

UNIVERSITY of  
**HOUSTON**

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

**Label:** SGAB-56012

**Date introduced:** October 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019

**Author(s):** Attorney General Barrett

**Sponsor(s):** Chair Chukwu, Chair Potts, Chair Bryan, Chair Khademakbari, Chair Joslin, Senator Mathis, Senator Pham, Senator Abrams, Senator Mistry, Senator Ramos, Senator Rodriguez, Senator Doan, Senator Dias, Senator Vo, Senator Morgan, Senator Krothapalli, Senator Duvall

**Committee:** Internal Affairs

**Draft:** Final

**Ranked Choice and Single Transferrable Vote Act**

**Whereas,** ranked choice-voting avoids campaign fatigue;

**Whereas,** ranked-choice and single transferrable voting succeeded in its first year of implementation;

**Whereas,** these voting systems resulted in the most competitive small-party campaign and the most proportional legislative elections on record;

**Whereas,** ranked choice and STV should be made quasi-permanent by our constitution.

**Therefore, be it enacted by the Senate of the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:**

That Article III of the Student Government Constitution add the following section:

“Section 3.08 Student-elected positions in the Student Government will utilize either Ranked-choice voting or the Single-Transferrable Vote method.”

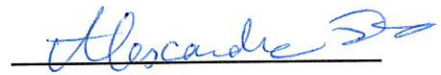
**Be it further enacted,** the referendum to approve this amendment will take place in conjunction with the 2020 Student Government Election.



Allison Lawrence

Student Body President

Date of President's approval: 11/27/19



Alexandre Do

Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 12/30/2019



potential sanctions and policies the Attorney General, Election Commission, Supreme Court, and/or designated lower court deem appropriate based on their interpretation of the Student Code of Conduct and University Policy. No sanction will extend beyond the context of an individual or party's involvement with Student Government and/or Student Government practice."

**Be it further enacted**, that Article 4, Section 4 add the following Clauses:

- Clause 7. No candidate or campaign staff member may encourage or require campaign team-members to campaign in lieu of fulfilling academic obligations.
- Clause 8. No candidate or campaign staff member will physically or emotionally abuse campaign team-members.
- Clause 9. No candidate will be involved in or have a history of involvement in physical or emotional abuse of any kind within or outside the context of the Student Government Elections. This includes, but is not limited to physically abusive behavior, emotionally abusive behavior, sexual abuse, sexual harassment, etc.
- Clause 10. No candidate or campaign staff member may make threats towards any individual or group. This includes but is not limited to: physical threats, emotional threats, social threats, or any threat which might prove distressful to an individual or group's physical, emotional, and/or financial well-being.

**Be it further enacted**, that Article 5, section 4, Clause 8 of the Election Code be amended to read: "Clause 8: Any Constitutional Amendments or referenda will be placed at the bottom of the ballot."

**Be it further enacted**, that Article 7, Section 1, Clause 6 be amended to read: "Clause 6: Candidate(s)/individuals may appeal their penalty or its severity before the Student Government Association Supreme Court or designated lower court. Appeals regarding Class A violations must be heard by the Supreme Court or designated lower court. The Court, after receiving appeals regarding Class B, Class C, and Class D, may review the appeal and choose to hear the appeal in court, and may reject the appeal. All election complaint appeals must be filed within eight (8) hours of receiving the initial decision from the Attorney General."

**Be it further enacted**, that Article 7, Section 1, Clause 8 be amended to read: "Clause 8: If the Student Government Association Supreme Court or designated lower court chooses to hear the appeal, the Court must meet within forty-eight (48) hours to rule