

B F2021.25

An Amendment to the Second Chapter of the Election Code Regarding Inappropriate Campaign Material

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

September 22, 2021

Authors: Peter Tam, Tyler Fioritto

Endorsers: Tyler Watt, Max Stoneman, Maleny Crespo

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, ethics are a priority of LSA SG and are necessary to ensure the integrity of the Election Code and the election process,

Whereas, a major violation shall be the most appropriate repercussion for unethical candidate conduct.

Be it therefore resolved, that the Election Code be amended in accordance with the language in Appendix A; and,

Be it finally resolved, that these changes take effect immediately.

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

Appendix A

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 Campaign Ethics. *Under no circumstances may a candidate in the election use deceptive advertising that attempts to falsely accuse, harass, threaten, or intimidate another candidate or party.*

2.06.02 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.

2.06.03 Openness in campaigning. All campaign materials must indicate the official source of the piece of campaign material.

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 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 can also send emails to non-LSA SG listservs owned by a student organization with the explicit permission of the executive board of that student organization. Only self-owned and student organization listservs may be used to campaign.

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.

...

2.08.02 Major violations. Major violations shall constitute the following:

- (a) Destruction of another candidate's campaign materials, as defined in Section 2.06.034
- (b) Campaign Finance Violation as defined in Section 2.06.10
- (c) Deception in advertising, which shall be defined as breaking any of the guidelines for advertising set forth in Section 2.06.00-0+2
- (d) Misrepresentation of Endorsement. Using the name of a student organization that a candidate does not have permission to use Section 2.06.0+2
- (e) Violation of Section 2.06.09 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.