

PURPOSE: For students to be able to spend thirty-five dollars rather than twenty-five dollars when campaigning for SGA elections.

INTRODUCED BY: Ruth Albright

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MISSISSIPPI SCHOOL FOR MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE

SECTION ONE (REASONING):

Raising the spending limit for Student Government Association (SGA) elections from \$25 to \$35 is a necessary response to the increasing cost of materials due to inflation. Over the years, the value of \$25 has declined, making it challenging for candidates to afford campaign supplies like candy, ingredients for baked goods, etc. without exceeding the limit. These items are often used to engage with voters and make campaigns more personable, but their prices have risen, even with careful budgeting. Adjusting the limit to \$35 allows candidates to focus on creative and meaningful ways to connect with their peers rather than worrying about stretching an outdated budget.

Concerns about fairness are understandable but can be mitigated by emphasizing that SGA elections are not won by the amount of money spent but by the quality of the candidate and their ability to connect with voters. Campaigns are evaluated on ideas, leadership, and dedication, not the scale of giveaways or elaborate presentations. A modest increase to \$35 ensures that all candidates, regardless of financial background, have enough flexibility to run accessible and engaging campaigns while keeping the focus on their qualifications. This change aligns with current economic realities and maintains fairness by ensuring that financial disclosures and regulations remain in place.

SECTION TWO (SPECIFIC CHANGE):

Student Government Association Constitution Page 5

Section 3: Campaigning

All MSMS officer elections shall be subject to the following rules concerning campaigning

- 1) Candidates for SGA Office and Class Office are limited to ~~twenty-five~~ thirty-five dollars of expenditure for their campaign. These funds shall not be provided by the SGA.
- 2) In all MSMS SGA elections, the SGA prohibits the removal or defacement of any campaign materials by any person other than the candidate who appears on the material. If repeated occurrences of removal occur, the SGA shall call upon the Director for Student Affairs.