2026-2027 Elections Code



Student Government Association
Missouri State University

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Greetings from the Chief Elections Commissioner

Fellow Students,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 Elections Code. The Elections Code is a respected document among SGA as it provides guidelines for a fair and orderly election. This governing document lays out the inner workings of SGA-sanctioned elections and strives to be a substantial resource for students. To issue students an ethical election, I, the Chief Elections Commissioner, must maintain unbiased leadership and will put the student body's welfare first. I encourage every student at Missouri State University to review the Elections Code to ensure understanding and help in creating an efficient election. As I promise to conserve these responsibilities, if there are any questions or needed clarification, reach out to me via email at any time. I wish you the best in your Missouri State endeavors and beyond.

Krisha Patel
Chief Elections Commissioner
elections@missouristate.edu

Important Dates

11/17/2026 during Senate	Must be a Senator or Commissioner by this date
11/17/2026 at 5:30 p.m. 12/01/2026 at 5:30 p.m. 11/18/2026 11/19/2026	Mandatory information meeting potential tickets must attend in person OR online
12/01/2026 at 11:59 p.m.	Elections Code Test passed by ALL members of potential ticket
01/11/2027 at 8:00 a.m	Petitions for Candidacy become available electronically
02/01/2027 at 11:59 p.m.	Petitions for Candidacy due to the Chief Elections Commissioner
02/05/2027 at 5:00 p.m.	Candidates made aware of approval/disapproval of petitions
02/06/2027 to 2/20/2027 at 11:59 p.m.	Fundraising period
02/10/2027 at 11:59 p.m. 02/19/2027 at 11:59 p.m. 02/21/2027 at 11:59 p.m.	Fundraising itemized list due
02/21/2027	Candidate spending start date
02/22/2027 at 5:00 p.m.	Budget forms of expenses due (repeat each Monday until 3/22/2027)
02/9/2027	Debate/Open Forum
2/16/2027 or 3/02/2027	Backup Debate/Open Forum (in case of emergency or inclement weather)
03/08/2027 at 8:00 p.m.	Blitz begins
03/12/2027 at 5:00 p.m.	Blitz ends
03/19/2027 at 8:00 a.m.	Polls open
03/26/2027 at 5:00 p.m.	Polls close
03/26/2027 at 7:00 p.m.	Announcement of Election Results
03/28/2027	Cabinet applications open
04/04/2027	Cabinet applications close
04/05/2027	Cabinet interviews begin
04/12/2027	Cabinet interviews conclude
04/13/2027	Senate Confirmation
04/20/2027	End-of-year Banquet (cabinet members are sworn in)

Preamble

It is the intent of the Chief Elections Commissioner that all the guidelines and regulations of this document be interpreted in the strictest manner permissible. The regulations herein are written in confidence that no candidates shall willfully bend, alter, or misinterpret their true and most conservative intent. If a ticket is found to have done this, they will face a sanction or potential removal. Any conduct after such a fashion, including the conduct of a ticket's staff, team, or designees, reflects poorly on the candidates and on Missouri State University as a whole; such conduct is unfit of candidates for such a dignified position of leadership at this great university.

Article 1: The Chief Elections Commissioner and the Elections Commission

I. Chief Elections Commissioner
   A. The Chief Elections Commissioner is appointed to office via selection by the Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and Chief of Staff.
   B. The Chief Elections Commissioner must possess a 2.5 cumulative GPA as recognized by Missouri State University
   C. The main function of the Chief Elections Commissioner is to plan and conduct Student Body Elections.
   D. The Chief Elections Commissioner shall administer and interpret this Elections Code consistently, impartially, and in accordance with its plain language and controlling provisions of the SGA Constitution, SGA Bylaws, and University policy.
   E. The Chief Elections Commissioner must write an "Intent to Run Agreement" that all individuals seeking office during the Student Body Elections must agree to and sign.
   F. The Chief Elections Commissioner will not be permitted to run in any sanctioned election during an academic year in which they served as the Chief Commissioner. If the Chief Elections Commissioner seat becomes vacant, the current Student Body President, the Student Body Vice President, and their Chief of Staff will select a new Chief Elections Commissioner.
      1. If the Chief Elections Commissioner resigns or is removed from office, an Elections Commissioner will become the interim Chief Elections Commissioner until a new Chief Elections Commissioner is selected.
         a) This interim role may only be held for a maximum of 6 weeks.
         b) This Commissioner may also assume the Chief Elections Commissioner's role in SGA during an absence.
         c) If deemed appropriate by the Student Body President, an Elections Commissioner, who could serve as the interim Chief Commissioner, may be made the standing Chief Elections Commissioner via Executive Order. If not, a formal application process that mirrors regular Cabinet appointments must be followed.

