# 2025 ASUO SPECIAL ELECTION VOTER GUIDE

## PURPOSE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

In January 2025, the Associated Students of the University of Oregon (ASUO) will conduct an off-cycle special election designed to provide an opportunity for the consideration of ballot proposals, referendums, and amendments to the ASUO Constitution which demonstrate an urgency requiring they be passed prior to the end of Winter Term 2025. The purpose and scope of the Special Election are outlined in a resolution adopted by the ASUO Student Senate on October 30, 2024. For a copy of this resolution, visit the Elections Website.

## WHO MAY VOTE AND WHEN?

Every member of ASUO is eligible to vote in the election, which is conducted electronically and is coordinated by a group of students called the ASUO Elections Board. The special election polls will open at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 22, and close at 12:00 p.m. on Friday, January 24.

*Scan QR Code to Vote in the Special Election! Alternately, visit:*
*https://uoregon.campuslabs.com/engage/submitter/election/start/665787*

## WHAT QUESTIONS ARE ON THE SPECIAL ELECTION BALLOT?

There are two questions for ASUO Member consideration on the 2025 Special Election Ballot. A summary is in the below table and the precise language of each measure follows below.

| **Question 1**<br>**ASUO Elections Reform Package** | **Question 2**<br>**Senate Academic Committee and Seat Names** |
|---|---|
| Should the ASUO Constitution be amended to:<br>1. Establish a standardized timeline for Spring Term Elections;<br>2. Adopt ranked-choice voting, eliminating the need for a run-off election;<br>3. Add a non-voting member to the Elections Board and standardize key election procedures?<br>☐ YES<br>☐ NO | Should the ASUO Constitution be amended to:<br>1. Establish permanent position titles and seat numbers for the thirteen Academic Senate positions;<br>2. Eliminate Senate Seat 24 (First-Year Representative) and modify Seat 21 to include first-year and exploring majors;<br>3. Formally establish the Senate Academic Committee and codify its bylaws?<br>☐ YES<br>☐ NO |

## WHERE WILL THE RESULTS BE PUBLISHED?

The results of the Special Election will be posted and available on the Elections Website by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 24. View the Elections Website: https://asuo.uoregon.edu/elections.

# QUESTION 1: ASUO ELECTIONS REFORM PACKAGE

## Summary/Background

This proposed amendment refines election timing, streamlines processes, and introduces Ranked Choice Voting.

If adopted:

Regular ASUO elections will take place during the second week of Spring Term, from Monday at 9:00 AM to Friday at 12:00 PM PST. Filing periods for candidates and ballot measures will measure at least five weeks, with election rules published at least one week before filing begins.

The timeline for appointing the Elections Board Chair will change, with the ASUO President-Elect making the appointment immediately after their election. A one-week transition period in May will occur before the Chair enters recess until 15 weeks before the next election unless recalled earlier. The Chair may also appoint an optional non-voting member to oversee election advertising.

Campaigning guidelines will be updated to allow student organizations to invite candidates to events, with specific rules for I-Fee-funded events. The Elections Board will provide in-person voting options, randomize the order of candidates on the ballot, and allow candidates to affiliate with campaigns.

The amendment also introduces Ranked Choice Voting for Executive and Senate elections. Under this system, candidates must receive over 50% of votes to win. If no candidate meets this threshold, votes from the lowest-ranking candidates will be redistributed based on voter preferences until a winner is determined.

## Question

Should the ASUO Constitution be amended to:

1. Establish a standardized timeline for Spring Term Elections;
2. Adopt ranked-choice voting, eliminating the need for a run-off election;
3. Add a non-voting member to the Elections Board and standardize key election procedures?

- ☐ YES
- ☐ NO

**A YES vote would amend the ASUO Constitution, as follows:**

12.2 ~~The regular ASUO election shall be held no earlier than February 1st and no later than April 30th of each year.~~ The Elections Board shall adhere to these dates:

a) The regular ASUO Election shall be held week two of Spring Term, with voting opening at 9:00AM PST Monday and ending at 12:00PM PST Friday. The Elections Board shall endeavor to post results by 5:00PM PST the final day of the Election.

b) The filing period for Ballot Measures, Candidates and Campaigns shall be no less than 5 weeks in length.

c) The Elections Board shall promulgate the Election Rules and procedures at least a week prior to the start of the aforementioned filing periods.

12.5 ~~The ASUO President shall appoint an ASUO Elections Board Chair at least eleven (11) weeks prior to the ASUO Elections each year. The ASUO Elections Board Chair shall appoint four (4) members to the ASUO Elections Board at least seven (7) weeks before the ASUO Elections each year. The Chair and Board are subject to confirmation by a majority of the ASUO Student Senate.~~

The ASUO President-Elect shall appoint the ASUO Elections Board Chair following their election. This appointment shall include an overlapping transition period of no less than one week with the outgoing Elections Board Chair in the month of May. Following the transition period, the newly appointed Chair shall enter a recess until fifteen (15)

weeks prior to the first election of the following academic year unless requested to return earlier by the ASUO President or the ASUO Student Senate.

