

**CA008-0405**

10 **AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION OF THE**  
20 **MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE CONCERNING**  
30 **ELECTION PROCEDURES**

40 FOR the purposes of amending the Constitution to expand on the way MSL holds its elections.

50 BY repealing and re-enacting with amendments  
60 Article X: Elections of Officers

70 **WHEREAS:** The way MSL currently holds its elections is blatantly unfair to newer members  
80 because the newer members are unable to make an informed choice based on a  
90 ten minute speech; and,

100 **WHEREAS:** Implementing a process whereby the candidates participate in an open forum  
110 before the general body, a more informed choice can be made by the members  
120 of said body; and,

130 **WHEREAS:** An open forum allows MSL to model itself more closely to many other types of  
140 elections that are held; and,

150 **SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE MARYLAND STUDENT LEGISLATURE,** that  
160 Article X of the Constitution of the Maryland Student Legislature read as  
170 follows:

180 **Article X: Election of Officers**

190 Section I: All non appointed officers of the Maryland Student Legislature shall be elected at a  
200 forum designated by the State Government at the Annual Legislative Session.

210 Section II: The Standing Rules of Order and Robert’s Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall  
220 govern Elections for other legislative officers in that order.

230 Section III: Officers shall serve a one-year term and be eligible for only one additional term in that  
240 same office, yet may serve in other offices in subsequent years.

250 Section IV: Regular members who wish to seek candidacy for an office shall apply by the deadline  
260 established by the State Government according to the procedures established by the Council of  
270 State.

280 Section V: Candidates for an office in the Maryland Student Legislature shall:

- 290 A. Be a Regular member of the MSL at a Chartered Delegation.  
300 B. Have attended one official event of the MSL prior to their nomination.  
310 C. Not be nominated for any office in which they have served two full one-year terms.

320 Section VI: The highest-ranking officer not seeking office shall conduct elections for all offices. In  
330 the event that no officer meets this ~~criteria~~ CRITERION, the General Assembly shall elect a  
340 chairman for the purpose of conducting elections.

350 Section VII: Election Proceedings shall follow the procedural order established below:

- 360 A. Elections will commence with the offices of Comptroller, Speaker of the Assembly,  
370 Secretary of State, Attorney General, Lieutenant Governor, and Governor.

380 B. The Presiding Officer will open election proceedings by stating the procedures contained in this  
390 section. In the case of an office where the Secretary of State has certified no candidates the  
400 Presiding Officer shall then ask for nominations from the floor. A person nominated from the floor  
410 must meet all requirements established in Section V.

420 C. The Presiding Officer will then recognize an individual designated by each candidate who shall  
430 officially place the name of the certified candidate into nomination and be given the opportunity to  
440 speak on the candidate's behalf for a period not greater than ~~5~~2.5 minutes, followed by a  
450 person designated by the candidate who shall second the nomination and be given the opportunity  
460 to speak on the candidates behalf for a period not greater than ~~5~~ 2.5 minutes.

470 D. After all candidates have been nominated and seconded, ~~each~~ THE candidateS, ~~in alphabetical~~  
480 ~~order shall have the opportunity to address the General Assembly for up to 10 minutes~~ SHALL  
490 BE CALLED FORTH BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER AND MOVE INTO AN OPEN  
500 DISCUSSION FORUM BEFORE THE ASSEMBLY THAT WILL PROCEED FOR NOT  
510 MORE THAN SIXTY MINUTES.

520 E. THE FORUM SHALL BE MODERATED BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER.

530 i. THE PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL CALL THE BODY'S ATTENTION TO  
540 THE PREVIOUSLY WRITTEN CANDIDATE NOMINATION SUMMARIES  
550 LOCATED IN THE LEGISLATION PACKET.

560 F. THE PRESIDING OFFICER SHALL, IN ORDER TO CREATE A QUESTION AND  
570 ANSWER PANEL, APPOINT ONE MEMBER FROM EACH OFFICIALLY RECOGNIZED  
580 DELEGATION THAT HAS CANDIDATES WHO ARE RUNNING FOR OFFICE, TO THE  
590 PANEL; SERVE AS CHAIRPERSON OF THE PANEL, AND ENFORCE ALL GUIDELINES  
600 FOR THE FORUM; THIS PORTION OF THE FORUM SHALL LAST NO LONGER THAN  
610 THIRTY MINUTES.

