



YMCA Youth and Government Election Rules

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Nov. 2022**

RATIFIED COPY

1. Declaration of Candidacy

- 1.1.** All candidates must declare their candidacy 48 hours prior to the Pre-Legislative Conference.
- 1.2.** Requirement may be waived with approval from the Program Committee Elections Administrator.
- 1.3.** All candidates must meet the criteria listed in the qualifications for office listed [Here](#).
- 1.4.** All candidates must be registered for the current Youth and Government Legislative Session.
- 1.5.** Candidates may only dual register for counterpart positions in the House and Senate and Committee Chair positions.
(Ex: Candidate can run for both Speaker of the House, President of the Senate and Committee Chair)

2. Candidate Guide

- 2.1.** Candidates have until 48 hours prior to the Pre-Legislative Conference to submit their Candidate Form Entry.
- 2.2.** Candidates may submit the following.
 - 2.2.1.** An unobstructed, professional photo of themselves.
 - 2.2.2.** A preferred first and last name.
 - 2.2.3.** The delegation they wish to run under.
 - 2.2.4.** Pronouns
 - 2.2.5.** Their grade level.

2.2.6. A 5,000 character or less introduction to themselves and their platform. May not reference other candidates.

2.3. Candidates who choose not to submit an entry will exclusively have their name printed as registered.

2.4. The Youth Governor and Program Committee Elections Administrator reserve the right to reject any entry and request revisions.

3. Pre Legislative Conference

3.1. Candidates are allowed to give one formal speech during the Pre-Legislative Conference.

3.1.1. Candidates for Youth Governor are allowed up to 5 minutes. All other candidates are allowed 3 minutes.

3.2. Candidates for Youth Governor are to participate in a Q&A session moderated by the Incumbent Youth Governor

3.3. Candidates are permitted to campaign during breaks and use direct message Zoom chat to communicate with participants/voters. Additionally, Candidates may use Discord private messages to campaign. Candidates are not, however, allowed to campaign in non-designated Discord channels.

3.3.1. Candidates may upon request be granted a private Discord channel to communicate with their campaign team.

3.3.2. Candidates may campaign through other forms of direct message as long as it follows the timeline prescribed in 6.1 and is adherent to the YMCA core values.

- 3.3.3.** Candidates and affiliates are required to follow the Discord rules as posted. Failure to do so could lead to sanctions as described in 9.1.

4. Digital Guidelines

- 4.1.** Candidates are allowed to create social media accounts to promote their candidacy or use their existing personal public account.
- 4.2.** Candidates must formally declare their use of a campaign or personal accounts.
- 4.3.** Candidates may not post about other candidates or other candidates' platforms.
- 4.4.** The Incumbent Youth Governor is prohibited from advertising for any candidate's account using their institutional or personal account.
- 4.5.** Candidates for Youth Governor are to work in conjunction with the Incumbent Youth Governor and Program Committee Elections Administrator to set up an *Instagram Take Over* of the official @oregonyag account prior to the Legislative Conference.
 - 4.5.1.** Candidates are allowed 24 hours on the official account.
 - 4.5.2.** Candidates are allowed to post one feed post.
 - 4.5.3.** Candidates are only to advertise their declared campaign account.
- 4.6.** All campaign accounts must act according to the YMCA core values of caring, respect, responsibility, and honesty.

5. Governor Conference Campaigning

5.1. Candidates in the General Election for Youth Governor are allowed to bring physical campaigning tools including but not limited to stickers, t-shirts, posters, and flyers.

5.1.1. The total cost of said items shall not exceed the amount set by the Program Committee annually.

5.1.2. Candidates shall meet with the Program Director at a pre-planned time to review the Candidates' desired purchases. All purchases must be pre-planned by the Candidate and purchased by the Program Director.

5.2. Election Procedure

5.3. All delegates are allowed to vote.

5.3.1. Other youth members are eligible to vote in the general and primary gubernatorial election only.

5.3.2. The incumbent Youth Governor shall have no vote in any electoral decision unless the electorate is evenly divided wherein they must cast the deciding vote for the election.

5.3.3. All eligible voters are to receive via email a *Voter ID* and a *Voter Key*.

5.4. Voting at the Pre-Legislative Conference shall open no earlier than the lunch break.

5.4.1. Voting closure time shall be decided and advertised prior to closure.

5.5. Voting at the Pre-Legislative Conference shall be a winner take all system of voting with the exception of Committee Chairperson and Youth Governor.

5.5.1. Voting for Committee Chairperson shall use a ranked choice voting method. With the Program Committee

deciding prior to the Pre-Legislative Conference the number of vacancies.

5.5.2. The two candidates for Youth Governor having received the most votes shall advance to the General Election during the Legislative Conference. In the general election the candidate with the most votes wins.

5.6. Voting in the General Election shall begin on Friday and end Saturday morning. Closure times must be publicly advertised prior to the start of the conference.

5.6.1. The Program Committee Elections Administrator is to be available for help during these hours.

5.7. Program Committee Members (not including appointed student members) are allowed to have access to the live results panel. They are only allowed to view totals and are not allowed to see specific ballots. At the discretion of the Program Committee a public facing dashboard may also be set up; but it may only contain "ballots reporting".

