B W2021.16

An Amendment to the Second Chapter of the Election Code Seeking to Clarify the Maximum Length of Ballot Questions

A bill for the consideration of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government

February 12, 2021

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Whereas, the mission of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government (hereafter LSA SG) is to "actively seek the voices of LSA students and advocate their interests to improve academic and non-academic life";[1] and,

Whereas, LSA SG utilizes its Bylaws to structure and facilitate official business, and recognizes the need for amendments to the Bylaws to improve its function and reflect current practices; and,

Whereas, one of the goals of Judiciary Establishment and Election Code Amendment Task Force (commonly known as the JEECAT Force) is to simplify and increase the clarity of the Election Code and the election process; and,

Whereas, LSA SG utilizes its Bylaws to structure and facilitate official business, and recognizes the need for amendments to the Bylaws to improve its function; and,

Whereas, ballot questions can only be inputted into vote.umich.edu at 2,000 characters or less, including spaces; and,

Whereas, there is thus no reason to allow longer questions.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Election Code be amended as illustrated in Appendix A; and,

Be it finally resolved, that this amendment take effect immediately.

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[1] The Constitution of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student Government. Article II

Appendix A

2.05.02 **Non-Binding Advisory Questions.** LSA Student Government shall formulate zero to three Non-Binding Advisory Questions to appear on an LSA SG ballot during elections in November and March. Each Committee Bloc and the Executive Board may submit zero to three Non-Binding Advisory Questions to propose to appear on the LSA SG ballot.

2.05.03 **Non-Binding Advisory Question Approval.** Non-Binding Advisory Questions to appear on the ballot for a particular election must be introduced during a General Meeting at least three weeks prior to the elections taking place. To appear on the ballot they must be approved by a simple majority vote at least two weeks prior to the elections. A total of zero to three may be approved by the Government for any particular election.

2.05.04 **Binding Referenda Questions.** Any binding referenda questions - as defined in Article VIII and Article IX of the Constitution of the Student Government of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts - that are properly approved shall be added to the ballot for the next general election - or for a duly called special election - regardless of the number of Non-Binding Advisory Questions or other Binding Questions are on the ballot. If the approval process is not otherwise specified, the binding referenda question must be proposed during a General Meeting and approved by a simple majority vote at least six (6) days prior to the elections, except for constitutional amendments which require a 2/3 vote.

2.05.05 Question Length. All approved ballot questions, both binding and non-binding, must be under 2,000 characters (including spaces) in order to be included on the ballot.