

B F2020.20

An Amendment to the Election Code seeking to Clarify the Election Code Amendment Process

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

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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”; and,

Whereas, minor amendments to the Bylaws can be made through a vote of acclamation at a General Assembly meeting; and,

Whereas, the Election Code is currently denominated as an addendum to the LSA SG Bylaws (hereafter Bylaws) according to B F2020.04¹; and,

Whereas, it is a widely recognized belief that there are many elements of the Election Code that need to be amended; and,

Whereas, one of the goals of Election Code Review and Amendment Formation Task Force (commonly known as ECRAFTF) is to simplify and increase the clarity of the Election Code and the amendment process thereof; 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, a holistic review of the Election Code would be beneficial to LSA SG in the future.

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

¹ “Be it further resolved, that the separate document be considered a part of the bylaws when suggesting new amendments, and will follow the same process; and,”

University of Michigan
College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Student
Government

Election Code

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Chapter 1

Definitions and Amendments ~~LSA SG Election Code~~

1.00.00 **Title and Short Title.** This chapter shall be known as the LSA SG Code of Election Rules. The short title shall be the LSA SG Election Code.

1.00.01 **Authority.** Empowered by Article V, Section E of the Constitution of The Student Government of The College of Literature, Science and the Arts (hereafter the College), LSA SG enacts this election code: "To conduct elections every semester for the purpose of electing the representative, referendum, and proposing ballot questions. During the winter semester elections, the President and Vice President slate shall also be elected."

1.00.02 **Definitions.** For the purpose of this election code:

(a) Candidate: Any person seeking office in an election, and a President-Vice President pair seeking those offices in an election.

(b) Campaign: Urging, endorsing, or advertising for or against any candidate, party, or position on a referendum.

(c) Official Polling Site: An official polling site shall be any computer or electronic device that a student of the College uses in order to vote. A computer or electronic device is only an official polling site during the election period.

(d) Demerit: A demerit is the penalty for a violation of the Election Code by a candidate. Any individual receiving four or more demerits will be disqualified from running in the election. Any individual found guilty of nine or more demerits (for listing of violations please refer to Section 1.08.00-03) of the Election Code may be ineligible to run for a position in LSA SG for the remainder of their undergraduate career, to be decided at the discretion of the Elections Director.

(e) Election Code: The Election Code, as stated in 1.00.00, shall refer to the entirety of Chapter 1 of the LSA SG Bylaws.

(f) Sponsor: Any individual, group, or organization which takes a public position on a referendum issue or petition or spends money and/or goods on behalf of a position on a referendum issue.

(g) Party: A group of candidates for President, Vice President, or representative identified by a common party name.

(h) Election Director: The individual commissioned by LSA SG to manage the elections must be an unbiased person. The Election Director will be disqualified from receiving a seat in that election.

(i) Official LSA SG Meeting/Meeting Space: Shall denote any physical spaces in which LSA SG holds its meetings.

(j) Candidates Meeting: Refer to Section 1.03.03 within the LSA SG Bylaws.

(k) Candidates Forum: Refer to Section 1.03.05 within the LSA SG Bylaws.

(l) Election Period: The period of time after the hiring of the Election Director but prior to the final announcement of election results.

(m) Endorsements: For a candidate to ~~be able to~~ claim to be endorsed by an individual or student organization, they must receive explicit public support from the individual or student organization they are claiming to be endorsed by, and submit to the Election Director evidence of this explicit public support. Refer to Section 1.06.01 for more details.

(n) Harvesting: The gathering of ~~email addresses~~~~emails~~ for campaign purposes that were not gathered during the campaign period, or were repurposed from other email group lists. Violations shall be based on the number of email recipients and expressed in the Minor, Major, and Egregious Violations sections.

(o) General All-College Elections: The regularly scheduled November and March Elections which shall be held on the same days and in conjunction with the fall and winter term elections of the Central Student Government, unless LSA SG chooses different dates by a two-thirds vote.

(p) Special Elections: Any election other than the General All-College Elections. Refer to Section 1.00.07 for more details.

1.01.00 Amendments. The Election Code is to be amended in the same manner as the LSA SG Bylaws, to which it is an addendum. This amendment process is denominated in Sections 1.01.00-1.01.11, and is copied below.

