

IN THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS STUDENT SENATE

Authors: DaNae Estabine, *Student Body President*; Christopher Raithel, *Speaker of the Students' Assembly*.

Council Assignments: Community Affairs Council and Student Rights & Affairs Council.

Date Filed: January 26, 2025.

A Bill to Adjust Election Funding for Current Revenue Shortfalls

Summary: Reduce funding given to each presidential ticket in the Student Senate Elections of spring 2025 from \$1,000 to \$500 in response to ongoing revenue shortfalls.

WHEREAS, The Student Senate is experiencing ongoing revenue shortfalls due to the overallocation of funding in the 2023–24 academic year. This has required certain reductions in the resources we offer, including Wednesday-Night Funding and others.

WHEREAS, The Student Senate allocates \$1,000 automatically to each presidential ticket in the Spring Student Senate Elections, per the constitutional provisions reproduced below. A presidential ticket is the combination of a presidential and vice-presidential candidate, who typically also lead a student coalition of senatorial candidates.

WHEREAS, This funding is intended to create an even playing field in the Student Senate Elections. In conjunction with provisions that prohibit the use of outside funding in these elections, it ensures that candidates with more personal resources do not gain an advantage by being able to spend more on campaign materials.

AND WHEREAS, However, due to the revenue shortfalls, it is necessary to make a temporary reduction in this election funding. This bill would reduce the funding for each presidential ticket to \$500 for the spring 2025 semester only. This amount would still provide candidates with resources for their campaigns, and would also reduce the Student Senate's expenditures this academic year.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED, That the Constitution of the University of Kansas is amended as follows, with insertions underlined and deletions ~~struck through~~:

TITLE SIX // THE ELECTIONS CODE

...

Article V. Student Senate Spring Elections.

...

Section 2. Regulations.

1. Candidate Registration. To become a registered candidate, a student must submit a Declaration of Candidacy Form to the Student Elections Commission through Rock Chalk Central as established in the schedule under the Elections Code.
 - a. The Declaration of Candidacy Form for a Student Body President and Student Body Vice President ticket must include the signatures of both candidates.

- b. The Declaration of Candidacy Form for the Graduate Student Body President must include the signature of the candidate.
2. Campaign Resource Closet. All candidates shall be allowed to utilize the Student Senate Campaign Resource Closet while running for a Student Senate Office. This Closet shall be located in the Student Senate Office. This closet shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Sidewalk Chalk,
 - b. Poster Board,
 - c. Markers,
 - d. Cardstock,
 - e. Buttons,
 - f. Button Maker.
 - g. Accommodation Services
 - h. Free Printing Services to print fliers for a candidate's campaign shall also be made available via the Student Senate office printer.
3. Campaign Finance. Student Body President and Student Body Vice President Candidates, together, shall be given a total of ~~\$1,000~~ \$500 for spending on campaign materials. Candidates are prohibited from utilizing outside funding or resources to participate in the Student Senate Election. A candidate who is found in violation of this regulation, will be immediately disqualified and barred from further participation in the election where this violation occurred.
 - a. An exception shall be made to allow free printing services in KU Student Housing Facilities to be utilized if it is more accessible for a student to do so.

AND BE IT ENACTED, That the provisions of this bill shall be effective only for the spring 2025 semester of the University academic calendar, and shall be reversed after this time expires.