



THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

# 73<sup>rd</sup> STUDENT SENATE

**Senate Bill: #20**  
**Primary Sponsor: Boole**

## A revision to the Student Body Statutes

### BE IT ENACTED BY THE SEVENTY THIRD STUDENT SENATE THAT:

A revision is made to the Student Body Statutes §712.4, §714.1 (See attached).

To amend the statute to implement an instant runoff voting method for non-executive branch elections.

Read 1<sup>st</sup> Time: 03/03/2021  
Referred to Committee: SLAA / Judiciary  
Committee Report: Passed in SLAA 3/09 Passed in Judiciary 03/10  
Read 2<sup>nd</sup> Time: 03/10/2021  
Senate Vote: 32Y- 0N – 3A

**OFFICIAL:**  3/21/2021 | 3:48 PM EDT  
10244305E958499...  
Student Senate President

**PASSED: March 10<sup>th</sup> 2021**

### CERTIFIED TO THE STUDENT BODY

 3/21/2021 | 4:04 PM EDT  
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\_\_\_\_\_  
President of the Student Body Date

 3/21/2021 | 8:42 PM EDT  
58FD9A67791A4EA...  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Director of the Student Governance & Advocacy Date

 3/22/2021 | 10:29 AM EDT  
F8C9CB8890224DE...  
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Vice President of Student Affairs Date

## 712.1 Ballot Form

- A. An electronic ballot shall be defined as the official format chosen by the Supervisor of Elections that shall include the official rules, instructions, candidates and other information pertinent to elections.
  - 1. Ballots approved under this section shall allow a voter to rank candidates for an office in order of preference.
    - a. Such that for each office candidates can be listed as first and increasing numerically, decreasing in priority or preference.
    - b. All ballots require a minimum of one candidate preference or are considered invalid for that office.
- B. The official ballot contains the list of all vacant offices to be filled, referendum questions, and constitutional amendments.
  - 1. No colors shall be used to designate or accentuate any choices on the official ballot, including, but not limited to: candidates for office, political party affiliation or lack thereof, referendum questions, and constitutional amendments.
- C. Candidates shall be listed by seat in alphabetical order of their last names and the name shall be printed in the same form as requested at the time of filing. Each candidate's last name shall appear on the ballot, and the name must be the same as it appears on the candidate's FSU identification card. No affiliation other than those specified in 712.1 G shall be printed with any candidate's name.
  - 1. For the election of Student Body President and Vice President, the names of the candidate for President and Vice President within the same party (if applicable) must appear on the ballot as one voting bloc.
  - 2. For elections for the Black Student Union, the names of the candidates for the Director and Assistant Director position within the same party (if applicable) must appear on the ballot as one voting bloc.
- D. For elections to office, the ballot of a general or special election shall only contain the names of candidates who:
  - 1. Properly filed a declaration of candidacy in accordance with Chapter 704.2, of the Student Body Statutes.
  - 2. Are qualified to hold the office they seek as specified in Chapter 704.3, of the Student Body Statutes.
- E. Candidates omitted from the sample ballot may petition to be reinstated by the Elections Commission and may be reinstated, provided such order is issued to the Supervisor of Elections no later than three (3) school days prior to any election.
- F. Party designation for candidates of recognized political parties who run in an election shall be placed on the official ballot.
- G. The ballot may not be changed or altered within the twenty-four (24) hours preceding any election.

Chapter 714 Conditions for Victory

714.1 If any, non-executive branch candidate receives the majority of the first choices, in any election that candidate shall be declared the winner of that election.

A. All executive branch elections will be won by a plurality of the vote. If an individual candidate or political party becomes disqualified the candidate with the second highest number of votes shall be declared the winner.

1. If the portion of votes for the second highest candidate is less than thirty percent (30%), this would mandate a special election for the seats in question.

2. In the case of three or more candidates, the decision will be decided by a majority vote by the Student Senate.

B. If no candidate receives a majority of first choices, then the Supervisor of Elections shall conduct the instant runoff consisting of additional rounds of ballot counting.

1. In every round, each ballot is counted as one vote for that ballot's highest ranked candidate. At the beginning of each round the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated from all other ballots. All ballots are recounted, and total votes are recalculated including the changes from the elimination. The process is repeated until one candidate has a majority of votes.

a. Any and all ballots which no longer contain a candidate due to elimination are considered inactive and are not considered as votes for any candidate although they still count toward the calculation of what is the majority.

2. If no majority is reached after eliminating down to a single candidate, that candidate is considered the winner of the election.

3. In the case of a tie resulting in a situation in which no candidate can be eliminated the election is considered a tie and is resolved in accordance with 714.2.

C. If an individual candidate or political party becomes disqualified all disqualified, non-executive, candidates will be eliminated from the ballots and the votes will be recalculated in accordance with 714.1 (A).