1.01.01 Amendment Procedure. Any amendment to the Bylaws must be presented in written form for a first reading at a regular LSA SG general meeting. A first reading is not necessary if the Government receives the proposed changes via email at least two days before the General Meeting in which the amendment will be voted on. A first reading may be made in the absence of quorum, provided that written copies of the proposed amendment are made available via email, one week prior to voting on the amendment. An amendment shall take effect upon approval by a majority vote of LSA SG voting members present at a General Meeting.

1.01.02 Amendment Format. Any deletions shall be made by using bold, italicize, and strikethrough font. Any additions shall be indicated with the added sections in bold and italicized font.

1.01.03 Amendments to Specific Chapters. Amendment procedures governing a specific chapter shall be included as part of that chapter.

1.01.04 Effect of the Repeal of a Repealing Amendment. Whenever an amendment is made striking or repealing sections of the Bylaws, the repealed sections shall not be revived by rescinding or repealing the amendment which originally repealed the sections.

1.01.05 Amendment by Reference Prohibited. No amendment to the Bylaws shall be made unless the section(s) to be amended is printed in full with dash marks to indicate words to be stricken (if any) and the new section printed in full, with the added sections in bold and italicized font, as amended unless the section(s) are more than one page long. If the changes are more than one page long, then both the section to be amended and the section after it has been amended shall be made available to any and all LSA SG members.

1.01.06 Implied Amendments Prohibited. The Bylaws may only be amended by a motion which states the exact amendment to be made and which complies with all of the other procedural provisions of the Bylaws concerning amendments.

1.01.07 Counsel. The Counsel shall assist in the preparation and editing of Bylaws amendments and

chapters. The Counsel shall review all amendments to the Bylaws to ensure that the amendments are well written, concise, and consistent with other provisions of the Bylaws.

1.01.08 Minute Requirement. Each amendment shall be published in its entirety in the official copy of the LSA SG minutes. Any amendments, which are attached to the minutes, shall be referred to by chapter or section number.

1.01.09 Failure to Record. No amendment to the Bylaws shall take effect unless properly recorded and published in the LSA SG minutes. The burden is placed on the LSA SG Counsel and Secretary to ensure that the amendment is properly recorded.

1.01.10 Effective Date. Each amendment to the Bylaws shall become effective at the time of the amendment's approval, unless specified otherwise, provided that the amendment meets the requirements of this chapter.

1.01.11 Publication Requirements. Each amendment to the Bylaws shall be published in the proper form and inserted into the official copies of the Bylaws. Each amendment to the Bylaws shall be emailed to all members. The Bylaws shall be accessible via the LSA SG website and shall be readily updated.

1.01.12 Edits to Grammar, Spelling, and Formatting. The President, Vice President, Counsel, Secretary, and Internal Review Committee Vice-Chair shall be empowered, individually and collectively, to perform minor changes to the Bylaws, limited solely to matters of spelling, grammar, and formatting. All edits must be recorded in the digital document's history. All minor edits must be presented before the government at its first meeting after the edits occur, at which point the editing member (or several members) who performed the edits must report the changes made and submit those changes in writing to the government. Any member of the government may motion to overturn part or all of the edits. A simple majority of the government is needed to overturn a minor edit. The edited parts of the Bylaws will be reverted to their form prior to when the edit was performed if the government overturns a minor edit.

Chapter 2

Election Rules and Provisions

~~2~~1.00.00~~3~~ Jurisdiction: The Election Code shall apply to:

(a) All candidates, as defined in Section 1.00.02, for any position for which elections are administered by LSA SG.

(b) All individuals that support candidates in the LSA SG elections, have taken an official stance on any items on the LSA SG ballot including referendums or petitions, and/or are involved in any manner with the LSA SG election.

(c) Student organizations of the University of Michigan which campaign, and specifically including student organizations which endorse a candidate, take a public position on a referendum issue, or which spend (or donate) money or goods on behalf of (or to) a candidate or a position on a referendum issue.

