

Lawrence Committee Proposed Constitutional Amendments

March 2023

Amendment 3: Online voting (Article IV)

| Current | Proposed amendment |
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| <p>Section 1: Eligibility Any resident may vote in the elections. Any resident may run for any office, subject to any constraints in the description of the position he or she is running for in Article III. No resident may run for more than one office simultaneously. It will be the duty of the current Lawrence Committee to notify residents of the upcoming election at least a month in advance. That notification shall also include a deadline for residents to declare their candidacy, which may be any time in the week before the election.</p> | <p>Section 1: Eligibility Any resident may vote in the elections. Any resident may run for any office, subject to any constraints in the description of the position they are running for in Article III. No resident may run for more than one office simultaneously. It will be the duty of the current Lawrence Committee to notify residents of the upcoming election at least a month in advance. That notification shall also include a deadline for residents to declare their candidacy, which must be at least one day prior to the opening of online elections outlined in Section 3.</p> |
| <p>Section 3: Election Meeting The election meeting shall be a regular meeting of the Lawrence Committee in the month of November. The Committee must notify all Lawrence Residents of the time and location of the Election Meeting at least one week in advance. Candidates or their proxies shall be given an opportunity to speak to the eligible voters, and communicate in any other manner deemed appropriate by the chair of the Election Committee, before the vote.</p> | <p>Section 3: Election Format and Meeting Elections will take an online format and results will be overseen by the Committee’s representative from the Graduate School. Voting is to take place online over a period of approximately 1.5 weeks, and will close at 11:59 PM the night before the November Lawrence Committee meeting. Results of the election will be announced at this Committee meeting, henceforth referred to as the “election meeting.”</p> |
| <p>Section 4: Balloting The Election Committee chair shall open balloting following the addresses by candidates. Balloting shall be according to a preferential voting system. The election chair shall explain the exact mechanism before the balloting begins. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot. The Election Committee shall make provisions for residents not at the meeting to cast absentee ballots.</p> | <p>Section 4: Statements and Timing Up until one day prior to the start of voting, candidates will have the chance to compose a written statement explaining their qualifications and goals for the Committee position they are running for. Once the deadline for statement submission closes, the election committee will send out an email to candidates with the names, roles, and statements of all other candidates on the</p> |

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| | <p>morning before the election begins. Candidates will then have until 11:59 PM of that day to switch the roles they would like to run for or change statements. These changes will be overseen by the election committee. The election will begin the following day.</p> |
| <p>Section 5: Counting Votes are to be counted in public by the Election Committee. All ballots cast in an election shall be kept in a secure location by the Election Committee for no fewer than ten (10) days and until all appeals and recounts have concluded. The Election Committee chair shall announce the results of the election to the current committee and all candidates once he or she has finished tabulating the ballots. In the event of a tie at the conclusion of preferential voting, there will be a run-off election between the tied candidates.</p> | <p>Section 5: Balloting and Counting Balloting shall be according to a preferential voting system. The election chair shall explain the exact mechanism before the balloting begins. Elections shall be conducted by secret ballot on an online form. All votes will be verified against records in the Housing Office to ensure votes are only cast by actual Lawrence residents. For reasons of security and accuracy with voting, students' NetID may be recorded. Only the graduate school representative will be able to observe these NetIDs. The Graduate School representative will also be in charge of tabulating and presenting the results of the election.</p> |
| <p>Section 7: Taking of Office Assuming there is no successful contestation, the elected candidates take office at the following regular Lawrence Committee meeting after the Election Committee chair announces the results.</p> | <p>Section 7: Taking of Office Assuming there is no successful contestation, the elected candidates take office at the beginning of the first Lawrence committee following the election meeting. Members of the previous committee are responsible for ensuring a smooth transition of power to the new committee.</p> |
| <p>Article VI Section 1: Regular Amendments Any amendment of this constitution may be proposed at any meeting of the Committee by petition of either a) three (3) Committee members or b) twenty (20) residents. It must be presented in writing and in the exact wording in which it is to be incorporated. The Committee shall then organize a vote in accordance with the procedures in Article IV (including advance notification for discussion of the proposed amendment). If the amendment is proposed by Committee members, a two-thirds affirmative majority of</p> | <p>Article VI Section 1: Regular Amendments Any amendment of this constitution may be proposed at any meeting of the Committee by petition of either a) three (3) Committee members or b) twenty (20) residents. The Committee shall then organize a vote to be taken at the following Town Hall meeting and shall notify residents of the proposed amendment at least one week prior to said Town Hall. If the amendment is proposed by Committee members, a two-thirds affirmative majority of residents at the meeting is required for passage. If the amendment is proposed by</p> |

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| <p>residents at the meeting is required for passage. If the amendment is proposed by residents, there must be a quorum of 20 percent of all current residents, and the amendment must pass by two-thirds affirmative majority of the voters.</p> | <p>residents, an online vote will be taken in accordance with the procedures outlined in Article IV. At least 90 residents must participate in the vote and the amendment must pass by two-thirds affirmative majority of the voters.</p> |
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Amendment 4: Impeachment

