

## STUDENT SENATE BILL 2024-1244

**TITLE:** Unbiased Ballot Act – 700 Codes Revision

**AUTHOR(S):** Senator Arturo Zárrate

### **SPONSOR(S):**

- 716.0 The Supervisor of Elections shall be responsible for instructing poll workers in the proper use and operation of voting machines and shall prepare guidelines and regulations, in accordance with the laws of the State of Florida, to be followed in the preparation, sealing, opening, and reading of such machines.
- 716.1 The Supervisor of Elections shall provide the poll workers with written instructions on how to assist students with disabilities. The instructions shall read as follows: "Students with sight, vision or physical impairments may request a companion or poll worker to read and mark their ballot. You are to help any student that requests this service."
- 716.11 The Supervisor of Elections shall ensure that all voting interfaces will be free of undue influence, including but not limited to advertisements, endorsements, and visual cues.
- 716.2 All polling locations for Student Government elections shall remain open from 8:30 A.M. to 8:30 P.M. on each designated day of the election.
- 716.21 The Supervisor of Elections shall ensure that all students who are in line at 8:30 P.M. are allowed to vote.
- 716.3 If the set of returns indicates that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by one-quarter (1/4) of a percent or less of the votes cast for such office or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or rejected by one-quarter (1/4) of a percent or less of the votes cast on such measure, the Supervisor of Elections shall order a recount of the ballots cast for that office to be conducted within twenty-hour (24) hours of the announcement of the results.
- 716.4 If the set of returns indicates that a candidate for any office was defeated or eliminated by between one-quarter (1/4) and one-half (1/2) of a percent of the votes cast for such office or that a measure appearing on the ballot was approved or rejected by between one-quarter (1/4) and one-half (1/2) of a percent of the votes cast on such measure, the political party of such candidate or the candidate may request in writing that the Supervisor of Elections and the Elections Commission conduct a recount of the ballots cast for that office, provided that such request is made by noon on the second day after the election.
- 716.5 The Supervisor of Elections shall announce at the J. Wayne Reitz Union, the election results no earlier than one (1) hour after the closing of the polls. If the J. Wayne Reitz Union is unavailable, the Elections Commission shall by two-thirds vote select a new location no later than one calendar week prior to the closing of the polls on the last day of the election in question.
- 717.1 If any statutorily mandated meeting, event, deadline, or like occurrences, not including general or Run-off elections, occurs on a religious holiday or school holiday, the Supervisor of Elections shall select another date within a reasonable time period, before the mandated date as a replacement. Any replacement date set by the Supervisor of Elections must be confirmed by a two-thirds majority of the Elections Commission.

718.1 The Supervisor of Elections shall ensure all ballots are stored until all complaints are resolved and the Student Senate validates the election.

*Proviso: This bill shall go into effect for the Fall 2024 elections.*