~~2~~1.00.01~~4~~ Exclusiveness. This code defines the limits of LSA SG and all other student organizations in the LSA SG elections. The regulation and conduct of these elections shall be managed exclusively by this code, the Election Director, and the Central Student Judiciary (hereafter CSJ). No case under this code shall be brought before or considered by any non-student body, unless there is a violation of municipal, county, state, or federal law. Cases shall originally be brought to the Election Director. Any appeals to the decisions of the Election Director shall be filed with CSJ. The decision of CSJ shall be final.

~~2~~1.00.02~~5~~ CSG Elections. All LSA SG elections are to be conducted in conjunction with the Central

Student Government (hereafter CSG) elections; the LSA SG Election Director may establish such additional operating procedures that are necessary for coordination, subject to the approval of LSA SG Executive Board. The LSA SG Election Director shall coordinate with the CSG Election Director and meet any ballot delivery deadlines set by the CSG Election Director.

21.00.036. Parties. No individual running to be President, Vice President, or Representative is allowed to run as part of a party or be endorsed by a party. Furthermore, no candidate in LSA SG elections may be officially endorsed by or run with a party in CSG.

21.00.047 Special Elections. In accordance with Article VIII Section B of the LSA SG Constitution, LSA SG may hold special elections in order to vote on referenda of any sort or to hold a new election for a given seat on the Government, a given set of seats on the Government, or on a given referenda question when the original results of the election were contested and, in the opinion of the Central Student Judiciary, a new election should be called to determine a result. A simple majority vote of the Executive Board and/or a two-thirds vote of the Government shall be required to call a special election. The decision of the Executive Board may be overturned by a two-thirds vote of the Government. Any deviations from standard election procedure must be formalized upon the calling of a special election.

Election Director

21.01.00 Election Director. LSA SG shall hire an external Election Director, in accordance with section **21.02.00**, at least 35 days before the date of the election. The Election Director must be an unbiased person. Once hired, the Election Director will be disqualified from receiving a seat in that election. For an external Election Director, compensation will be dispensed according to Section 1.02 of the Bylaws. The Election Director shall have the general operating authority over the election, subject to the approval of the LSA SG.

21.01.01 Contract and Review. After being approved in accordance with the hiring process outlined in **21.02.00**, the Election Director shall have the terms of their employment written out on an official contract drafted by the LSA SG Executive Board that shall be signed by the Election Director, the President, the Vice President, and Treasurer of LSA SG. After the elections, the Executive Board under which the Election Director was hired will review the contract of the Election Director and their performance to determine if there were any violations and any penalties that may result in a reduction in payment (refer to Section **21.02.00**).

21.01.02 Duties. The duties of the Election Director shall be as follows:

- (a) Thoroughly understand the Election Code and in conjunction with the Counsel, advise candidates on questions pertaining to the Election Code when necessary
- (b) Confirm the receipt of applications with candidates via email within 24 hours of receipt, as in Section **21.02.04**
- (c) Schedule, preside at, and announce the Candidates Meeting at least 48 hours prior to its commencement, as in Section **21.03.03**
- (d) Schedule, organize, and advertise for the Candidates Forum, as in Section **21.03.05**
- (e) Schedule, organize, and advertise for the computer polling stations in the LSA SG Office on the days of the Election
- (f) Shall set up and be responsible for managing the online voting system, as in Section **21.04.00**
- (g) Tabulate and verify with the LSA SG Counsel the Election Results, as in Section **21.04.04-21.04.09**
- (h) Review complaints and issue demerits for violations, as in Section 1.08
- (i) Defend the actions of themselves and LSA SG, with the aid of the Counsel, if a violation decision or any other issue with election is brought to CSJ, except for a suit by LSA SG against the Election Director

- (j) Shall formulate and distribute an orientation packet to the newly elected representatives
- (k) Formulate a report of the Election Cycle and submit this to the LSA SG Executive Board for review.

2#.01.03 Backup Election Director. In the case where the Election Director is terminated prior to the completion of the Elections Process, the President shall assume the role of Election Director until the end of the Elections Process. If the President is a candidate in the elections, the role of Election Director shall go to the next person in the Executive Board following the order listed in “Moving the Chair” in Section 2.00.11, who is not a candidate. If all of the members of the Executive Board are candidates in the elections, then an emergency session of Steering shall be called to decide who will be the next Election Director by a majority vote of all members of Steering not running in the election.

