



THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF COLORADO STATE UNIVERSITY

9th SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH SENATE

October 9th, 2024

RESOLUTION #5404
Endorsing Proposition 131 on the 2024 Colorado Ballot

NOTICE: *A signature to sponsor means that you only wish for the legislation to be heard, a signature to endorse means that you support the contents and/or actions of this legislation.*

WRITTEN BY: Jared McGlothlin, Senator, College of Engineering;

COLLABORATED WITH:

SPONSORED BY: Ava Wilkins, Director of Governmental Affairs; Kevin Melchior, Senator, Adult Learners and Veterans Services;

ENDORSED BY: University Affairs Committee; Madeleine Kamberg, Parliamentarian; Hailey Rageth, Deputy Director of Governmental Affairs;

ABSTRACT: *This resolution aims to fully endorse Proposition 131 on the 2024 Colorado ballot, establishing a non-partisan top 4 primary and ranked choice voting in the general election for several state and federal offices.*

WHEREAS,

Currently in the state of Colorado, elections for state legislators, state executives, US Representatives, and US Senators are decided by a plurality vote in single-winner contests; and,

WHEREAS,

A plurality system incentivizes voters to unite behind a major candidate that has the best chance of winning, instead of voting for the candidate that best represents their interests; and,

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WHEREAS,

Plurality voting enables candidates to win an election without receiving the majority of the vote share; and,

WHEREAS,

Ranked choice voting allows voters to rank candidates based on their preferences, with their votes still counting even if their first choice is knocked out; and,

WHEREAS,

Research has shown that ranked choice voting elections are more positive overall, with candidates spending more time focusing on their own positive aspects instead of attacking their opponent. Additionally, voters have indicated increased satisfaction with ranked choice voting elections over plurality elections (Donavan et al. 2016); and,

WHEREAS,

Ranked choice voting is currently being used successfully in multiple US states (Alaska, Maine) as well as numerous major cities (New York City, San Francisco, Minneapolis, Fort Collins starting in 2025); and,

WHEREAS,

Non-partisan top 4 primaries (also known as “jungle” primaries) are also in the best interests of representing all voices in Colorado. The current system of closed primaries only allows registered voters of each political party to vote for their candidate; and,

WHEREAS,

Many state legislative districts are non-competitive in the general election, making the primary election the deciding factor for how the district is represented in the general assembly; and,

WHEREAS,

A plurality (48.5%) of registered voters in Colorado as of July 2024 are not affiliated with any political party; and,

WHEREAS,

The current closed primary system effectively silences most Coloradans in deciding the candidates they will vote for in the general election; and,

WHEREAS,

A shift to nonpartisan top 4 primaries (also known as a “jungle” primary) will allow the candidates that most Coloradans support to move on to the general election, regardless of party; and,

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WHEREAS,

Nonpartisan primaries are already successful in numerous other states, including Washington, California, and Alaska; and,

WHEREAS,

As the most prominent governmental voice on campus, it is the responsibility of ASCSU to promote electoral policies that result in more democratic outcomes for elections in Colorado.

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED

That the Associated Students of Colorado State University fully endorse Proposition 131 and any other efforts to establish ranked choice voting and open primaries in Colorado: and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That the executive branch of ASCSU and the Department of Governmental Affairs are strongly encouraged to promote information about Proposition 131 amongst the student body, as well as why students should vote yes; and,

THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY FURTHER RESOLVED

That a copy of this legislation be forwarded to Amy Parsons, President, Colorado State University; Tony Frank, Chancellor, CSU System; Blanche Hughes, Vice President, Student Affairs; Ben Schrader, ASCSU Advisor; Jason Huitt, ASCSU Advisor; Elisa Randazzo, ASCSU Administrative Assistant; JoAnn Cornell, Director of the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center; Duan Ruff, Director, Student Leadership Involvement and Community Engagement; Dr. Jennifer Molock, Interim Director, Black/African American Cultural Center; Nina Askew, Interim Director, Black/African American Cultural Center; Aaron Escobedo Garmon, Director, El Centro; Maggie Hendrickson, Director, Pride Resource Center; Tyrone Smith, Director of the Native American Cultural Center; Victoria Benjamin, Director, Survivor Advocacy & Feminist Education Center; Erica LaFehr, Assistant Director for Educational Programs, Survivor Advocacy & Feminist Education Center; Justin Dove, Director, Student Disability Center;

PASSAGE AND ENACTMENT OF RESOLUTION 5404
SESSION OF PASSAGE: 9th Session

Yays – Nays – Abstentions

Passed with Unanimous Consent on October 9th, 2024

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ASCSU SPEAKER OF THE SENATE HAYDEN TAYLOR

DATE

Nicholas Desalvo

10-15-24

ASCSU PRESIDENT NICK DESALVO

DATE

RESOURCES:

Use this section to place any relevant citations and/or resources used in the producing of this legislation.

https://leg.colorado.gov/sites/default/files/images/2023-2024_310vbb.pdf

<https://www.sos.state.co.us/pubs/elections/VoterRegNumbers/VoterRegNumbers.html>

Donovan, Todd, et al. "Campaign civility under preferential and plurality voting." *Electoral Studies*, vol. 42, June 2016, pp. 157–163, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2016.02.009>.

Resolution #4006: ASCSU Endorsement of Ranked Voting

THAT THIS LEGISLATION SHALL BE FORWARDED TO:

Amy Parsons, President of Colorado State University

Tony Frank, Chancellor of the Colorado State University System

Blanche Hughes, Vice President for Student Affairs of Colorado State University

Evan Welch, Talent Development Specialist, ASCSU Advisor

Lindsay Mason, Director of Off-Campus Life, ASCSU Advisor

Ben Schrader, Director of the Adult Learner and Veteran Services, ASCSU Advisor

Jason Hewitt, ASCSU Advisor

Elisa Randazzo, ASCSU Administrative Assistant

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JoAnn Cornell, Director of the Asian Pacific American Cultural Center
Duan Ruff, Director, Student Leadership Involvement and Community Engagement
Dr. Jennifer Molock, Interim Director, Black/African American Cultural Center
Nina Askew, Interim Director, Black/African American Cultural Center
Aaron Escobedo Garmon, Director of El Centro
Maggie Hendrickson, Director of the Pride Resource Center
Tyrone Smith, Director of the Native American Cultural Center
Victoria Benjamin, Director for the Survivor Advocacy & Feminist Education Center
Erica LaFehr, Assistant Director for Educational Programs for the Survivor Advocacy & Feminist Education Center
Justin Dove, Director of the Student Disability Center

ARCHIVE INFO [Parliamentarian Use Only]

INTRODUCTION DATE/SESSION:

9th session of the 54th Senate, October 9th, 2024

ARCHIVE DATE:

COMMITTEE'S REVIEWED:

Expedited

MONETARY? Y/N

N