620 G. IT WILL BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THESE APPOINTEES AND THE PRESIDING  
630 OFFICER TO ENGAGE THE CANDIDATES WITH QUESTIONS REGARDING THEIR  
640 RESPECTIVE CANDIDACIES AND EACH CANDIDATE WILL HAVE NOT MORE THAN  
650 ONE MINUTE TO RESPOND TO THE INQUIRIES POSED BY THE PANEL MEMBERS.

660 H. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FROM THE  
670 APPOINTEES AND THE PRESIDING OFFICER; THE BODY WILL MOVE INTO A THIRTY  
680 MINUTE QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD FROM THE REGULAR MEMBERS OF THE  
690 ASSEMBLY TO BE RECOGNIZED BY THE PRESIDING OFFICER. NO ANSWER, FROM  
700 ANY ONE CANDIDATE, SHALL LAST LONGER THAN ONE MINUTE.

710 I. AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE OPEN FORUM, EACH CANDIDATE, ACCORDING TO  
720 OFFICE, IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER, SHALL HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO ADDRESS  
730 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FOR UP TO TEN MINUTES.

740 J. THE SECRETARY OF STATE, OR IN HIS/HER ABSENCE, A MEMBER APPOINTED BY  
750 THE PRESIDING OFFICER, SHALL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE TIMEKEEPING OF THE  
760 FORUM TO ENSURE ITS ACCORDANCE WITH ALL SECTIONS INCLUDED IN  
770 ARTICLE X OF THIS CONSTITUTION.

780 K. After all candidates for all offices have been given the opportunity to address the General  
790 Assembly, the Presiding Officer shall order ballots distributed to each individual member, to be  
800 returned anonymously, with a simple majority required for election to office.

810 L. Upon the conclusion of tallying and recording of the ballots, the designee shall notify the  
820 Presiding Officer of the results, who shall announce the results, immediately.

830 M. The results of any election are subject to appeal, provided that the appeal is submitted in  
840 writing to the State Government within 24 hours of the election. The State Government, less any  
850 member who is a candidate affected by the appeal, shall hear the appeal within 24 hours of its  
860 receipt and issue a judgment requiring a 3/4 majority to overturn the election and having  
870 overturned the results shall order it held anew.

880 SECTION VIII: No proxy or write-in votes shall be allowed for any election.

890 SECTION IX: The State Government may issue other guidelines for campaigns and elections  
900 provided that they do not contravene this document in whole or part.

910 SECTION X: All Officers and their appointees, except where provided herein, shall be sworn in at  
920 a time and place set aside by the outgoing Council of State not prior to the final session of the  
930 General Assembly nor later than the adjournment sine die of the General Assembly and shall  
940 recite the following oath:

950 "I, (state name), do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will faithfully execute the Office of (state  
960 office) of the Maryland Student Legislature and will do my best to protect, preserve, defend and  
970 uphold the Constitution of the Maryland Student Legislature, the Constitution of the great  
980 sovereign State of Maryland and the Constitution of the United States of America."

990 **SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED**, that this shall take effect (30) days after  
1000 its passage.

1010 **MANDATES:** Governor Byron Macfarlane, Maryland Student Legislature  
1020 Lt. Governor Sasha Miles, Maryland Student Legislature  
1030 Attorney General Christal Shrader, Maryland Student Legislature  
1040 Secretary of State Anna Barvir, Maryland Student Legislature  
1050 Speaker Kelley Harris, Maryland Student Legislature  
1060 Comptroller Megan Sands, Maryland Student Legislature  
1070 Chairperson of the Board Douglas Testerman, MSL Board of Directors  
1080 Founder of the MSL William Troy Simmons, MSL Board of Directors

**SPONSOR:**

Craig E. Reynolds, Anne Arundel Community College

**COSPONSORS:**

Christal Shrader, Attorney General of MSL, University of Maryland College Park