Responsibility of the Candidates

2#.02.00 Qualifications of candidates. All candidates for LSA SG elected offices must be currently enrolled students of the College. No candidate shall be allowed to run during the Fall elections if they apply to graduate and therefore disenroll from the College in December. Likewise, no candidate shall be allowed to run during the Winter elections if they apply to graduate and therefore disenroll from the College in May. No candidate shall also be a candidate for any offices on CSG.

2#.02.01 Questions of Election Code Conflict. In all cases of doubt about any conflict, the burden of responsibility to conform to the code shall rest upon the candidate or group of candidates in question. The Election Director, the LSA SG Executive Board, and CSJ reserve the right to interpret these rules. Failure to consult the Election Director, ignorance, or misinterpretation of this code is not a valid defense of a violation.

2#.02.02 Candidate Packets. The Election Director shall prepare and make available Candidate Packets at least 14 days prior to the filing deadline. Each Candidate Packet shall contain a Letter of Introduction, a Candidacy Filing Form, and the LSA SG Election Code. The Candidacy Filing Form shall be created and prepared by the LSA SG Election Director. The form must at least require candidates to list their full proper name or a reasonable substitution, current local address, telephone number, date of the filing, and a signed pledge to abide by the LSA SG Election Code which reads “I affirm that I am declaring my candidacy for an elected position of the LSA Student Government. I affirm that all of the information in this Declaration of Candidacy is correct. I affirm that I have read the LSA Student Government Election Code and agree to comply with the conditions specified in the Code. I also understand that I must attend the Candidates’ Meeting on (date of meeting) at (time and location of meeting) and the Candidates Forum on (date of event) at (time and location of meeting) as well as one LSA SG General Meeting during the Campaign Period. Absences shall be under the jurisdiction of the Election Director, and acceptable conflicts may include, but are not limited to, examinations, religious observances, and family obligations.” Candidates must complete the form in full for it to be considered valid. .

2#.02.03 Presidential-Vice Presidential slate. A candidate for President and a candidate for Vice President shall run together as a slate. Any individuals running for President and Vice President must file their application forms independently.

2#.02.04 Filing Confirmation. The Election Director shall confirm the submission of the completed candidate packet with the applicant via email within 24 hours.

2#.02.05 Withdrawal of candidacy. Any candidate who files for any office may withdraw their candidacy no later than 48 hours before the opening of the election. A candidate who wishes to withdraw must do so in writing or via email with the Election Director.

2#.02.06 Candidate Attendance. Each candidate seeking a representative seat and each candidate

seeking the Presidency and the Vice Presidency must attend at least one LSA SG General Meeting between the date of the filing deadline and the election. Absences shall be under the jurisdiction of the Election Director, and acceptable conflicts may include, but are not limited to, examinations, religious observances, and family obligations. Failure to attend a LSA SG General Meeting, Candidates Meeting or the Candidates Forum will be considered a minor violation and result in a candidate receiving one demerit. The Election Director shall record and monitor candidate attendance at the Government meetings.

Elections Timeline

2#.03.00 Time of elections. The dates for the LSA SG elections shall be established by the Government at least six weeks in advance of the election dates and must correspond with the CSG elections.

2#.03.01 Declaration of Candidacy. A candidate will declare their intent to run for office by filling out the Candidate Packet as described in Section 2#.02.02. The window to declare candidacy shall be no shorter than 14 days. For a withdrawal of candidacy, please see Section 2#.02.05.

2#.03.02 Filing Deadline. The filing deadline for all candidates shall be set by LSA SG and shall be no less than 17 days before the election.

2#.03.03 Candidates Meeting. The candidates for election shall hold a meeting within 48 hours after the filing deadline. At this time a review of the election procedures and an LSA SG Orientation shall take place. All candidates are required to attend the Candidates Meeting or else they are guilty of a Minor Violation of the Election Code, unless their absence is excused by the Election Director. If a candidate is unable to attend the candidates meeting, excused or not, they are required to meet with the Election Director at a different time to go over the election procedures within one week of the original Candidates Meeting. If a candidate does not meet with the Election Director to go over the election procedures, they shall incur a major violation.

2#.03.04 Campaign Period. The period of time between the end of the Candidates Meeting and the end of the Voting Period in which campaigning is allowed (for Campaign Period rules, see Section 1.06).

