

GSGA45-A03

An Act Amending the Elections Code to Define a Plurality of Votes as Base Requirement for Election to Office

Summary: This legislation does two things. First, it amends the Elections Code to define the minimum number of votes a candidate must receive in a race as a simple plurality of votes received, rather than a simple plurality of votes with a minimum of two votes, as it is currently written. Second, it retroactively seats candidates who would have been seated after the September Special-General Election under this revision. This revision is being made both to remove the arbitrary numerical floor, when a voting plurality should suffice, and to enable particularly small programs to have a better chance of seating a representative, even if only the candidates themselves vote. The retroactive portion of this legislation is intended to ease the load on the Elections Committee, who would otherwise need to run ten or more special elections for the individuals who did not meet the minimum vote threshold in the Special-General Election.

FOR THE PURPOSE OF standardizing and simplifying the Elections Code by removing an extraneous numerical minimum number of votes for elected office in favor of requiring a simple plurality of eligible votes cast; and,

FOR THE PURPOSE OF reducing barriers to representation for particularly small graduate programs, the members of whom which might struggle to produce sufficient votes to seat one or both of their program's seats on the Graduate Student Assembly; and,

FOR THE PURPOSE OF significantly reducing the workload of the Elections Committee, who would otherwise need to run ten or more special elections to seat 2025 Special-General Election program representative candidates who won a plurality of their program's votes, but fell short of the vote minimum;

BY amending section 6.5.A of the Bylaws to remove the second subsentence, leaving only the language regarding a plurality of votes in place;

AND BY granting the Elections Committee the temporary authority to retroactively apply the above amendment to the results of the 2025 Special-General Election at their discretion for the purpose of bypassing the need for extraneous special elections, to expire upon the next regularly scheduled session of the Graduate Student Assembly.

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Sponsor(s): Sydney Overton (*as Elections Committee chair*)

Date and Time of Submission: October 17, 2025

Date of Presentation: October 31, 2025

Action(s) Taken:

Approved by GSG President

Decision of GSG President



Signature of GSG President

11/5/25

Date

Proposed Edits to the Bylaws:

6.5 Declaration of Winners

- 6.5.A The winner in a given race shall be the candidate receiving a plurality of votes cast; ~~no candidate may be elected to any office without receiving a minimum of two votes.~~
- 6.5.B The Elections Committee, in conjunction with the Elections Committee advisor, shall certify the election results. Such certification should include a letter from the Elections Committee advisor, addressed to the Assembly, verifying the results are accurate; however, this letter is not required for the results of an election to be considered valid. The results of an election shall be considered valid upon a majority vote of the Elections Committee to certify the results.
- 6.5.C Announcement of the results of the election shall be made immediately after certification.

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Final Audit Report

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