5.8. A Certification Committee shall be formed by the Incumbent Youth Governor, the Program Committee Elections Administrator, and the Program Committee Chairperson.

5.8.1. This committee shall review ballots for irregularities or duplicates.

5.8.2. If the Incumbent Youth Governor is a candidate they shall be replaced by the Youth Speaker of the House.

5.8.3. It shall take a unanimous decision by the committee to certify the election results.

5.9. Results shall be announced at the conclusion of the Pre-Legislative conference by the Youth Governor.

5.9.1. Results in the General Election for Youth Governor are to be announced during the Closing Session of the Legislative Conference.

5.9.2. Upon announcement and certification of the vote for Youth Governor the winner shall immediately be sworn in.

6. General Rules

6.1. Campaigning may not commence prior to the 1st of January.

6.1.1. Campaigns may set up private social media accounts prior to this startdate but may not post or accumulate followers.

6.2. All candidates are to adhere to the YMCA core values of caring, respect, responsibility, and honesty, and act in good faith.

6.2.1. This rule shall also be applicable to conduct outside of Oregon Youth and Government.

6.2.2. The Committee described in 8.4 shall have supreme and final authority to define the application of this rule on a case by case basis.

6.3. The Incumbent Youth Governor is not to endorse or campaign for any candidate unless they themselves are seeking reelection.

6.4. The role of advisors and adult committee members is to offer educational guidance as students navigate the election process. Advisors may provide feedback and advice to students as needed. Advisors should not endorse

candidates, campaign for or against candidates, or try to influence votes in any way.

- 6.5.** In the event of a vacancy in any position after the Pre-Legislative assembly the Youth Governor with the consent of the Program Committee may fill vacancies.
 - 6.5.1.** The Youth Governor shall also be responsible for hosting an application period following the conference to fill the voting Student Appointee position on the Program Committee.
 - 6.5.2.** Should at any time the Youth Governor vacate the office, the Program Committee shall have authority to appoint a representative to serve on the program's behalf on the national level. The Program Committee also has the authority to call for a special election at the Pre-Legislative session.
- 6.6.** All Candidates, Supporters, Delegations, or any affiliated entity are barred from making monetary purchases in support of their/others' candidacy.
 - 6.6.1.** This includes distribution of printed material, baked goods, t-shirts, pins etc.
 - 6.6.2.** Nothing in this rule shall prohibit candidates from taking advantage of paid resources provided by the Program Committee.
- 6.7.** Public endorsements of candidates are permitted by Delegates and individuals outside of the Oregon Youth & Government program.
 - 6.7.1.** Receiving an endorsement shall constitute a form of campaigning and shall be subject to the campaign

timeline described in 7.1 and any subsequent campaign rules.

- 6.7.2.** Candidates may be held responsible for actions made on their behalf.

7. Concession of Youth Governor Candidates

- 7.1.** Final Candidates for Youth Governor shall work with the Program Committee Elections Administrator or the Incumbent Youth Governor to prepare a concession speech prior to voting closure.
- 7.2.** The concession speech for the unsuccessful candidate should be posted to both of the candidates' accounts and the official @oregonyag account within 24 hours of the closing session.

8. Enforcement

- 8.1.** Campaigns shall be held responsible for all election-related activities undertaken by their affiliates, including but not limited to volunteers, representatives regardless of their affiliation or participation in Oregon Youth and Government.
- 8.2.** It shall be strictly enforced that campaigns must report any known infractions or misconduct within their campaign or other campaigns immediately.
 - 8.2.1.** Delay in reporting of any known infractions or misconduct within their campaign may result in sanctions.
- 8.3.** Grievances for violations of these rules may be filed by any delegate in writing or using a form provided to the Election Administrator.

- 8.3.1.** Grievances must be made using specific facts and/or evidence, or providing witnesses. Simple assertions shall not suffice.
- 8.3.2.** Grievances may also be made by any voting member of the Program Committee.
- 8.4.** Upon receiving a grievance, the Program Committee Chair shall appoint a committee of at least 5 including the Program Committee Chair, the Elections Administrator and the Program Director to review the grievance.
 - 8.4.1.** The committee may include program committee leadership, members, advisors, etc.
 - 8.4.2.** Students will be invited to attend on a case-by-case basis, but the meeting will not be public.
- 8.5.** This committee shall have supreme and final authority to rule on any grievance before the committee and shall have broad authority to sanction campaigns in ways they see fit. This includes but is not limited to disqualification, finance allocation reduction and temporary or total suspension of campaigning.
 - 8.5.1.** If a grievance is filed after a winner is declared, the committee shall have the authority to award the contested office to the second highest vote earner.

9. Amendments

- 9.1.** These rules may be amended at any time by a simple majority vote of all voting Program Committee Members.
- 9.2.** Any Program Committee Member voting or nonvoting may petition for a change.
- 9.3.** The Youth Legislature may petition a change to these rules via the passage of a resolution in both chambers by a

simple majority, having received the signature of the Youth Governor, or been appropriately overridden.

- 9.3.1.** Nothing in this rule shall void the Program Committee's sole authority to ratify changes to these rules.