At least twelve (12) weeks prior to the first election of the following academic year, the ASUO Elections Board Chair shall appoint four (4) voting members to the ASUO Elections Board. The Chair shall have the option to appoint one (1) additional non-voting member to the ASUO Elections Board to specifically oversee election advertising. The Chair and all appointed members are subject to confirmation by a majority of the ASUO Student Senate.

The ASUO Elections Board shall be responsible for promulgation of Election Rules ~~election rules~~ and procedures ~~at least five (5) weeks prior to the ASUO Elections~~, and for the overall direction of the elections. In these rules, the Elections Board shall allow ASUO-recognized Student Organizations to: 1. Extend offers to candidates or campaigns to campaign at events where I-fee funds have not been spent for the event; or 2. Extend offers to *all* candidates and campaigns to campaign at events where I-fee funds have been spent. For the procedures, the Elections Board shall offer an in-person voting option for all Elections, shall randomize the order of candidates on the ballot, and allow candidates to affiliate with a campaign on the ballot. The ASUO Elections Board shall interpret the Election Rules on request and shall have the authority to hear complaints of violations. The ASUO Elections Board shall rule within forty-eight (48) hours of having received such complaint or request for interpretation. The ASUO Elections Board shall have the authority to act as hearings officers and form a Hearings Committee that must include but is not limited to three (3) ASUO Elections Board members. All rule interpretations and Hearings Committee decisions may be appealed to the ASUO Constitution Court. All ASUO Elections Board members shall be required to be neutral in all ASUO Elections that occur during their time on the Board. Members of the Elections Board shall not campaign for or against any Ballot Measure, Candidate, or Campaign.

12.8 ~~A majority of votes cast in the ASUO Executive election shall be necessary to elect. If no candidate receives a majority, a run-off election shall be held within one (1) week between the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes.~~ The ASUO Executive election shall be conducted using a system of Ranked Choice Voting. Voters will rank candidates in order of preference. If a candidate receives more than 50% of the first-choice votes, they shall be elected. If no candidate achieves this threshold, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated, and their votes are redistributed to the remaining candidates based on the next-ranked preference on each ballot. This process shall continue until a candidate achieves a majority of the first-choice votes among the remaining candidates or only one candidate remains. The ASUO Elections Board shall establish and publicize detailed rules and procedures for Ranked Choice Voting, subject to review by the ASUO Constitution Court.

12.10 Candidates for ASUO Student Senate shall run for numbered seats as defined in Section 6. Academic Senators will hold seats eleven (11) through twenty-three (23) which will be based on proportional academic constituencies. The ASUO Constitution Court shall review these constituencies every two (2) years and rearrange them if necessary to ensure reasonably equal representation. A disparity of fifteen percent (15%) or less from the ideal size shall be deemed reasonably equal. If the total number of graduate students fits within the calculation above, there shall be as many graduate seats as the numbers permit. In the interest of keeping certain majors together, the ASUO Constitution Court may create constituencies of enough students for multiple seats and make multiple identical seats to represent those constituencies. However, each individual student may only vote in one (1) Academic ASUO Student Senate race per election. ~~A majority of votes cast in the ASUO Student Senate elections shall be necessary to elect. If no candidate receives a majority, a run-off election shall be held between the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes for that particular numbered position.~~ Elections for ASUO Student Senate seats and Finance Committee at large seats shall be conducted using a system of Ranked Choice Voting. Voters will rank candidates for a given seat in order of preference. If a candidate receives more than 50% of the first-choice votes, they shall be elected. If no candidate achieves this threshold, the candidate with the fewest first-choice votes is eliminated, and their votes are redistributed to the remaining candidates based on the next-ranked preference on each ballot. This process shall continue until a candidate achieves a majority of the

first-choice votes among the remaining candidates or only one candidate remains. The ASUO Elections Board shall establish and publicize detailed rules and procedures for Ranked Choice Voting, subject to review by the ASUO Constitution Court.

**A NO vote would retain the current language of the ASUO Constitution, as follows:**

12.2 The regular ASUO election shall be held no earlier than February 1st and no later than April 30th of each year.

12.5 The ASUO President shall appoint an ASUO Elections Board Chair at least eleven (11) weeks prior to the ASUO Elections each year. The ASUO Elections Board Chair shall appoint four (4) members to the ASUO Elections Board at least seven (7) weeks before the ASUO Elections each year. The Chair and Board are subject to confirmation by a majority of the ASUO Student Senate. The ASUO Elections Board shall be responsible for promulgation of election rules and procedures at least five (5) weeks prior to the ASUO Elections, and for the overall direction of the elections. The ASUO Elections Board shall interpret the Election Rules on request and shall have the authority to hear complaints of violations. The ASUO Elections Board shall rule within forty-eight (48) hours of having received such complaint or request for interpretation. The ASUO Elections Board shall have the authority to act as hearings officers and form a Hearings Committee that must include but is not limited to three (3) ASUO Elections Board members. All rule interpretations and Hearings Committee decisions may be appealed to the ASUO Constitution Court. All ASUO Elections Board members shall be required to be neutral in all ASUO Elections that occur during their time on the Board.

