are meaningless”; and

WHEREAS, HB 2340, as introduced by Representative Rabb calls on the state to “Celebrate voting as the foundation of democratic government and as something that should be protected, promoted and practiced; and

WHEREAS, As Rep. Rabb expressed, we should “embrace Election Day as a holiday to allow more Americans to participate in our democracy; and

WHEREAS, it is axiomatic that barriers are put in place to reduce something and barriers are removed to encourage something; and

WHEREAS, work schedules, the gig economy and the spread of 12 hour shifts all serve to restrict the ease of voting; and

WHEREAS, If the General Assembly were to adopt H.B. 2340, then Pennsylvania would make clear the importance of voting and remove a known barrier to voter turnout; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF PHILADELPHIA, That it hereby calls on the General Assembly to adopt House Bill 2340, which establishes Election day as a State Holiday by substituting it for the existing Columbus Day holiday.