

Referendum: Spring AS Student Senate Elections

The difference between initiatives, referenda, and amendments. Also, options for a Spring AS Student Senate Elections Referendum on the ballot.



The Difference

INITIATIVES (DOESN'T CHANGE AS CONSTITUTION)

A question brought to the ballot by a general student that gathered 5% of the student body's signatures (800).

REFERENDA (DOESN'T CHANGE AS CONSTITUTION)

A question brought to the ballot by a majority vote by the Executive Board (students can bring this to the Agenda).

AMENDMENTS (CHANGES AS CONSTITUTION)

An actual change to the AS Constitution. No current instructions in the Constitution or Elections Code!

"In accordance with Articles VI and VIII of the Bylaws of the Associated Students of Western Washington University, a student initiative [or referendum] which passes may, subject to the restrictions of WWU policy and other applicable laws:

- i. an initiative [or referendum] may instruct that the AS Executive Board, within their purview, create, change, or terminate current AS policies.
- ii. an initiative [or referendum] may instruct the AS Executive Board to pursue or not pursue some action.
- iii. make a declarative statement on behalf of the AS."

Plan for a future Spring amendment

Made in collaboration with Raquel Vigil, Casey Hayden, and Eric Alexander.

Steps 2-3 is when conversations on funding a longer AS Student Senate term will be discussed.

Step 1

ASK STUDENTS REFERENDUM ON 2020 FALL BALLOT FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES

Step 2

PRESENT BALLOT RESULTS TO NEWLY ELECTED SENATORS FOR APPROVAL TO CHANGE THE AS STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS

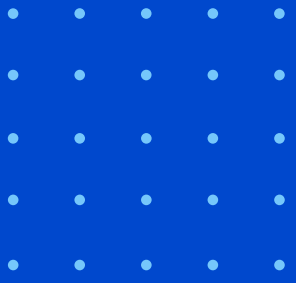
Step 3

PRESENT BALLOT RESULTS TO AS EXECUTIVE BOARD FOR APPROVAL TO CHANGE THE AS STUDENT SENATE BYLAWS

Step 4

HOLD A SPECIAL ELECTION BEFORE THE SPRING TO ASK FOR STUDENT APPROVAL OF THE AS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT (HOW THOUGH?)

Options for Referendum language



Option 1

Do you believe AS Student Senate Elections should be in the Spring for student representation all year long?

Option 2

Do you believe AS Student Senate Elections should be in the Spring with Graduate and At-Large Student Senators elected in the Fall?

Option 3

Do you believe AS Student Senate Elections should be in the Spring... (open to suggestions!)



Pros for Spring Elections

Year long representation

Checks and balances

Timing

Cons for Spring Elections

Grad and At-Large

Funding

Timing

Issues

This process has revealed many issues in the initiative, referendum, and/or amendment process.

For example, the initiative filing form was upload on WIN on Monday, October 5th when it should have been uploaded on September 21st when filing began.

Issue 1

Initiatives require 800 signatures (this is an accessibility issue for students who aren't elected leaders that want to pass initiatives). The Constitution must be changed to reduce the 5% petition signature requirement.

Issue 2

There are no instructions on how to pass an amendment in the Constitution or the Elections Code, so we have no idea how to pass one!

Issue 3

The guiding documents are so vague that it is up to the interpretation of Professional Staff (so it is prone to different opinions and definitions).

Now what?

The AS Elections Advisory Committee, Executive Board, newly elected Student Senate, and Professional Staff should work together to create more specific language on the initiative, referendum, and/or amendment process.

Let's

work

together!