

**ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY
GENERAL ASSEMBLY
SIXTY-FIRST SESSION**



BILL NO. 61-81

**INTRODUCED BY: Allmand (Broad)
(Alliance)**

SECONDED BY: Higgins

CONTRIBUTORS: Harding (VPIA), Jones (VPFO)

**A BILL TO: Propose a Referendum on the Spring 2025 Election to Repeal the
Referendum from Spring 2024 to Establish a Popular Election of the ASMSU and
Student Body President**


THE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY ENACT:


WHEREAS, Bill 60-62 proposed a referendum on the Spring 2024 ASMSU General Election Ballot to establish a popular election of the ASMSU and Student Body President by Spring of 2026¹; and,

WHEREAS, Bill 61-19 established an ad-hoc committee tasked with implementing this election system², however, due to only three General Assembly Representatives having interest, this committee was unable to officially form and instead the VPIA organized biweekly discussions for the few Representatives and members of the Office of the President to begin the process of research and implementation; and,

WHEREAS, The 61st Session of the General Assembly did not vote on the approval of the initial referendum to change the electoral system, and was tasked with carrying out the ideology of members of ASMSU who have either graduated from or quit the organization; and,

WHEREAS, Low voter turnouts over the past three years do not indicate a significant level of involvement from the study body to justify that there will be a more accurate representation of student voices from a popular election rather than our current method of a parliamentary system via elected General Assembly members. Voter turnout from the past few years is as follows: Spring 2022 with 4.3% of the student

¹  60-62_Propose Referendum on the Spring 2024 Elections on SBP_ Pandya_Woodruff.pdf

²  61-19_Establish a Student Body Presidential Election Implementation Ad-Hoc Committee_Chouhan_Rodri...

population, Spring 2023 with 8% of the student population (tax voting year), and Spring 2024 with just 3% of the student population; and,

WHEREAS, During the 61 years that ASMSU has served the undergraduate student body at MSU, there has never been an ASMSU and Student Body President impeached during their term, proving that there is no circumstantial evidence or behavioral patterns that warrant the need for a new process to elect this leadership position; and,

WHEREAS, The timeline mandated by Bill 60-62 has proved to be extremely unrealistic given that changing the electoral system will result in major changes to the structure of ASMSU and the legitimacy of its leadership; and,

WHEREAS, After months of consideration and hours-long discussions, this committee has concluded that in the best interest of the student body, fair election processes, and the good of the order, ASMSU should not continue to pursue a popular student body election process; and,

WHEREAS, The ASMSU Constitution states in Article III, Section 3 that “The General Assembly shall not rescind the mandate of a referendum for one calendar year after the referendum. A referendum may be held during that year to reconsider the mandate”³, and the Spring Election this year begins on March 31st, which is over a year past the ending date of March 29th for the Spring 2024 Election cycle; therefore be it,

RESOLVED, On the Spring 2025 undergraduate elections ballot, a referendum will be placed to repeal the referendum from Spring 2024 to propose the popular election of the ASMSU and Student Body President; and let it be further,

RESOLVED, The referendum question shall be phrased as follows: “Should the Associated Students of Michigan State University repeal the referendum that requires the popular election of the ASMSU and Student Body President by the undergraduate community by Spring 2026 at the latest, and keep the parliamentary system stated in the ASMSU Manual since 1965.”

³  ASMSU Manual Rev. 10.24

Undergraduate Student Elections Ballot Language

March 31st - April 4th

Vote on the Associated Students of Michigan State University (“ASMSU”) to Repeal the Referendum Instating a Popular Election of the ASMSU and Student Body President.

ASMSU General Assembly Proposal – Repeal the Popular Election of the ASMSU and Student Body President

Explanation: During the Spring of 2024, a referendum was passed that tasked the Associated Students of Michigan State University (ASMSU) with implementing a popular election system for the role of ASMSU and Student Body President. Currently, the ASMSU General Assembly elects the president based on a parliamentary system. The General Assembly is currently composed of representatives elected by undergraduate students from all colleges, CORES/CAMS groups, and other major governing groups who vote for ASMSU and the student body president in a parliamentary system. The referendum on the Spring 2024 ASMSU Elections Ballot aimed to change that by Spring of 2026. After much internal research and work to implement a Popular Election, the committee dedicated to researching this process has deemed that there is no evidence to indicate that removing the current parliamentary system and replacing the process with a popular vote will foster greater student body involvement when electing the ASMSU and Student Body President. As previously mentioned, ASMSU General Assembly college representatives are elected popularly. The past three election cycles, engagement numbers were as follows: Spring 2022 with 4.3% of the student population, Spring 2023 with 8% of the student population (tax voting year), and Spring 2024 with just 3% of the student population.

Additionally, the advocates for the referendum’s passage in 2024 have since graduated or left the organization. Each member of the 2024-2025 61st Session committee dedicated to researching and this new procedure has unanimously agreed in favor of stopping any further implementation of this process moving forward.

In 61 years of serving the undergraduate student body at Michigan State University, ASMSU has never had an elected ASMSU and Student Body President be impeached during their term of service. Therefore, there is no circumstantial evidence or behavioral patterns that warrants the need for a new process to elect this leadership position.

The ASMSU Constitution states in Article III, Section 3 that “The General Assembly shall not rescind the mandate of a referendum for one calendar year after the referendum. A referendum

may be held during that year to reconsider the mandate”⁴, and the Spring Election this year begins on March 31st, which is over a year past the ending date of March 29th for the Spring 2024 Election cycle.

Voting 'yes' means you support repealing the referendum from Spring 2024 and continuing to allow ASMSU to elect its president via a parliamentary system.

If you vote 'no,' you support maintaining the referendum of Spring 2024, which will force ASMSU to implement structural changes that may affect the legitimacy of the organization and its leadership. Furthermore, these electoral changes will be implemented in a rushed manner seeing as this referendum mandates the popular election be established by 2026, which is not a sufficient time frame given the magnitude of what the referendum calls for.

Proposition: Should the Associated Students of Michigan State University repeal the referendum that requires the popular election of the ASMSU and Student Body President by the undergraduate community by Spring 2026 at the latest, and keep the parliamentary system stated in the ASMSU Manual since 1965.

INTRODUCED ON _____ 02.20.2025 _____

REFERRED TO Policy COMMITTEE ON 02.06.2025

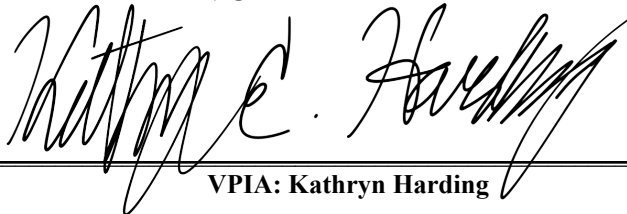
SPECIAL ACTION TAKEN _____ DATE _____

COMMITTEE ACTION	<u>X</u>		<u>13-0-0</u>	<u>02.06.2025</u>
	PASSED	FAILED	VOTE	DATE

FINAL ACTION TAKEN	<u>X</u>		<u>27-04</u>	<u>02.20.2025</u>
	PASSED	FAILED	VOTE	DATE



PRESIDENT: Connor Le



VPIA: Kathryn Harding

⁴  ASMSU Manual Rev. 10.24