



Central Student Government

13th Assembly Election Code Task Force

Liam B. Reaser, Chair

Tyler R. Watt, Vice Chair

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Final Report of the Election Code Task Force

February 6, 2024

At its final meeting on February 1, the ECTF adopted four recommendations that received 60% (or higher) support among voting members.¹ These recommendations, if adopted, will do the following:

1. Close the polls at 10:00 PM on the final day of voting, instead of midnight.
2. Reduce the number of demerits a candidate can receive for associating with an invalidly named party from 4 to 1.
3. Allow candidates to withdraw from their party or by their party, *or* from the whole election, up to 24 hours before the start of voting.
4. Institute a major overhaul of CSJ, to make the Court generally more accessible for litigants, more equitable in its workload (among justices), and less “overlapping” (as it reduces the number of appellate levels that could exist in a given case). This recommendation has [unanimous support](#) among sitting Justices.²

The submission of this report, and the corresponding recommendations, marks the end of the ECTF’s work. It’s been an exciting ride since May 2023—the ECTF has submitted three resolutions already, which have been adopted by the 13th Assembly. Across these three resolutions and the two before you today, the ECTF has developed amendments across 19 different elections policy areas. We have been grateful for your support, and hope that the work done by the ECTF will support candidates and constituents alike for years to come.

To the members of this task force: it has been an incredible privilege to work alongside each and every one of you. Despite a recent history of task forces struggling to meet quorum or, in some cases, meet at all, the ECTF and its members met 9 times for robust and energetic debate. Though work on the procedural functions of CSG can sometimes be thankless, allow us to be the first to thank you for your time, ideas, and passion. These changes will make CSG a more transparent and open environment for the many

¹ [AR 13-003](#), which established the ECTF, requires recommendations to receive 60% support among ECTF members before they are referred to the Assembly. AR 13-003 also requires the ECTF to report on the discussion relating to suggestions that had at least a simple majority of members in support, but less than 60% support. There were none in this latter category on February 6.

² One Justice, Erika Farmer, has expressed no view on the proposal.



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prospective first-time candidates interested in running in our elections. CSG is a better organization because of you.

And now, for the final time,

This Report is respectfully submitted for the Assembly's Consideration.

Liam Reaser

Liam B. Reaser,

Chair

- Electronically Signed

T. Watt

Tyler R. Watt,

Vice Chair

- Electronically Signed



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Meeting of Thursday, February 1, 2024

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 PM.

Attendance:

- Liam Reaser
- Tyler Watt
- Taylor Quick
- Jimmy Mahfet
- Joyce Jung
- Kenichi Lobbezoo
- Alexander Gavulic
- Curtiss Engstrom
- Alan Vellenga
- Tyler Fioritto
- Patrick Szendro Arceo
- Jacob Amspaugh
- *Dhanya Sethuraman (nonmember)*

Matters Discussed:

- Shall the ECTF recommend that the polls close at 10:00 PM on the final day of voting, instead of the current time (midnight)?
 - Yes: 7
 - No: 4
 - Abstain: 1
 - This recommendation passed, and will be considered by the Assembly in AR 13-0XX: [Elections Development Act](#)
- Shall the ECTF recommend that a three-day voting period be considered for the March 2024 elections?
 - Previously voted against 2-5
 - Yes: 6
 - No: 6
 - This recommendation was not adopted.
- Shall the ECTF consider recommending that the maximum number of demerits that a candidate shall receive for registering under an invalid party name be reduced to 2 demerits, or 1 demerit?
 - 2 demerits: 4
 - 1 demerit: 6
 - This recommendation passed, and will be considered by the Assembly in AR 13-0XX: [Elections Development Act](#)
- Shall the ECTF consider recommending that the candidate withdrawal deadline (for candidates leaving the whole election) be reduced to 8 days before the election or 1 day?



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- 8 days: 4
- 1 day: 6
 - This recommendation passed, and will be considered by the Assembly in AR 13-0XX: [Elections Development Act](#)
- Shall the ECTF formally recommend the two above changes, and that the candidate withdrawal deadline (for candidates leaving **their party**) be reduced to 1 day before the election?
 - Adopted unanimously
 - This recommendation passed, and will be considered by the Assembly in AR 13-0XX: [Elections Development Act](#)
- Shall the ECTF recommend that the current rule regarding the release date of the sample ballot be maintained?
 - Recommendation adopted unanimously. As this is already in the Compiled Code, no amendment is needed.
- Shall the ECTF recommend that the threshold for disqualification be lowered from 5 demerits to 4 demerits?
 - Previously adopted draft language
 - Yes: 5
 - No: 5
 - Abstain: 1
 - This recommendation was not adopted.
- Shall the ECTF recommend that the judiciary be overhauled, consistent with CSJ's recommendations?
 - Adopted unanimously
 - This recommendation passed, and will be considered by the Assembly in AR 13-0XX: [Judiciary Act of 2024](#)
- Shall the ECTF recommend that the "Paid for by [name]@umich.edu" poster rule be eliminated?
 - Not a majority
 - This recommendation was not adopted.

Legislation for Release:

- AR 13-0XX: [Elections Development Act](#)
- AR 13-0XX: [Judiciary Act of 2024](#)

Other Discussion:



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- Members of the Task Force, as well as Sethuraman, presented a card to Watt, in honor of his reaching the half-way point in his law school career. Watt expressed his gratitude to the Task Force members for their kindness.
- Pizza was enjoyed by all.
- Several members of the Task Force delivered parting thoughts.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned *sine die* at 8:48 PM.

Members of the Task Force then proceeded to go out for an ice cream social. Fun times were had by all.