2#.03.05 Candidates Forum. The Election Director shall be responsible for organizing and selecting a platform for all candidates to share their platforms with constituents in a fair and equitable manner. The platform shall be approved by the Government each year by simple majority. The initial proposal shall be presented no less than four weeks before the voting period. Any deviations from the approved proposal shall be reviewed by the Executive Board.

2#.03.06 Voting Period. The 48-hour period during which students of the College cast their votes.

Mechanics of the Election

2#.04.00 Form of the Electronic Ballot. All students enrolled in the College shall be able to cast their votes for their preferred candidates and referenda issues on an electronic ballot hosted on vote.umich.edu. The format of this electronic ballot shall follow the guidelines listed in Article VIII, Section C, Subsection 2 of the LSA SG Constitution.

2#.04.01 Order of listing candidates. The order of listing of candidates for each office shall be completely random.

2#.04.02 Write-in votes. There shall be a means to register a write-in vote on all electronic ballots.

2#.04.03 Voting. All voting shall be by secret ballot. The voter shall rank representative candidates in order of preference as described in Article VIII, Section C, Subsection 2 of LSA SG Constitution. .

2#.04.04 Tabulations and Certifications of Votes. After the voting period closes, the Election Director shall tally and certify votes following the guidelines listed in Section 1.04.05-08.

2#.04.05 Tabulation. The electronic votes for each position or question shall be tabulated to reach a final

vote total. Immediately after tabulation, the Election Director shall send an email containing the unofficial results to all candidates running, noting that the results still have to be certified and demerits still have to be counted into final vote totals.

2F.04.06. Certification. The Election Director shall certify the results with the LSA SG Counsel to ensure that results are accurate. If there is a conflict of interest, the Counsel must inform the Elections Director and the Executive Board of a recusal from this process no fewer than twenty-four hours prior to the commencement of the Voting Period. In this case, this role in the certification process shall move to the first person on the following list that can exhibit impartiality on the outcome of the election:

- (a) President
- (b) Vice President
- (c) Treasurer
- (d) Academic Relations Officer
- (e) External Relations Officer
- (f) Student Life Relations Officer
- (g) Secretary

2F.04.07 Questions of Certification. The Election Director must be notified in writing of an intent to file any disputes or challenges to the election results within twelve hours of the release of unofficial results. Any planned disputes or challenges will be brought before and decided by the CSJ and must be officially filed within one week of the Election Director being notified of the intent. After the conclusion of this twelve hour notification period, and in the absence of any pending challenges, the Election Director and Counsel are empowered to reach a consensus on certifying the election results. Upon certification, and after the Election Director accounts for all demerits, the election results are official. Once results are deemed official, they are final and not subject to further appeal.

2F.04.08 Accounting for Penalties. After the results have been tabulated, the Election Director shall adjust the final vote totals of all candidates receiving demerits, with the reduction per demerit being as listed in Section 1.00.02, and the amount of demerits received for each penalty being as defined in Section 1.08.

2F.04.09. Official Notification. Unofficial election results shall be distributed to the LSA SG Executive Board, as well as all candidates involved in the Election. Following the tabulation of votes, certification of the election results, final decisions on demerits, and adjusting the election results to account for any changes caused by demerits, the Election Director shall send an email to all candidates and the LSA SG Executive Board announcing the official results of the election. The Election Director, working in conjunction with the External Relations Officer, will publish the official results of the election on the LSA SG website. This marks the conclusion of the election period, as defined in Section 1.00.02.

Referenda and Petitions

2F.05.00 Petition certification. When constitutional amendment initiatives, legislative initiatives, referendums, or recall petitions are filed for inclusion on the ballot, the Internal Review Committee shall review the petitions and hear any challenges to including them on the Ballot. The Steering Committee shall certify them for inclusion onto the ballot. Petitions of insufficient size due to demonstrably false, forged, or illegible signatures, or an insufficient number of signatures will not be included on the ballot.

