



ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

FIFTIETH SENATE

15th SESSION

24 FEBRUARY 2021

BILL #5013

Voter Engagement Campaign Bill

SPONSORED BY:

WRITTEN BY: Ariadne Athey, Senator, Student Disability Center; Diego Tovar, Chair, Diversity and Inclusion Caucus

COLLABORATED WITH: Brandon Lowry, Senator, Pride Resource Center; Gemma Buhaenko, Chair, Budgetary Affairs; Hannah Taylor, ASCSU President; Morgan May, ASCSU Elections Manager; Kevin Clark, Parliamentarian;

ENDORSED BY: Budgetary Affairs Committee, Ava McCall, Chair, Women's Caucus; Maya Fairchild, Senator, College of Business; Brandon Lowry, Senator, Pride Resource Center; Cindy Trinh, Senator, Pride Resource Center; Evan Welch, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Alexander Ozturk, Associate Senator, College of Liberal Arts; Miles Robinson, Senator, Student Disability Center; Benton Roesler, Chair, University Affairs Committee; Sam Whitaker, Senator, College of Liberal Arts; ASCSU Women's Caucus;

ABSTRACT: This bill seeks to establish a non partisan campaign to increase voter engagement for the ASCSU elections through funding and commitment from the ASCSU membership body.

WHEREAS

As of 2019, Colorado State University had a student population of 34,000 students; and,

WHEREAS

In the 2020-2021 Fall elections, the combined votes for the Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates were totaled at 4,685 votes, and this voter turnout was recognized as an accomplishment; and,

WHEREAS

In the 2020-2021 Fall elections, the combined votes for the Speaker of the Senate candidates were totaled at 4,290 votes, and this voter turnout was recognized as an accomplishment; and,

WHEREAS

The highest of voter turnout in the 2020-2021 Fall elections, 4,685 votes, is a mere 14% of the total population of students, which should be viewed as an unacceptable lack of student involvement in the ASCSU voting process, as this low of voter turnout directly leads to poor representation of student wants and needs; and,

WHEREAS

It is important for students to be aware of how to vote because this empowers the student body to be equally represented and to ensure that their voice is heard in how their fees will be spent, as well as in all other decisions that the ASCSU makes; and,

WHEREAS

Many students on campus preemptively decide to not vote under the assumption that the voting process is too complicated and time consuming, and a Voter Engagement Campaign would help to teach the ease of the process; and,

WHEREAS

The 2020-2021 ASCSU Elections Code states that, "The total amount spent on or by any campaign running for President and Vice President, whether personal, donated, contributed, or imposed, shall not exceed \$1,250."; and,

WHEREAS

The 2020-2021 ASCSU Elections Code states that, "The total amount spent on or by any candidate running for Speaker of the Senate, whether personal, donated, contributed, or imposed, shall not exceed \$750."; and,

WHEREAS

The 2020-2021 ASCSU Elections Code states that, "The total amount spent on or by any candidate running for Senator, whether personal, donated, contributed, or imposed, shall not exceed \$200."; and,

WHEREAS

The ASCSU provides a table and chairs for members who are tabling and campaigning, and any and all campaigns must find and fund all other supplies outside of the ASCSU; and,

WHEREAS

The ASCSU Elections Committee is meant to work on outreach and voter engagement, but this part of their job description often gets pushed to the wayside as the Elections Committee's time is largely taken up by working with candidates to ensure the elections stay unbiased and fair; so,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY ENACTED

That the ASCSU Senate intends to increase voter turnout throughout the student body through allocating money towards materials and encouraging Senators and Associate Senators to table to interact with and inform the student body; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the ASCSU Senate create a Voter Engagement Caucus called the Voter Engagement Board with the intention of it being a partnership of the ASCSU Legislative Branch and the ASCSU Executive Branch; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

The starting members of the caucus are as follows: 2 members from the ASCSU Legislative Branch holding no other major leadership positions and not working on a current campaign for President, Vice President, or Speaker will be voted in by the ASCSU Senate the same session as the passage of this bill; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