II. The Elections Commission
   A. The Chief Elections Commissioner reserves the right to appoint up to six (6) Commissioners but must have at least two (2) Commissioners.
      1. Selection of the Elections Commissioners is through an application process.
         a) During the selection process, all potential Elections Commissioners must individually disclose to the Chief Elections Commissioner all other on campus clubs, communities, organizations, or additional on-campus involvement.
         b) The selection of Elections Commissioners must be approved by a simple majority of Senate seats filled. This is done through an SB resolution and Senate voting process.

B. Elections Commissioners must maintain a 2.5 cumulative GPA as recognized by Missouri State University
C. The role of the Elections Commission is to assist the Chief Elections Commissioner with necessary duties.
D. No Elections Commissioner may hold, or serve concurrently in, another office within the Missouri State University Student Government Association.
E. No member of the Elections Commission may endorse any candidate, potential ticket, official ticket, proposal, or issue in any way. This includes but is not limited to the following: disclosing the ticket they voted for, wearing campaign buttons, and interacting with campaign accounts on social media.
F. No members of the Elections Commission will be permitted to run in any sanctioned election during an academic year in which they served on the Elections Commission.
G. Any member of the Elections Commission must resign in the event that any conflict of interest arises as determined by the Campus Judicial Board (CJB) upon request of two (2) or more senators.
H. Members of the Elections Commission may attend Senate meetings. However, Elections Commissioners shall be unable to vote and or speak during Senate meetings.

Article 2: Eligibility for Candidacy

I. Each candidate seeking the Office of Student Body President or Student Body Vice President must maintain a status of good standing within SGA throughout the semester they wish to seek office.
    A. Candidates serving as a Senator in good standing, cabinet member in good standing, or Commissioner in good standing by the date specified by the Chief Elections Commissioner are eligible to seek office.
    B. All potential candidates must attend an informational meeting hosted by the Chief Elections Commissioner on specified dates chosen by the Chief Elections Commissioner
        i. Failure to attend any of these meetings without explicit permission will disqualify potential tickets from being eligible to seek office
II. Potential candidates are prohibited from discussing their campaign activities or promoting their candidacy within the Student Government Association Office.No person may file for more than one (1) office, or on multiple tickets, during a single election season.
    A. Once candidates declare the office they are running for and the ticket they are running on, they can either continue to seek the same position with the same ticket or they can drop from the Student Body Election.
    B. Any individual or ticket choosing to drop from the election must notify the Chief Elections Commissioner and current Student Body President in writing.

C. Individuals dropping from a ticket may not be replaced on the same ticket; the ticket becomes null and void.
    i. If a ticket wishes to drop from the election, the ticket must read a Letter of Resignation to the Senate.
    ii. Tickets may not be rearranged, rewritten, redesigned, repurposed, or altered in any way.
D. All individuals interested in seeking office must agree to and sign the "Intent to Run Agreement" provided by the Chief Election Commissioner.

III. Student Body President and Student Body Vice President Candidates:
A. Must be a Missouri State University student during election season.
    i. Candidates must be full-time students at the undergraduate or graduate level.
B. Must possess a cumulative GPA of 2.75 throughout the fall and spring of the academic year they choose to run on a ticket.
    i. Candidates who do not meet this requirement will be unable to assume office
C. Must allow their grades, transcript hours, and disciplinary history checked by the Dean of Students office.
D. Must have one (1) candidate for Student Body President, one (1) candidate for Student Body Vice President, and one (1) campaign manager per ticket.
    i. Any ticket that fails to have all three (3) members of a ticket will be viewed as invalid and will not be permitted to run for office.

IV. Senior Class President Candidates:
A. Must be a Missouri State University student during election season.
    i. To be eligible for Senior Class President, a candidate either must have completed ninety (9o) credit hours by the time of the election or have registered for sufficient classes to have completed ninety (9o) credit hours by the end of the summer semester following the election.
    ii. Must be full-time students at the undergraduate or graduate level.
B. Must possess a cumulative GPA of 2.75 throughout the fall and spring of the academic year they choose to run on a ticket.
    i. Candidates who do not meet this requirement will be unable to assume office.
C. Must allow their grades, transcript hours, and disciplinary history checked by the Dean of Students office.
D. Must have one (1) candidate for Senior Class President and one (1) campaign manager per ticket.
    i. Any ticket that fails to have both members will be viewed as invalid and will not be permitted to run for office.

V. Campaign Managers
A. The campaign manager for Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and Senior Class President must be a Missouri State University student during the elections season.

i. Candidates must be full-time students at the undergraduate or graduate level.