2F.05.01 Form of petitions. All petitions shall be headed with the title "LSA SG Constitutional Amendment Initiative Petition", "LSA SG Legislative Initiative Petition", "LSA SG Referendum Petition for Already-Passed Legislation", "LSA SG Recall Petition" as appropriate. The petition shall state in full the exact legislation or action desired as required by the Constitution. The petition shall then state "We,

the undersigned students, hereby petition for a College of Literature, Science and the Arts-wide vote on the above." The petition shall then have a column for the signature of the student, the student's name printed out, the student's address, and the date. After the signatures, there shall be a place for the signature, name printed out, address and date of the circulator, with the statement, "I have circulated this petition and believe all the signatures on it to be valid signatures of current students in the College of Literature, Science and the Arts." The petition shall then state the name(s) of any official sponsor(s) or official sponsoring organization(s). To avoid disputes to the form of petitions and the form of proposals, it is advised that potential circulators of petitions consult with the LSA SG Counsel, Election Director, any committee chairs concerned with the subject of the petition, and election code. The responsibility to comply with this section lies with the circulator of the petition. Failure to comply with this section shall result in invalidation of the petition.

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.

Campaign Period Rules

2#.06.00 Implication of Incumbency. Only candidates previously elected to LSA SG may use the words "re-elect" or any other words implying incumbency; however, previously appointed representatives may use the words "retain" or "re-seat."

2#.06.01 Use of name in advertising. Any individual in the election who uses the name of any student organization in advertising must secure and retain permission from the appropriate governing board and membership of the organization. Written permission signed by an appropriate official of the organization must be filed with the LSA SG Election Director. Under no circumstances may any individual running for a seat in the LSA SG election use the name of any CSG political party in advertising.

2#.06.02 Openness in campaigning. All campaign materials must indicate the official source of the piece of campaign material.

2#.06.03 Campaigning in Computing Sites. No person may campaign and no campaign literature may be posted in any computing site.

2#.06.04 Destruction of campaign materials. No person under the jurisdiction of this election code shall, during the election campaign, engage in the destruction, defacement, removal, alteration, or transportation of posted campaign materials without the permission of the candidate they pertain to.

2#.06.05 Posting. Campaign materials may be affixed or anchored to various surfaces in the following

manner:

- a) Rope, twine, or string may be used on any surface.
- b) Thumbtacks and staples may be used on bulletin boards but not on any other wooden surfaces.
- c) Masking tape or blue painter's tape may be used on any surface.
- d) Vinyl plastic bumper sticker material may be used on non-wooden surfaces.
- e) No other adhesive or anchoring material may be used under any other circumstances.
- f) Candidates must adhere to University policies as to the posting of posters and handbills.

2#06.06 Prohibited Areas.

- a) No campaign materials shall be affixed to any glass or painted surface in or on any University building, except in designated posting areas.
- b) There is no campaigning in the LSA SG Office or during LSA SG General Meetings.

2#06.07 Defacement. No campaign material shall be affixed to any surface that would be permanently and seriously damaged by the campaign material or the material used to affix or attach the campaign material.

2#06.08 Rights of Access. Candidates for LSA SG Representative, LSA SG President, LSA SG Vice President, any other LSA sponsored election or seekers for any LSA referendum petition, shall have the same rights as any candidate for elected office as per University Housing's guidelines. Any candidate campaigning within any housing unit after 12 AM will be guilty of a minor violation. University Housing must grant or deny the same rights of access to all candidates running in the election.

2#06.09 Proper Use of Email Privileges. A candidate can only send emails to email groups that are owned by the candidate as defined by "mcommunity.umich.edu." and are created expressly for campaign purposes, during the current election cycle. The email group name must clearly indicate that it is a campaign related email group. Candidates and campaign volunteers are prohibited from harvesting student email addresses for campaign purposes.

2#06.10 Campaign Finance Regulations.

- a) Candidates for Representative shall be allowed to spend up to \$50 on their campaign. The Presidential and Vice Presidential Slate shall be allowed to spend up to \$250 for their campaign.
- b) Prohibited Donors. Any non-candidate is forbidden from donating to campaigns.
- c) Report of Expenditures. The Election Director will be responsible for ensuring that candidates report their spending. The Election Director shall have discretion over the mechanism in which they require candidate expenditure reports.