If there is interest, and 2 members from the ASCSU Executive Branch not holding current President, Vice President, Chief of Staff, or Deputy Chief of Staff positions and not working on a current campaign for President, Vice President, or Speaker will volunteer and be appointed by the Office of the President and be confirmed by the Senate no later than March 10, 2021 the same session as the passage of this bill to manage the project throughout the election season. If there is not interest from the ASCSU Executive Branch, then 2 additional members from the ASCSU Legislative Branch shall be appointed and ratified, so long as they meet the above criteria; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That an additional member from the ASCSU Legislative Branch holding no other major leadership position and not working on a current campaign for President, Vice President, or Speaker will be elected by the Senate the same session as the passage of this bill as an unpaid chair for the Voter Engagement Board for the purpose of breaking voting ties, informing the Senate of the actions of the Board in weekly reports through the campaign season, liaison with the assigned members of the Elections Committee, and ensuring the duties of the Board are being delegated and completed; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Elections Manager shall be allowed to assign 1-3 liaisons from the Elections Committee to the Voter Engagement Board as an ex-officio members to allow for easy communication between the Elections Manager, Elections Committee, and the Voter Engagement Campaign; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That a member or members of the Board shall create and run a Voter Engagement Social Media account and shall post to it at least twice a week in an unbiased manner throughout the elections season to create outreach to online students; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That an ex-officio member shall send updated and unbiased election and voting information to the ASCSU Front desk. The Front Desk will send this information to each College and SDPS office weekly by Monday at 5:00pm through the Elections Season to allow for each office to share the content throughout the week; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Board and the rest of the Voter Engagement Campaign shall adhere to any rules that the Elections Manager and Elections Committee create in relation to this project so long as it does not compromise the project to ensure ease and create the least burden on the Elections Manager and Committee; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the duties of this board and campaign as a whole shall take the job of creating and ensuring voter engagement from the Elections Committee; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That should a member or members of the Board fail to uphold their duties as a member of the Board by biasing the election or failing the above tasks, or any other removable offence, three members of the Board may vote to remove the member and that member shall be replaced at the following Senate Session. In this vote for removal, the chair of the Board shall have an equal vote to the other 4 elected members, and the Elections Manager shall also have the authority to reasonably remove any member of the board; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTE

That \$3,610.00 will be allocated to the Voter Engagement Board from the ASCSU General Discretionary Fund to purchase the following or other supplies to improve voter engagement at the approval and discretion of the Board:

- Vinyl Signs: \$240.00
 - Estimated cost at \$75.00 each, with a plan to fund 3 signs following design approval.
 - \$15.00 added for shipping.
- Table-top Signs: \$70.00
 - Estimated cost at \$20.00 each for a size of 8.5in x 11in, with a plan to fund 3 Table- Top Signs following design approval. Depending on design, Table Top Signs can be reused in future elections periods.
 - \$10.00 added for shipping
- Posters: \$450.00
 - Estimated cost at \$3.00 each for a size of 8.5in x 11in with lamination, with an estimated plan to fund 150 posters following design approval. Depending on design, Campaign Posters can be reused in future elections periods.
- Stickers: \$60.00
 - Estimated cost at \$0.06 each, with a plan to fund 500-1000 stickers following design approval. Depending on design, unused stickers can be reused in future elections periods.
 - \$10.00 added for shipping.
- Paid Advertisements: \$750.00
 - Estimated cost at \$150.00 for every advertisement through the Rocky Mountain Student Media Corporation, estimated 3 through the election season, following approval.
 - Estimated cost at \$30.00 for every advertisement through Instagram, estimated to fund 2 per week through the election season, following approval.
 - \$50.00 added for wiggle room.
- Table Covers: \$220.00
 - Estimated cost at \$200 each, with an estimated plan to fund 1.
 - \$20.00 added for shipping.
- Plaza Tabling: \$1,500.00
 - Estimated cost at \$75.00 for every day, estimated 5 a week through the election season, with tabling every day during the voting process.
- Liquid Crystal Display (LCD): \$220.00
 - Estimated cost at \$55.00 for a week of advertising, with a plan to fund four weeks of advertisements.
- Unexpected Expenses: \$100.00
 - This will cover any costs missed or forgotten in the estimation process.

