



SAINT MARK CATHOLIC ACADEMY

A Guiding Light in Sheepshead Bay

November 9, 2022

Dear Families:

Although our students attended school yesterday, most schools close for Election Day, and every school is usually closed on Veterans Day. Looking at the calendar, I wonder if there was any intention to celebrate Veterans Day and hold Election Day in the same week. After all, it is our veterans who worked hard to ensure that right to vote.

After a quick Google search, I found an answer to my question from an organization call “Our Common Purpose.” Not only do they explain the origins of Election Day, but they also advocate to move Election Day to Veterans Day. On their website they write:

Our current federal election day, the first Tuesday of November, was chosen in 1845 to meet the needs of America’s mid-nineteenth-century agrarian society... Tuesday was chosen as election day, in 1845, because it allowed voters in an agrarian society to avoid interference with both the weekly market day, usually a Wednesday, and the Sabbath.

It is long past time to reassess the needs of voters. Moving federal election day to Veterans Day will honor the patriotism of generations of service members and remind Americans of their obligation to constitutional democracy and to one another. It will also make casting a ballot easier for today’s voters.

To me, this would be an appropriate change—and most American agree with it. A Pew Research Study shows that 65 percent of Americans believe that Election Day should be a national holiday.

What do you think? Should Election Day be moved? Is casting a ballot the best way to honor our vets? Would combining the two days diminish the importance of one or both of them? Would it be politicizing a day to honor veterans?

Regardless of what your opinion is, we are blessed and fortunate in America to have differences of opinions and to share different ideas. We are able to voice our opinions and exercise our right to vote—and all of our rights—because of all those who served and continue to serve in our military.

If nothing else, let’s remind our students that Election Day and Veterans Day mean so much more than a day off.

Sincerely,

Mr. Mark Wilson
Principal