Voting Period Rules

2#07.00 Termination of Campaign period. At the end of the voting period, all campaigning shall be terminated. This subsection applies to and includes but is not limited to verbal communication, social networking, texting, email messages, and canvassing in which a candidate promotes, or asks others to promote, their candidacy.

2#07.01 Government promotion. Candidates may disseminate an approved LSA SG election message sent directly from the Election Director on social media. Media messages created by candidates may encourage voting in the election in general and/or voting for a specific candidate.

2#07.02 Speaking. Every candidate may advertise their candidacy (including their positions, qualifications, endorsements, and platform points) during the voting period.

Violations and Penalties

2#08.00 Violations of Election Code. Violations to the Election Code are divided into three categories

with varying levels of severity. If a violation is not specifically listed in Section 2f.08.01-03, it is up to the discretion of the Election Director to determine the categorization of the violation.

2f.08.01 Minor Violations. Candidates will receive one demerit for each Minor Violation. Minor violations shall constitute the following:

- (a) An unexcused absence from a required event, such as the Candidates Meeting, a General Meeting prior to the election, and/or the Candidates Forum
- (b) Posting in a prohibited area, or by a prohibited fashion, as defined in Section 2f.06.04-07
- (c) Implying an elected incumbency status that a candidate does not have, as defined in Section 2f.06.00
- (d) Campaigning in any residence hall after 12 AM as stated in Section 2f.06.08
- (e) Not denoting the official source of campaign material(s) as stated in Section 2f.06.02
- (f) Violation of Section 2f.06.09 with email listservs containing 1-100 members

2f.08.02 Major violations. Candidates will receive three demerits for each Major Violation. Major violations shall constitute the following:

- (a) Destruction of another candidate's campaign materials, as defined in Section 2f.06.03
- (b) Campaign Finance Violation as defined in Section 2f.06.10
- (c) Deception in advertising, which shall be defined as breaking any of the guidelines for advertising set forth in Section 2f.06.00-01
- (d) Misrepresentation of Endorsement. Using the name of a student organization that a candidate does not have permission to use Section 2f.06.01
- (e) Violation of Section 2f.06.09 with email listservs containing 101-399 members
- (f) Parties: If the Election Director feels that a candidate has explicitly or subtly joined a party, they may reach out to them and ask them to cease and desist all references to this party within 24 hours. If the candidate cannot remove all notices to a party within 24 hours due to extenuating circumstances, they must inform the Election Director. Should the candidate not cease and desist within the designated time, a major violation should be applied.

2f.08.03 Egregious Violations. Candidates will receive four demerits for each eEgregious vViolation. Egregious violations shall constitute the following:

- (a) Preventing an eligible voter from voting in any manner
- (b) Bribery. No candidate may promise or offer compensation, monetary or otherwise, in exchange for vote(s). Campaign pledges shall not constitute violations of this rule. The distribution of campaign material to voters shall not constitute a violation of this rule
- (c) Violation of Section 2f.06.09 with email listservs containing more than 400 members

2f.08.04 Exclusivity of Campaign Rules. No single piece of campaign material may violate more than one campaign rule. All campaign rules shall be mutually exclusive. No candidate may be in violation of more than one campaign rule for a single act.

2f.08.05 Interpreting procedures. In interpreting these procedures, it shall be the policy of LSA SG to encourage the active and free dissemination of materials relating to LSA SG and that all rules shall be construed liberally in favor of free and open communication and debate. The purpose of the rules and regulations regarding student government elections is not to be used as a method to remove candidates from election, but rather to protect the integrity of the election process.

2f.08.06. Extenuating Circumstances. If an offense is listed under a specific category for Section 2f.08.01-03, the Election Director may treat a violation as one that is from a less severe category if there are other circumstances that cause them to believe it should be punished less harshly. The Election Director may not, however, treat a violation from a less serious category as one from a more serious

category.

2.7.08.07 Charges of Violation. The Election Director may assign demerits to Candidates. They may also find a student, group of students, or student organization guilty of violations of this election code. Any student, staff, or faculty member at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor may request that the Election Director investigate potential violations. All demerits can be appealed to the LSA SG Executive Board or CSJ. A CSJ decision is final.

