**AUTHOR**

Senator Nieves, Preston

**SPONSORS**

Senator Rao, Leela

Senator Morales, Diego

Senator Anderson, Alley

Senator Faz, Victoria

Senator Waugh, Shania

Senator Cienfuegos, Christian

Senator Freund, Keely

Senator Martinez, Jisselle

Senator Molina, Alex

Senator Santillan, John

**S.S.R. 2017-2018**

**Date of First Reading:**

**A Simple Resolution-**

**To be known as “A Resolution for the LBJ Debate Society to Host a Student Government Presidential Debate” Calling for the creation of a second round of presidential and vice presidential debates during student government elections, which will be hosted by the LBJ Debate Society**

**WHEREAS:** Vibrant debate and discourse is an essential element of any academic institution. The ability to freely present, discuss, and challenge ideas is critical to the development of effective policy and the discovery of truth and;

**WHEREAS:** This is especially true in the political realm. Discussion and debate over different candidate’s policy preferences is a cornerstone of any democratic system and;

**WHEREAS:** It is in the interest of promoting a democratic system of government and supporting a strong culture of civic engagement and critical thinking, that Texas State University holds student government elections. During the course of these elections, candidates for student body president and vice president participate in debates where they are able to present their perspectives and challenge those of the other candidates, enhancing student understanding of where the candidates stand on important issues and helping them form opinions on who would be most qualified for the positions and;

**WHEREAS:** Debate is an important part of Texas State University’s history and legacy. Distinguished alumni, President LBJ, was a competitor on Texas State University’s speech and debate society which now bears his name and;

**WHEREAS:** The University Star hosts the presidential and vice-presidential debates and;

**WHEREAS:** Texas State University’s speech and debate team should be given an opportunity to do the same therefore;

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That during student government election cycle, there should be an additional presidential debate, one of which will be hosted by the LBJ Debate society and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That the University Star and the LBJ Debate Society should coordinate efforts when planning the debates, as to avoid redundancy of questions and formats between the two and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** If the University Star and the LBJ Speech and Debate Society come to a mutual decision that only one presidential debate is to be held, that the two organizations should co-host the event and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** That upon passage, this legislation shall be forwarded to Student Body President Connor Clegg and Mr. Wayne Kraemer for further action.