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Spring 3-3-2021

## **SB62-20/21: Resolution Regarding Ballot Language for the MontPIRG Reaffirmation Vote**

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1                                   **The Associated Students of the University of Montana**  
2                                   **Resolution Regarding Ballot Language for the MontPIRG Reaffirmation Vote**  
3                                   **December 4, 2020**  
4                                   **SB62-20/21**

5                   **Authored by: Ethan Hanley, ASUM Business Manager; Kelly Armington, MontPIRG**  
6                   **Board of Directors Chair;**  
7

8           Whereas, Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG) is a student led organization,  
9           which has advocated on behalf of students, consumers, and the environment for nearly 40 years  
10           on campus;

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12           Whereas, MontPIRG seeks to increase students' involvement in the political process through  
13           registering students to vote, bringing educational items about state and federal issues to the  
14           public, and promoting voter rights laws;

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16           Whereas, MontPIRG is prioritizing improving voter rights laws, increasing funding to education  
17           and renters' rights during the 2021 legislative session;

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19           Whereas, During May of 2012, University of Montana (UM) students and the Board of Regents  
20           approved an optional fee for the MontPIRG of five dollars;

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22           Whereas, Every two years, the MontPIRG optional fee must be put up to a vote of whether or not  
23           the opt-out fee will remain on students' registration bills;

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25           Whereas, According to Article VI, Section 11 of the Associated Students of the University of  
26           Montana (ASUM) bylaws:

27                   *A. All Student-generated referendum language shall be examined by the Relations and*  
28                   *Affairs Committee prior to the collection of signatures, and at a date no later than six*  
29                   *weeks prior to the General Election;*

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31           Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, That the language for continuing the MontPIRG optional fee on  
32           the ballot for the 2021 ASUM election read as follows:

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34                   *The Montana Public Interest Research Group (MontPIRG) seeks to renew their \$5*  
35                   *optional fee for the 2022-2023 biennium. MontPIRG is a student lead organization which*  
36                   *advocates on the behalf of and seeks to involved students in the political process. The*  
37                   *optional fee allows MontPIRG to hire an executive director, pay interns, cover*  
38                   *operational costs, and lobby the legislature while it is in session.*

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40                             *YES, University of Montana students should continue to run the Montana*  
41                   *Public Interest Research Group and should fund it with an optional \$5 fee per student,*  
42                   *per semester.*

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44                             *NO, University of Montana students should not continue to run the Montana*  
45                   *Public Interest Research Group and should not fund it with an optional \$5 fee per*  
46                   *student, per semester.;*

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Therefore, Let It Be Further Resolved, That this resolution be sent to Cierra Anderson, Chair of the Elections committee.

Passed by Committee: \_\_\_\_\_, 2021

Passed by ASUM Senate: March 3, 2021

\_\_\_\_\_  
Noah Durnell,  
Chair of the Relations and Affairs Committee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Patrick James Flanagan,  
Chair of the Senate