WHEREAS, low voter turnout in Student Association (hereafter SA) elections has been a consistent problem for many years.

WHEREAS, SA candidates in prior years have won their respective elections with less than majority support of student voters.

WHEREAS, elected officials are perceived as less legitimate when they ascend to their positions with only plurality support of a low number of voters.

WHEREAS, the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee (hereafter UWM) prides itself on being the most diverse campus in the state of Wisconsin.

WHEREAS, ranked-choice voting (hereafter RCV) is a method of casting and tabulating votes in which voters may rank candidates in order of preference (Artifacts I and II).

WHEREAS, RCV can be adopted and implemented easily for both single-seat and multi-seat elections (Artifacts III and IV).

WHEREAS, RCV ensures that a candidate wins an election with majority support (Artifacts V and VI).

WHEREAS, RCV has been shown to raise previously low levels of voter turnout and promote greater diversity among elected candidates (Artifacts VII, VIII, and IX).

WHEREAS, RCV is utilized by more than fifty colleges and universities throughout the United States, including Lawrence University, Marquette University, and the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh.

WHEREAS, Section 5.02 of the Independent Elections Commission (hereafter IEC) bylaws allows the SA Senate to recommend non-constitutional referenda to be referred to all UWM students.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED; that the SA Senate acknowledges and thanks the members of the IEC for their continued diligence and hard work in organizing and carrying out all SA elections and referenda.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the SA Senate formally requests a referendum be referred to all UWM students, concerning the use of RCV in all future SA single seat and multi-seat elections.

THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED; that the SA Senate requests the results of this referendum be communicated by the IEC within 24 hours of the polls closing.
THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED; that this legislation be communicated to the IEC, SA Professional Staff, Senior Student Affairs Officer Kelly Haag, and Chancellor Mark Mone.

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Alyssa Molinski
Student Association President

Date

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Legislative History

March 11, 2019 – Drafted by Senator Kinnard.
March 24, 2019 – Considered by the SA Senate.