

**HLS Student Government
2025-2026 Elections**

Candidate(s): Noah Thompson

Position: 2L Representative

Candidate Statement:

It has been my privilege to serve as a 1L representative over the course of the last year. Providing resources and events for the student body has been a genuine joy. While the many day- to- day activities of student government like bar service matching and the community cupboard will remain essential work at the core of Student Government mission, it has become clear to me that the HLS Student Government will have an important role to play as an advocate for the rights and freedoms of students over the coming years. Over the last year we have seen the administration become continually more aggressive in curtailing students' freedoms of speech and assembly on campus. From preemptively closing public areas to suppress dissent to actively censoring Student Government's ability to communicate with the student body, it is apparent that the administration is willing to trade away the liberties of its students to avoid external pressure.

I am proud that Student Government has continued to stand up for the rights of students despite the administration's attempts to disrupt our efforts. It is my hope that in the coming term Student Government continues to preserve the principles of free speech and intellectual expression that HLS claims to value. If the administration is willing to compromise the values of this institution, then it falls to students to defend them ourselves. History shows us that these liberties are hard won and easily lost. It seems likely that the free speech restrictions we have experienced this year may only be the beginning of the challenges brought on by our new political environment. If elected, I will seek to ensure the Student Government remains an independent body willing to both work in service of the student body and stand firm in defense of its welfare.