B. Campaign managers must possess a cumulative GPA of 2.75 throughout the entire election season.

VI. Elections Code Test

A. All individuals on each ticket must complete the Elections Code Test which will be electronically distributed by the Chief Elections Commissioner.

B. If an individual does not take the Elections Code test or does not pass the test with an 80% or higher after three attempts, the ticket will become invalid.

i. The Elections Code test shall test knowledge of election rules rather than subjective agreement with the Elections Commission.

C. The Elections Code test must be completed by each member on the ticket before petitioning begins.

Article 3: Pre-Campaigning

I. Platforms

A. Tickets must submit a written platform detailing issues they would address during their administration to the Chief Elections Commissioner for approval during the Mandatory Informational Meeting to begin campaigning.

i. Platforms, in part or in whole, may not be released in any way prior to this submission to the Chief Elections Commissioner. After this, platforms may not be altered outside of grammatical corrections without approval from the Chief Elections Commissioner.

II. Petitions

A. Petitions will be conducted electronically through a Qualtrics survey created by the Chief Election Commissioner.

B. Only the candidates and the campaign manager may collect petitions.

C. Candidates will be notified by the Chief Elections Commissioner via email when petitions become available electronically.

D. Candidates seeking the office of Student Body President or Vice President are required to obtain 500 signatures from the Missouri State University student body in order to become eligible to seek office. The petitions must include the agreeing student's first and last name as it appears on the student's BearPass, the student's full M number, and the student's email.

i. Student identifying information collected for petition verification shall be used solely for election administration and verification purposes and shall not be publicly disclosed except as required by law or University policy.

ii. Public election reports shall not contain student M-numbers, personal email addresses, or other personally identifying information collected through the petitioning process.

E. Candidates seeking the office of Senior Class President are required to obtain 200 signatures from students of junior, senior, or graduate level status in order to become eligible to seek office. The petitions must include the agreeing student's first and last

name as it appears on the student's BearPass, the student's full M number, and the student's email.

F. Petitions may only be collected in public outdoor spaces on campus and in the Plaster Student Union
    i. Petitions may not be collected inside the gates or doors of a Missouri State University athletic or performance event.
    ii. Petitions may not be collected inside residence halls, dining centers., or the Meyer Library.
    iii. No campaign may conduct door-to-door petitioning in residence halls or private student living spaces.

G. Petitions can only be collected inside on-campus buildings, inside residence halls, inside academic buildings, or at student organization events if an official Missouri State University student organizations meet within these locations.
    i. The ticket must first receive written permission to attend the meeting from an executive officer of the student organization.
    ii. The written permission must be given to the Chief Elections Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving permission from the executive officer of the student organization.
    iii. If the Chief Elections Commissioner fails to receive this information the ticket will face a sanction.
        1) Sanctions include but are not limited to: an increased number of petitions needed by the candidate/ticket, a restriction on areas on campus that petitions can be collected by the candidate/ticket, or the forfeiture of any petitions collected from students of that organization. The Qualtrics survey will close after a specified amount of time established by the Chief Elections Commissioner.

H. The Chief Elections Commissioner and the Elections Commission will verify the petitions.
    i. Petitions that are incomplete or repeated will be considered null and void and will not be counted as a part of the 500 required petitions needed for the office of Student Body President and Vice President.
    ii. Petitions that are incomplete or repeated will be considered null and void and will not be counted as a part of the 200 required petitions needed for the office of Senior Class President.
    iii. Verification of petitions will begin after the digital platform closes. The Chief Elections Commissioner, the Elections Commission, and the Dean of Students will have five (5) business days to verify the petitions once they are received.

I. Campaigning may begin for all tickets once written permission from the Chief Elections Commissioner is received.

J. Written permission will be issued to the tickets pending on the validity and approval of the petitions being verified.
K. Bribery, coercion, or any similar methods to obtain signatures from students are strictly prohibited and will result in a sanction.
    i. Sanctions include but are not limited to: an increase in the number of petitions needed by the candidate/ticket, a delayed campaigning start date, or a restriction of areas where the candidate/ticket is allowed to petition.

