

An Emergency Resolution to Take Accountability and Enhance Transparency in USG's Democratic Processes

Mykenna Roy (for herself, Lily Evans, and Keyanah Peters) introduced the following resolution to the floor where it passed/failed.

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Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government represents all undergraduate students at The Ohio State University; and [\[1\]](#)

Whereas the Undergraduate Student Government (USG) has a duty to preserve and promote the voices of the student body that elected them; and [\[1\]](#)

Whereas the USG ballot initiative titled "Urging OSU To Divest from Companies Profiting from Human Rights Violations," also known as Issue 29, was removed from the ballot twice despite significant student support and receiving 1,247 signatures for inclusion; and [\[2\]](#)

Whereas the Judicial Panel invalidated 415 digital signatures due to bylaw infractions, leading to the initiative's initial removal from the ballot; and [\[2\]](#) [\[3\]](#)

Whereas upon appeal, the Judicial Panel reversed its decision, citing "procedural ambiguities and inconsistency in the interpretation of the bylaws regarding digital petitioning;" and [\[3\]](#)

Whereas after being placed on the 2024 election ballot, Issue 29 was removed 12 hours into voting, following a directive from Ohio State University Administration pending a special hearing; and [\[3\]](#)

Whereas the Ohio Attorney General advised to remove Issue 29 based on Ohio Revised Code 9.76 which prohibits divestment policies targeting specific countries; and [\[4\]](#) [\[7\]](#)

Whereas allegations of mishandling the election process undermine the trust in the Undergraduate Student Government's ability to represent student interests; and [\[6\]](#)

Whereas the need for accountability and clarity in the actions of the Judicial Panel is paramount to maintaining the confidence of the student body; and [\[6\]](#)

Whereas there is a need to balance the concerns of all students and adhere to state laws and university bylaws; and [\[8\]](#)

Therefore, Let it Be Resolved that the Ohio State University's Undergraduate Student Government (USG) acknowledges the complex situation surrounding Issue 29, including its initial placement and subsequent removal from the ballot; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that USG recognizes the student body's need for transparency and clarity regarding Issue 29's removal and commits to providing such transparency in future actions, potentially through weekly updates posted to the website of each branch of USG; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that USG respects the legal guidance provided by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost concerning divestment policy constraints and commits to operating within these legal frameworks; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that USG reaffirms its dedication to democratic principles and equitable consideration of all student voices in university governance; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that USG's Judicial Panel and Strategic Communications team will collaborate to ensure transparency in its processes, providing clear justifications for the removal of any ballot issues, in line with democratic values; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that USG's General Assembly, Executive Branch, including Senior Staff, and the Judicial Panel commits to a review and update of bylaws to ensure procedural clarity and fairness in student-led initiatives; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that USG's Cabinet Issues Committees and General Assembly Committees including (but not limited to) Community Relations, Government Relations, Internal Operations, Justice & Equity, and Student Affairs will organize educational forums to facilitate student discussions on university governance and the intricacies of state law; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that USG supports legislative awareness and encourages civic participation within legal parameters at all governmental levels, and will ensure to promote this through social media and website updates; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that USG's Strategic Communications team commits to a continuous dialogue with the Ohio State administration to safeguard the integrity of student governance; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that USG’s Strategic Communications team will prioritize social media and website updates about USG actions to further connect with the student body and increase its transparency.

Let it Further Be Resolved that USG’s Executive Branch and General Assembly will collaborate with USG’s Judicial Panel to thoroughly examine the events leading to the removal of Issue 29, aiming to restore trust in its ability to represent student interests as well as in the electoral process to prevent similar occurrences in the future, and

Let it Further Be Resolved that USG takes accountability for the actions leading to the removal of Issue 29 and commits to ensuring that all student voices are heard and considered in university governance; and

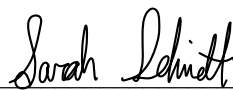
Let it Further Be Resolved that USG acknowledges the limitations within its governing capacity to address certain issues and recognizes the importance of encouraging advocacy at the state house; and

Let it Further Be Resolved that USG’s Judicial Panel and issues committees within the Executive Branch and the General Assembly are committed to empowering students by providing resources and educational opportunities to develop advocacy skills applicable at local, state, and federal levels, promoting informed and active citizenship.

Let it Finally Be Resolved that USG believes in the power of advocacy and peaceful resistance as means to effect change within a community or institution.

Floor Vote: Aye: 20 Nay: 1 Abstain: 5 Present: 26

Bobby McAlpine
President



Sarah Schmidt
Speaker of the 56th General Assembly

Date Adopted: March 27th, 2024

Date Terminated: _____

1. [Accomplishments - Undergraduate Student Government](#)
2. [OSU Divest's Initiative removed from USG ballot ... - The Lantern](#)
3. [University pauses vote on USG divestment ballot initiative](#)
4. [Ohio attorney general advised university to officially remove USG ...](#)
5. <https://www.thelantern.com/2024/03/usg-cabinet-meeting-interrupted-by-pro-palestine-protesters-demanding-issue-29-be-put-back-on-the-ballot/>
6. [Over 65 Ohio State students speak at USG meeting regarding ...](#)
7. <https://www.supremecourt.ohio.gov/rod/docs/pdf/10/2022/2022-Ohio-4101.pdf>
8. <https://www.thelantern.com/2022/04/usg-passes-resolution-asking-ohio-state-to-divest-from-2-companies-doing-business-in-israel/>