2.7.08.08 Penalties for Non-Candidates. Any violator of this election code who is not a candidate shall be subject to, but not limited to, one or more of the following: disqualification from holding any future offices in LSA SG, from holding voting positions within LSA SG, from holding a Chair or Vice-Chair position in a committee, holding a position on the LSA SG Executive Board, a ban from LSA SG in increments of full semesters, as determined by the Election Director or the CSJ.

2.7.08.09 Penalties for Student Organizations. Any student organization who violates this election code may face a denial of right to request funds from LSA SG for a limited period of time not to exceed one year, as determined by the Election Director or CSJ.

2.7.08.10 Internal Appeals Process for Candidates. Any demerit(s) and/or punishment(s) issued to candidates or Executive Tickets during the campaign period may be appealed to the LSA SG Executive Board, with all conflicted parties on the Executive Board recusing themselves. Examples of conflicted parties include but are not limited to: members who are directly involved with the candidate's campaign, other candidates who are running in the elections for the same position, and members who have publicly campaigned for the candidate or an opposing candidate. If at least a third of the Executive Board recuse themselves, the process shall follow the procedures listed in 2.7.08.10 (a). If the Executive Board does not believe all conflicted parties have recused themselves, a decision regarding a candidate's appeal will not be made until the Executive Board agrees unanimously that all conflicted parties have recused themselves. If any candidate(s) wishes to file an appeal, they must email the Election Director, the LSA SG Executive Board, and the LSA SG Steering Committee within 48 hours of the Election Director's posted decision but no later than the start of the voting period. Appeals will be discussed when the Executive Board next meets. The Election Director and candidate(s) will be present when the Executive Board discusses the appeal. A two-thirds majority is required to change the initial decision of the Election Director to either fewer demerits and/or a less severe punishment. If there is not a two-thirds majority to change the initial decision of the Elections Director, then the initial decision stands. The Executive Board's decision can be appealed to CSJ by the candidate and/or the Elections Director.

(a) **Steering Committee Appeals Process.** If at least a third of the Executive Board is either running in the election in question or considered a conflicted party and would have to recuse themselves, then the Steering Committee would make the appeal decision and any conflicted member(s) would have to recuse themselves from the appeal process. The Steering Committee shall be encouraged to converse on possible conflicted parties within the Steering Committee Appeals Process and ask any remaining conflicted parties to recuse themselves. If the Steering Committee does not believe all conflicted parties have recused themselves, a decision regarding a candidate's appeal will not be made until the Steering Committee agrees unanimously that all conflicted parties have recused themselves. If at least a third of the Steering Committee recuse themselves, the process shall not proceed, but the appeal can still be filed to CSJ. A two-thirds majority in the Steering Committee is required to amend the initial decision. If there is not a two-thirds majority to change the initial decision of the Election Director, then the initial decision stands. The Steering Committee's decision can be appealed to CSJ by the candidate and/or the Elections

Director.

(b) **Appeals Process for Demerits and/or Violations Issued During the Voting Period.** Any demerit(s) and/or punishment(s) issued to candidates during or 12 hours after the voting period may be appealed to CSJ and shall follow the process stated in ~~2~~7.04.07.

~~2~~7.08.11 **Internal Appeals Process for Non-Candidates.** Any demerit(s) and/or punishment(s) issued to non-candidates may be appealed to the LSA SG Executive Board, with all conflicted parties on the Executive Board recusing themselves. If at least a third of the Executive Board recuse themselves, the process shall follow the procedures listed in ~~2~~7.08.10 (a).

(a). If any non-candidate(s) wishes to file an appeal, they must email the LSA SG Executive Board and the LSA SG Steering Committee. A non-candidate will have a full academic semester to file an appeal, excluding the Spring and Summer semesters. Appeals will be discussed when the Executive Board next meets. The non-candidate(s) will be present when the Executive Board discusses the appeal and the Election Director's posted decision. A two-thirds majority is required to change the initial decision of the Election Director to a less severe punishment. If there is not a two-thirds majority to change the initial decision of the Elections Director, then the initial decision stands. The Executive Board's appeal decision shall be final.

~~2~~7.08.12 **Hearings.** The hearing by CSJ in cases of possible violations shall be in accordance with the Constitution of the Student Government of the College of Literature, Science and the Arts, and all other relevant local, state, and federal laws, and campus ordinances.