

# BYLAWS of the Student Bar Association of Vermont Law School

## ARTICLE 8. ELECTIONS OF THE SENATE

### § 8.1 Elections Committee

The Elections Committee shall have, at a minimum, the following duties and responsibilities:

- A. Conduct all regular elections, special elections, and referenda pursuant to these Bylaws and the Standing Rules.
- B. Inform the SBA and the Senate when elections and referenda must occur.
- C. Establish polling places (which may include electronic voting), count votes, and post the results pursuant to guidelines established by the Senate in the Standing Rules.
- D. In the event that the Chair of the Elections Committee prefers not to serve during any election due to a potential conflict of interest, or to avoid the appearance of impropriety, the chair may appoint a temporary replacement chair who can serve only after approval by the Senate.

### § 8.2 Elections

- A. Elections for Executive Committee, Board of Trustees Representatives, Law School Committee Representatives for the continuing classes, and Town Liaison members shall be held by the first Friday in April.
- B. Elections for J.D. Senators from the continuing classes shall be held at the same time as or within 10 days of the elections listed in § 8.2(A).
- C. Elections for the Master's Program Senator(s), J.D. Senators from the 1L class, Law School Committee Representatives for the 1L class, and any vacancies from elections held pursuant to § 8.2(A) and/or (B) shall be elected no later than four full weeks after the start of the Fall Semester.
- D. A student may run for two positions concurrently, except that a student may only run for one of the following: President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary. Upon election to two positions, the student shall choose, be selected for, and sit only in one position. An election to fill positions not taken shall be held promptly thereafter. Running concurrently for more than one position will only occur under provisions established by the Senate in the Standing Rules.
- E. All elections and referendum votes shall be by secret ballot.
- F. SBA members shall be required to sign a voter roll before voting in any election.
- G. Elections shall follow all other guidelines set forth in the Standing Rules.

### § 8.3 Referendum

- A. Referenda are governed by § 3.5 (A) of these Bylaws.
- B. Once the Secretary of the SBA has received a petition that contains the valid signatures of twenty percent or more current members of the SBA, a vote by general referendum shall be held on the issue.
- C. The Secretary shall hold such voting within fourteen (14) days (excluding vacation periods) after receipt of the petition and posting of adequate notice.
- D. SBA members shall be required to sign a voter roll before voting in any referendum.
- E. A majority vote on a referendum shall be controlling and conclusive. When in conflict with a vote of the Senate, the referendum shall prevail.
- F. Any dispute regarding referendums shall be submitted to the Elections Committee. An appeal from the Elections Committee shall go to the Honor Code Committee and be bound by its determination.

#### § 8.4 Bylaws Amendments

- A. Bylaws Amendments are governed by Article 12 of these Bylaws.
- B. Once the Secretary of the SBA has received a petition for amendments to the Bylaws that contains the valid signatures of seventy-five or more current members of the SBA OR the Senate has approved the amendments by a majority vote, a ratification vote shall be held on the issue
- C. The Secretary shall hold such voting between fourteen (14) and thirty (30) days (excluding vacation periods) after receipt of the petition or the majority vote of the Senate.
- D. Adequate notice shall be posted at least one week prior to the vote.
- E. SBA members shall be required to sign a voter roll before voting in any ratification vote.
- F. The quorum requirement for a ratification vote is two-thirds of the current membership of the SBA. A ratification vote passes with a super majority yes vote.

#### § 8.5 Third Year Students and Non-Juris Doctor Program Students

- A. May not run for any office to become effective after March 1 of that academic year;
- B. May vote in referendums, but may not vote in elections after March 1 of that academic year; and
- C. Every elected voting member of the Senate shall retain voting rights through the last regular meeting of the Senate during that academic year.

#### § 8.6 Absentee Ballots

Absentee ballots shall be available to all currently enrolled students who are not in residence during the semester in which an election is held. Absentee ballots shall also be available upon request to the Secretary of the SBA to those students who will be absent from the Law School campus on the day of elections. Absentee ballots shall be transmitted by e-mail to each eligible member who makes a timely request. They shall be returned by regular mail or by e-mail to a special secure mail account, created for the sole purpose of elections, prior to the closing of the election period. Absentee balloting shall be conducted pursuant to such additional rules and procedures as provided for in the Standing Rules.