

**RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE ELECTION DAY AS OFFICIAL HALF-DAY
CITY HOLIDAY**

SPONSORED BY: AWET EYASU and MARIO WILLIAMS

WHEREAS, the City of Clarkston desires to promote opportunities for participation by City Employees and Resident Voters in the democratic process, and

WHEREAS, A US Census Survey found that in 2014, registered non-voters cited being “too busy” as the number one reason for not voting (28%), and

WHEREAS, a 2014 Pew Research Study found that nonvoters are typical younger voters, more racially diverse, less educated and more financially strapped, and

WHEREAS, Low voter participation threatens to erode the responsiveness of our government and legitimacy of our laws; and,

WHEREAS, Since, on average, voter turnout rates have been declining over the past 40 years, the representative nature of our government, at all levels, and hence the laws by which we live, are under attack; and,

WHEREAS, Between 1980 and 2015, voter participation in South Korea, Australia, Turkey, Denmark, Belgium and Sweden was 80 percent or better, and participation in Israel, Germany and Greece was 70 percent or better. Over the same period voter participation in the United States averaged just over 50 percent; and,

WHEREAS, Election Day is already a holiday in Puerto Rico in presidential election years. And throughout the late 20th century, turnout for Puerto Rico's quadrennial elections was 50 percent higher than it was for presidential contests in the United States. Between 1972 and 2000 Puerto Rico averaged 79 percent turnout in its quadrennial elections; only eleven U.S. states clear 60 percent during that time, while 14 were below 50 percent.

WHEREAS, Failure to provide ample time for democratic participation on Election Day effectively precludes those who are constrained by work or school from voting, thereby creating a large disparity in voter representation between those who have the luxury of time and access and those who do not; and,

WHEREAS, The holding of Election Day on a Tuesday most greatly disadvantages middle and low income workers for whom it is the most difficult to take time off from work to vote; and,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE City Council of the City of Clarkston that:

Section 1: Each Presidential and Gubernatorial General Election Day will be an official Half- day City Holiday for all non-public safety employees.

Section 2: The City Council encourages all business owners in Clarkston city limits to give their employees a full or half day off to allow for ample opportunity to participate in voting on Election Day.

Section 3: The City Council encourages all other Georgia municipal, county and school board leaders to enact Election Day resolutions for their employees.

Section 4: The City Council encourages our State and Federal Leaders to adopt resolutions making Election Day an official holiday.

Section 5: The City Council encourages all voters to voice their concern for low voter turnout and become actively involved in the promotion and/or facilitation of Election Day voting.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED said resolution be adopted by the City Council for a vote pursuant to a quorum.

SO RESOLVED, this __day of _____, 20____

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF CLARKSTON, GEORGIA

Ted Terry, Mayor

ATTEST:

Tracy Ashby
City Clerk