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That any remaining funds from the Voter Engagement Discretionary Fund by the end of each campaign season be returned to the ASCSU General Discretionary Fund by no more than two weeks after the end of the campaign season and that any other funds delegated for but not used by the Voter Engagement Campaign be returned to the funder by no more than two weeks after the end of the campaign season; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the Voter Engagement Board will work in direct coordination with Parliamentarian Clark and the ASCSU Front Desk to include voting information such as how and where to vote and basic information for all Presidential/Vice Presidential, Speaker, and Senator candidates for ASCSU; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the basic information mentioned above includes a paragraph of no more than 500 words submitted by each individual campaign and approved by the board of what each campaign stands for, ways to contact through social media, and any other pertinent information that the individual campaigns deem necessary so long as it complies with the elections code; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That any ASCSU Senators and Associate Senators will receive Outreach Hours for volunteering time for the Voter Engagement Campaign working on neutral voter engagement. Individuals who are actively involved with campaigns for the positions of President, Vice President, and Senate Speaker may not engage with public outreach alongside the Voter Engagement campaign in the interest of neutrality throughout the election. The voter engagement board has the authority to bar any member of ASCSU from tabling the campaign; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That in accordance with CDC Guidelines and CSU mandation all participants in the Voter Engagement Campaign shall wear masks, social distance, and sanitize for all interactions for as long as the COVID-19 pandemic continues; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

That the ASCSU Senate intends to continue the Voter Engagement Campaign Project past the 2020-2021 Spring elections period. During the 51st Senate, the Voter Engagement Board will be evaluated to see whether or not the Voter Engagement Board should remain as a caucus or if there is a better avenue for its duties; and,

THEREFORE BE IT HEREBY FURTHER ENACTED

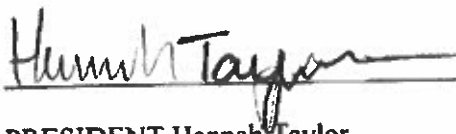
That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Joyce McConnell, CSU President; Tony Frank, CSU Chancellor; Hannah Taylor, ASCSU President; Morgan May, ASCSU Elections Manager; ASCSU Elections Committee members; ASCSU 2021 Campaign teams for the President and Vice President, Speaker of the Senate, and Senator, Pamela Norris, Director of Slice, Ben Withers, President of the College of Liberal Arts; Josh Greeslin, President of the College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; Kara Johnson, Advisor for the College of Health and Human Sciences; James Pritchett, Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences; Bailey Orcutt, President of the DSLC for the College of Business; David I. McLean, Dean of the College of Engineering; Andy Ricciardi, Student President of the Undeclared Council; Jan Nerger, Dean of the College of Natural Sciences; Leanna Biddle, Advisor for the Warner College of Natural Resources; Marc Barker, Director of Adult Learner and Veteran Services; Dora S. Frias, Director of El Centro; Tyrone Smith, Director of the Native American and Cultural Center; Justin Dove, Director of the Student Disability Center; Brittany Otter, Director for Access and Accommodation, SDC; Monica Rivera, Director of the Women and Gender Advocacy Center; Director of the Multi Faith and Belief Student Council; JoAnn Cornell, Director of Asian Pacific American Cultural Center; Matt Saxton, President of the Graduate Council; Lindsay Winkenbach, President of the Graduate Council; Maggie Hendrickson, Director of the Pride Resource Center; Pedro Ramos, Director of the Pride Resource Center; Bailey Dinsdale, ASCSU Accountant

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2/24/2021

PASSAGE

DATE



3/9/2021

PRESIDENT Hannah Taylor

DATE

TAGS: Voting, Student Engagement

Citations for any external references:

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