| Current | Proposed amendment |
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| N/A | <p>Article VII. IMPEACHMENT.</p> <p>Section 1: Impeachment Process During a public meeting, any Committee member may make a motion to impeach another Committee member who has committed one or more impeachable offenses, outlined in Article VII, Section 2. If the motion is seconded, a vote will be taken during the following Town Hall meeting. During said Town Hall, each Committee member will cast a vote for or against impeachment. If at least 6 Committee members vote affirmatively for impeachment, the motion will pass and the impeached member shall be removed from the Committee at the end of the meeting. The vacant position shall be filled according to the procedures outlined in Article IV. A person who has been impeached from the Committee cannot run for a Committee position at any point in the future.</p> <p>Section 2: Impeachable offenses If a Committee member engages in one or more of the following actions, they are susceptible to impeachment: (a) displaying gross negligence in fulfilling their duties as outlined in Article III and creating undue burden for other Committee members; (b) targeting or harassing another Committee member, thereby creating a hostile or unsafe working environment; (c) behaving unethically in their capacity as a Committee member and negatively impacting the Lawrence community, such as mishandling funds.</p> |
| <p>Article III Section 1: Eligibility Any resident may vote in the elections. Any resident may run for any office, subject to any constraints in the description of the position he or she is running for in</p> | <p>Article III Section 1: Eligibility Any resident may vote in the elections. Any resident may run for any office, unless they have previously been impeached by the Lawrence Committee or do not satisfy the constraints in the description of the position outlined in Article III. No resident may run for more than one office simultaneously. It will be the</p> |

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| <p>Article III. No resident may run for more than one office simultaneously. It will be the duty of the current Lawrence Committee to notify residents of the upcoming election at least a month in advance. That notification shall also include a deadline for residents to declare their candidacy, which may be any time in the week before the election.</p> | <p>duty of the current Lawrence Committee to notify residents of the upcoming election at least a month in advance. That notification shall also include a deadline for residents to declare their candidacy, which may be any time in the week before the election.</p> |
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Amendment 5: Miscellaneous

I. Remove gendered language

| Current | Proposed amendment |
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| <p>ARTICLE I. NAME AND AUTHORITY Section 4: Definitions In this Constitution, a 'resident' is defined as an adult who lives in the Lawrence Apartments and is known to the Housing Office of the University as a tenant of the apartment in Lawrence where he or she lives. A 'member of the Committee' is a person holding an elected office described in the Constitution. The 'Committee' is all members of the Committee acting in concert under Article I, Section 3 and other areas of this Constitution.</p> | <p>ARTICLE I. NAME AND AUTHORITY Section 4: Definitions In this Constitution, a 'resident' is defined as an adult who lives in the Lawrence Apartments and is known to the Housing Office of the University as a tenant of the apartment in Lawrence where they live. A 'member of the Committee' is a person holding an elected office described in the Constitution. The 'Committee' is all members of the Committee acting in concert under Article I, Section 3 and other areas of this Constitution.</p> |
| <p>ARTICLE III. COMMITTEE MEMBERS Section 2: Terms of Office All Committee members take office once their election is certified, and serve until the election meeting as described in Article IV, Section 3. All Committee members are required to attend monthly meetings and assist in Committee events. In the event that a Committee member terminates his or her residence in Lawrence Apartments, he or she is removed from the Committee and the office is considered vacant, to be filled as described in Article IV.</p> | <p>ARTICLE III. COMMITTEE MEMBERS Section 2: Terms of Office All Committee members take office once their election is certified, and serve until the election meeting as described in Article IV, Section 3. All Committee members are required to attend monthly meetings and assist in Committee events. In the event that a Committee member terminates their residence in Lawrence Apartments, they will be removed from the Committee and the office is considered vacant, to be filled as described in Article IV.</p> |

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| <p>ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS Section 1: Eligibility Any resident may vote in the elections. Any resident may run for any office, subject to any constraints in the description of the position he or she is running for in Article III. No resident may run for more than one office simultaneously. It will be the duty of the current Lawrence Committee to notify residents of the upcoming election at least a month in advance. That notification shall also include a deadline for residents to declare their candidacy, which may be any time in the week before the election.</p> | <p>ARTICLE IV. ELECTIONS Section 1: Eligibility Any resident may vote in the elections. Any resident may run for any office, subject to any constraints in the description of the position they are running for in Article III. No resident may run for more than one office simultaneously. It will be the duty of the current Lawrence Committee to notify residents of the upcoming election at least a month in advance. That notification shall also include a deadline for residents to declare their candidacy, which may be any time in the week before the election.</p> |
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II. Rename to Town Hall

| Current | Proposed amendment |
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| <p>Article II Section 1: Regular Meetings Regular meetings of the Committee shall be held monthly during the academic year at a time and place that is fixed by the Committee. The Committee shall notify residents of the date, time, and place of each regular meeting at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance. If a majority of the members wish to cancel a meeting, they may do so by filing a written request with the President.</p> | <p>Article II Section 1: Regular Meetings Regular “Town Hall” meetings of the Committee shall be held monthly during the academic year at a time and place that is fixed by the Committee. The Committee shall notify residents of the date, time, and place of each regular meeting at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance. If a majority of the members wish to cancel a meeting, they may do so by filing a written request with the President.</p> |
| <p>Article II Section 3: Participation All residents are entitled to attend all meetings, make motions, raise parliamentary questions, and participate in discussion. A portion of a meeting may be closed to all except members of the Committee or their proxies by a two-thirds vote of the Committee. No business may be transacted or votes taken in a closed session; only discussion may occur.</p> | <p>Article II Section 3: Participation All residents are entitled to attend all Town Hall meetings, make motions, raise parliamentary questions, and participate in discussion. A portion of a meeting may be closed to all except members of the Committee or their proxies by a two-thirds vote of the Committee. No business may be transacted or votes taken in a closed session; only discussion may occur.</p> |

III. Add a line of succession

| Current | Proposed amendment |
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| N/A | Article II Section 12: Line of Succession In the event the President of the Lawrence Committee is unable to attend a meeting, the Secretary shall perform the duties of the president in their absence. In the event the Secretary is unable to do so, the Grants Manager will perform the duties of the president in their absence. |