12.8 A majority of votes cast in the ASUO Executive election shall be necessary to elect. If no candidate receives a majority, a run-off election shall be held within one (1) week between the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes.

12.10 Candidates for ASUO Student Senate shall run for numbered seats as defined in Section 6. Academic Senators will hold seats eleven (11) through twenty-three (23) which will be based on proportional academic constituencies. The ASUO Constitution Court shall review these constituencies every two (2) years and rearrange them if necessary to ensure reasonably equal representation. A disparity of fifteen percent (15%) or less from the ideal size shall be deemed reasonably equal. If the total number of graduate students fits within the calculation above, there shall be as many graduate seats as the numbers permit. In the interest of keeping certain majors together, the ASUO Constitution Court may create constituencies of enough students for multiple seats and make multiple identical seats to represent those constituencies. However, each individual student may only vote in one (1) Academic ASUO Student Senate race per election. A majority of votes cast in the ASUO Student Senate elections shall be necessary to elect. If no candidate receives a majority, a run-off election shall be held between the two (2) candidates receiving the highest number of votes for that particular numbered position.

# QUESTION 2: SENATE ACADEMIC COMMITTEE AND SEAT NAMES

## Summary/Background

The proposed amendment to the ASUO Constitution updates the structure of the ASUO Student Senate seats and codifies bylaws for the Senate Academic Committee. The revisions involve renaming and restructuring certain academic and constituency-based seats, such as replacing "Academic Senator" positions with titles like "Arts and Science Undergraduate," "Design, Music, and Dance Undergraduate," and "Business Undergraduate," among others. The amendment also eliminates Senate Seat 24 (first-year senator) and modifies the title for seat 21 to include first-year and exploring majors.

If adopted, the Senate Academic Committee bylaws would also be codified.

## Question

Should the ASUO Constitution be amended to:

1. Establish permanent position titles and seat numbers for the thirteen Academic Senate positions;
2. Eliminate Senate Seat 24 (First-Year Representative) and modify Seat 21 to include first-year and exploring majors;
3. Formally establish the Senate Academic Committee and codify its bylaws?

☐ YES

☐ NO

**A YES vote would formally establish the Senate Academic Committee, adopt its bylaws, and amend the ASUO Constitution, as follows:**

6.1.1 The twenty-four (24) ASUO Student Senate Seats shall be numbered and elected as follows:

Senate Seat 01 Programs Finance Committee Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 02 Programs Finance Committee Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 03 Programs Finance Committee One-Year Position Elected Annually
Senate Seat 04 Programs Finance Committee One-Year Position Elected Annually
Senate Seat 05 Contracts Finance Committee Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 06 Contracts Finance Committee Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 07 Contracts Finance Committee One-Year Position Elected Annually
Senate Seat 08 Departments Finance Committee Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 09 Departments Finance Committee Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 10 Departments Finance Committee One-Year Position Elected Annually
Senate Seat 11 ~~Academic Senator~~ Arts and Science Undergraduate 1 Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 12 ~~Academic Senator~~ Arts and Science Undergraduate 2 Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 13 ~~Academic Senator~~ Arts and Science Undergraduate 3 Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 14 ~~Academic Senator~~ Arts and Science Undergraduate 4 Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 15 ~~Academic Senator~~ Arts and Science Undergraduate 5 Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 16 ~~Academic Senator~~ Design, Music, and Dance Undergraduate Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 17 ~~Academic Senator~~ Education and Arts and Science Undergraduate Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 18 ~~Academic Senator~~ Journalism Undergraduate Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 19 ~~Academic Senator~~ Business Undergraduate 1 Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 20 ~~Academic Senator~~ Business Undergraduate 2 Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 21 ~~Academic Senator~~ First Year and Exploring Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 22 ~~Academic Senator~~ Graduate 1 Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 23 ~~Academic Senator~~ Graduate 2 Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
~~Senate Seat 24 First-Year Senator One-Year Position Elected Annually~~

**A NO vote would not formally establish the Senate Academic Committee or adopt its bylaws, and would retain the current language of the ASUO Constitution, as follows:**

6.1.1 The twenty-four (24) ASUO Student Senate Seats shall be numbered and elected as follows:

Senate Seat 01 Programs Finance Committee Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 02 Programs Finance Committee Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 03 Programs Finance Committee One-Year Position Elected Annually
Senate Seat 04 Programs Finance Committee One-Year Position Elected Annually
Senate Seat 05 Contracts Finance Committee Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 06 Contracts Finance Committee Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 07 Contracts Finance Committee One-Year Position Elected Annually
Senate Seat 08 Departments Finance Committee Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 09 Departments Finance Committee Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 10 Departments Finance Committee One-Year Position Elected Annually
Senate Seat 11 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 12 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 13 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 14 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 15 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 16 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 17 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 18 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 19 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 20 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 21 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 22 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Even-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 23 Academic Senator Two-Year Position Elected in Odd-Numbered Years
Senate Seat 24 First-Year Senator One-Year Position Elected Annually