



Regarding the Preferential Voting Plebiscite Question

Whereas, the Students' Society of McGill University and the Legislative Council of the Society constantly seeks to improve the function of the Society, particularly the way by which its Members can participate in the democratic process;

Whereas, the Simple Plurality or First-Past-The-Post system currently employed in the elections of the Society is often criticized as not being the most representative way of voting as it can lead to successful candidates who were not the preferred candidate for a majority on campus in multi-candidate elections;

Whereas, Elections SSMU has undertaken research projects over the past several years to determine the practices of other universities and to receive feedback from the SSMU electorate regarding its own democratic practices;

Whereas, Partial Preferential Ballot Voting, where candidates are ranked in order of preference on the ballot by each elector and successful candidates must have greater than fifty percent (50%) of the vote, has been proposed as both a more representative and logistically sound way of conducting elections;

Whereas, the details of Partial Preferential Ballot Voting may be found on the Elections SSMU website at www.ssmu.mcgill.ca/elections and the Chief Electoral Officer shall be available for questions regarding this voting system;

Whereas, over 50 colleges and universities in Canada and the United States uses Preferential Ballot Voting;

Whereas, a switch to a Partial Preferential Ballot Voting System would not incur any financial costs to the Society;

Whereas, while a switch to Partial Preferential Ballot Voting would be adopted by Council as a By-law change, changing the manner by which a society conducts its voting system is of the highest significance and thus the opinions and feedback of students must be solicited;

Whereas, opinions, debate and, feedback for this voting system has and/or will be solicited at the Bylaw Review Committee, the General Assembly, this plebiscite question, and at the Legislative Council;

Be it resolved, that the following question be added to the 2014 Second Fall Referendum ballot as a non-binding plebiscite question:

“Would you support a switch from a Simply Plurality (First-Past-the-Post) Voting System to a Partial Preferential Ballot Voting System?”

Signed,

President Ayukawa

VP Stewart-Kanigan (University Affairs)



Students' Society of McGill University
Association étudiante de l'Université McGill

Office of the Speaker
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VP Moustaqim-Barrette (External)

VP Bradley (Finance & Operations)

VP Fong (Clubs & Services)

APPROVED