ASUCD CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT #100

Bill Information:

Authored by: GARCIA
Co-authored by:
Co-sponsored by:
Introduced by: Garcia

A Constitutional Amendment to increase the effectiveness of ASUCD elections by restructuring the election timeline and consolidating elections into a single election period.

ACTIONS

Date	Action
09/26/2026	Submitted [Legislation Submission Form].
10/01/2026	Introduced on the Senate Floor.
10/01/2-26	Referred to the following commissions: EAC, GASC, IAC, AAC, ECAC, EPPC
10/06/2026	Considered by Gender and Sexuality Commission with a recommendation of Do Pass. [2, 0, 7], YES: [Abrea, Sandoval].
10/06/2026	Considered by Academic Affairs Commission with a recommendation of Do Pass. [5-1-0], YES: [Hsu, Kavipurapu, Marlapati, Nugroho, Vaduri]. NO: [Olatunji]
10/06/2026	Considered by External Affairs Commission] with a recommendation of Do Pass. [8-0-1] YES: [Mitra, Nguyen, Coenmans, Garcia-Cervantes, Hecomovich, Li, Sharma, Jensen] NOT PRESENT: [Chowdhury].
10/07/2026	Considered by the Internal Affairs Commission with a recommendation of Do Not Pass. [0, 2, 7], No: [Amiya, Adusumalli].
10/08/2026	Considered by Environmental Policy and Planning Commission with a recommendation of Do Pass. [1, 0, 8], YES: [Noh]
10/08/2026	Considered by Ethnic and Cultural Affairs Commission with a recommendation of Do Pass [4,3,1]. YES: [Naveed, Rowchowdhury, De La Fuente, Galvan], NO: NOT PRESENT: [Petoyan, Rao, Saeed].
10/15/2026	Considered by the Senate. [Passed]. [11, 2, 1].

10/19/2026 Action by President [Signed].

The ASUCD Senate hereby places the following Constitutional Amendment on the Fall, 2026 ballot:

ASUCD Elections Reform Amendment

Voting "YES" on the Amendment would:
(1) Allow for ASUCD Elections to happen once a year.

Voting "NO" on the Amendment would:
(1) Keep the ASUCD Elections split in two cycles.

Please vote for one of the following options:

_____ Yes, I approve of this Constitutional Amendment

_____ No, I do not approve of this Constitutional Amendment.

BACKGROUND:
For the past three years, ASUCD elections have seen a decline in voter turnout. Every year since 2020, we have not seen over 2,600 votes during a fall cycle, and traditionally fall cycles are less competitive and effective than spring elections. Since 2020, the highest percentage of student vote was in 2023 with 8% and in 2024 with around 7%, while the highest percentage in a spring election since 2020 was in 2024 with around 15% and in 2025 with around 11%. Currently, UC Davis is the only UC to hold elections twice a year for the student body Senate or equivalent. This recent election, UC Berkeley (ASUC) had over 25% of their entire undergraduate population and UC Riverside had over 22% of their entire undergraduate population vote, even when they enforced extreme restrictions on marketing tactics, like flyering. The list goes on, showing how other universities attain much higher voting turnout than UC Davis.

Furthermore, for years, ASUCD has failed to effectively reach out to students, while we have gotten better we should not expect our students to vote twice a year. Many times students get confused about what they are voting for since it is twice a year–switching it to once a year can fix that. The ASUCD Elections Committee also has had a budget of over $10,000 that is divided into two elections.By combining the elections, the elections committee's budget can be more effectively used for one election per year.

Furthermore, with elections being twice a year it is hard for our ever so changing student government part of ASUCD to cohesively function to the best of its ability. For example, we start the year with 6 senators who were recently elected and 6 that were elected nearly a year ago, which sets an unfair power dynamic instead of having all 12 senators begin at the same time. Additionally, for the past four years there has been an interim senator because of those senators graduating or resigning before even making it to spring. In 2023 there were 5 interim senators, and in 2026 there are 3. Many of those are a result of graduating seniors or some fall elects deciding to step away before the end of their term. While Interim Senatorship is a great way to have students experience being on senate

there are extreme limitations to what one can accomplish within a quarter and with it being once a year it will reduce the amount of seats that will become interim roles and promote year long roles.

Having two elections also requires two separate training periods, in which if we switch to one that is also earlier we can account for any issues that may arise and have a longer training period. For example, in both elections prior to the Spring 2026, elections issues arose that limited the amount of time candidates had for a well organized training. This would allow 6 weeks of training and also would give newly elected officers to better understand and prepare for the role.

If this constitutional amendment passes there are other bylaws changes that would need to be adopted such as the amount of senators and slate members that can run in each slate. We will also work closely with the other student governments to ensure that the training can be modeled after their efficient models.

Disclaimer: If passed, anyone elected in the Fall 2026 election would only be eligible to be in office until Spring 2027 and would be asked to rerun for the following year.

Section 1. The Associated Students, UC Davis hereby amend Article V, Section 1(1) and Article V, Section 1(1)(i) of the of the ASUCD Constitution as follows:

ARTICLE V

ASUCD ELECTIONS AND REFERENDA

Section 1.

(1) There shall be ~~two~~ one ASUCD General Election during each academic calendar year.~~:~~ This election will be held during the third (3rd) week of spring quarter of each academic calendar year. ~~The fall quarter general election, held during the seventh (7th) week of fall quarter; and the spring quarter general election, held during the fourth (4th) week of spring quarter of each academic calendar year.~~

i. ~~Six (6)~~ Twelve (12) senate seats shall be filled during the ~~each~~ ASUCD General Election using the electoral system of Single Transferable Voting, also known as Choice Voting.

ii. The Executive Team positions of President and Internal Vice President shall be filled during the ASUCD General Election using the electoral system of Instant Runoff Voting. The ASUCD President and Internal Vice President shall be grouped together for purposes of voting, while the ASUCD External Affairs Vice President shall be elected independently. ~~and during the fall quarter general election.~~

iii. The office of Student Advocate shall be filled during the ASUCD General Election using the electoral process of Instant Runoff Voting.

(2) All candidates participating in an ASUCD General Election shall conform to campaign regulations as enacted by the Senate, or shall forfeit their

eligibility to hold office.

(3) Each winning candidate eligible to hold office in ASUCD shall be issued a Certificate of Election at the beginning of the final Senate meeting of the quarter in which they ran for office. Upon receiving this Certificate, they shall immediately assume the office for which they ran.

(4) Before obtaining a Certificate of Election, newly-elected officials shall recite the ASUCD Oath of Office, administered by the ASUCD Internal Vice President:

> "I, _____, Student of the University of California, Davis, in good academic standing, promise to abide by the ASUCD Guidelines of Conduct and Code of Ethics; promote the welfare and interests of the members of ASUCD; enact rules and procedures necessary and proper for the efficient operation of ASUCD in consistency with the ASUCD Constitution; and carry out and faithfully execute the duties enumerated in the ASUCD Constitution and ASUCD Bylaws at all times during my term in office."

i. If the ASUCD Internal Vice President is unable or unwilling to administer the oath of office, then any current or outgoing member of the ASUCD Senate may do so.

Finance:	Appropriation:	Vote:
Yes/No	[insert total amount or "None"]	[Majority or ⅔]

Luis Garcia

10/19/26

Luis L. Garcia
ASUCD President

Date