

No. 14-1

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In The  
**Judicial Board**  
of the  
**Undergraduate Students Association**  
of  
**UCLA**

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*Ian Cocroft*  
*v.*  
*USA Election Board et. Al.*

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**P E T I T I O N F O R H E A R I N G**

Ian Cocroft  
714 Levering  
Los Angeles, CA

805-235-5634  
icocroft@ucla.edu

4/10/14

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Election Board  
308 Westwood Plaza  
Los Angeles, CA

Signatures (official use only):

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Chief Justice

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Clerk

## Jurisdiction

**Art. VI. Sec. B, Cl. 1 of the USA Constitution** “The Judicial Board shall rule upon the Constitutionality of legislation and official actions of elected or appointed officials at the request of the Council or any other members of the Association.”

**Art. VI. Sec. B, Cl. 2 of the Const.** “The Judicial Board may also question, comment, or rule upon other matters at the request of the Council or any member of the Association.”

Most crucial to the claim of jurisdiction is **Art. VI. Sec. B. Cl. 3 of the Const.**, which states, “The Judicial Board shall serve as a Board of appeals to decisions of the Elections Board.” The decision to set voting hours from Tuesday, May 6th at 9am to Thursday, May 8th at 5pm was made by Election Board, and I appeal that decision to this court.

Under **Art. VII. Sec. D., Cl. 1 of the Election Code**, “Initial petitions for hearing shall be made by 5:00pm the second official school day following said decision, unless evidence pertinent to the case is made available after this deadline.” We consider USA Council’s attempt to reconsider the approval of the Election Calendar at the April 8th meeting to be new evidence that effects this case. At the meeting, it was brought to light that some councilmembers see the Election Calendar as invalid due to the fact that the voting period is not “three (3) full days” in duration. Because a dispute exists between Election Board and Council in interpreting Election Code, Judicial Board must step in to resolve the controversy. In clearly defining how the term “full days” should be interpreted, Judicial Board will act as a check on the power of both bodies.

## Violations

USA Election Board violated Art. V. Sec. A., Cl. 3 of the USA Election Code, which states, “The Spring General Election shall be at least three (3) full days in duration.” Because voting takes place on the internet, and voting is permitted during all hours, “full days” can only be interpreted to mean a seventy-two (72) hour period. Further, *Black’s Law Dictionary* defines a day as “A period of time consisting of twenty-four hours and including the solar day and the night.” The current election calendar, which sets the dates and times of voting as Tuesday, May 6th at 9am to Thursday, May 8th at 5pm, a total of only fifty-six (56) hours. This does not meet the mandated requirement of seventy-two (72) hours.

## Ramifications

As a result of the violations, the period of time that voting will take place will be shorter than the mandated three (3) full days, or seventy-two (72) hours. This will reduce already low turnout and disenfranchise voters who may not have the opportunity to vote during the shortened period. The violations, along with a corresponding decrease in turnout, have the potential to alter the outcome of the election.

### Remedy Sought

Petitioner seeks a writ of mandate ordering the Respondent, the USA Election Board, to amend the election calendar to increase the period allotted for voting during the 2014 USAC elections to seventy-two (72) hours.

**PART VI: STATEMENT OF AUTHENTICITY**

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By signing below, I hereby attest that the above information is true to the best of my knowledge. Furthermore, I have read and understand the Judicial Board Procedure (Rules).

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Respectfully submitted,

DATED: Ian Cocroft

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Name  
Petitioner

DATED:

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Ian Cocroft  
Name  
Counsel for Petitioner