III. Budgets and Donated Materials
A. Budgets for candidates for Student Body President and Student Body Vice President together are limited to $1,500 American dollars, including taxes.
B. Budgets for candidates for Senior Class President are limited to $750 American dollars, including taxes.
C. This budget includes donations, gifts, services, and all other expenditures.
D. Purchases may not be tax-exempt.
E. All purchases must be filed with the Chief Elections Commissioner
    i. Purchases are to be recorded weekly on a budget form issued by the Chief Elections Commissioner.
        1) The budget form must include the monetary amount spent, the quantity received, the purpose for the spending, and the remaining budget after the expenditure.
        2) Candidates must attach an official receipt of all purchases to the budget form
F. Student organizations or individuals may support a candidate or ticket by contributing finances or campaign materials.Candidates and tickets will not be considered a student organization or individual for the purpose of financial contributions.Fundraising contributions are to be recorded weekly on a donations tracking form issued by the Chief Elections Commissioner.
    i. The donations tracking form must include the monetary amount raised, the purpose for the contribution, and the organization or individual from which it came.
    ii. Contribution details from organizations or individuals must be publicly shared with the student body through the Student Government Association website.
        1) Contribution details must include donations tracking forms submitted to the Chief Elections Commissioner and organizations and individuals the ticket/candidate met with.
    iii. Contributions from organizations or individuals may only be up to twenty percent (20%) of the budget's total limit. Monetary donations and endorsements from faculty, staff, and administrators are prohibited.
G. Monetary funding through the Student Initiative Fund is prohibited.

H. All materials donated to a ticket or candidate must include notice of the person(s) and/or organization(s) that supported and paid for the material.
    i. Such notice should be phrased as, "Paid for/Sponsored by [name]."
I. Campus organizations may sponsor individual campaigns without providing monetary support.
    i. Endorsements must be noted.
J. Candidate and ticket fundraising will begin on a date chosen and promulgated by the Chief Elections Commissioner.
    i. Fundraising must be tracked through a form provided by the Chief Elections Commissioner.
K. Services offered at Missouri State University and on-campus access labs may be utilized as long as appropriate pay, permission, or other means of usability are received or exchanged.
L. Purchases may begin on a date chosen and promulgated by the Chief Elections Commissioner.
M. Eligible expenditures must be from a pre-approved university vendor.
N. Provided materials and donations utilized by the candidates must be included in the candidates' budgets with an estimated value.

Article 4: Campaigning

I. General Rules
    A. Alcohol, drugs, and any other violations of the Student Code of Conduct in any fashion or reference, cannot be included in a campaign.
    B. Commercial businesses with Missouri State University contracts cannot have their logos on flyers or handbills or be featured in campaigns of any sort.
        i. Exceptions may be made if the business is part of the ticket's platform.
            1) Such exceptions must be approved by the Chief Elections Commissioner before inclusion in a platform.
    C. Neither physical campaigning nor campaign materials are permitted in the SGA office or chambers.
        i. The exception is when the SGA Speaker may recognize candidates to speak in Open Forum at an official Senate meeting of the Student Government Association during the elections debate.
    D. Campaign promotion through various means, including but not limited to tabling and sandwich boards, must receive approval from both the Chief Elections Commissioner and Event and Management Services prior to execution.
II. Social Media
    A. Each ticket is allowed one (1) campaign sponsored account per social media site.
        i. Personal accounts must be disclosed to the Chief Elections Commissioner.
            1) Personal accounts cannot be transformed into campaign accounts.

ii. Direct messaging, "tagging", or any other means of directly contacting a personal account is prohibited.
    1) "Tagging" professional accounts is permitted at the discretion of the Chief Elections Commissioner. These accounts must be business accounts of a professional nature.
    2) Direct messaging is only allowed in the case of needing to message the winner of a giveaway. Special permission must be obtained from the Chief Elections Commissioner prior to this happening.
iii. Campaigns may be promoted in organization specific group message chains like GroupMe chats by the President of the organization.
    1) If the ticket asks someone other than the President to promote their ticket they will face a sanction.
    2) Sanctions include but are not limited to: restriction of social media posts for a specified amount of time, restriction of campaigning for a specified amount of time, or a poster restriction.
iv. Social media accounts may go live on the day that the ticket's petitions are approved.

B. A list of all social media accounts that will be used for campaigning must be submitted to the Chief Elections Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of the account going live or the ticket will face a sanction.
    i. The Chief Elections Commissioner reserves the right to deny use of a social media account for campaigning.
    ii. Sanctions include but are not limited to: restriction of social media account use, prohibition of social media advertising, or a campaign start time delay.
C. Tickets may purchase social media advertising to promote their accounts.
    i. Advertising expenses will come out of the budgets listed in the "Budgets and Donated Materials" sections of the Elections Code.
D. Tickets are banned from addressing opposing tickets via any form of social media.
E. Campaign communications shall not contain threats, harassment, targeted intimidation, impersonation, or knowingly false statements of fact presented as factual claims.

III. Mass Messaging

A. Tickets may maintain an email list or GroupMe.
    i. Individuals will only be added to an email list or GroupMe after voluntarily giving their explicit consent.
        1) Individuals have the right to be removed from email lists or GroupMe.
            (a) Individuals must be removed from an email list or GroupMe within twenty-four (24) hours of requesting removal or the ticket will face a sanction.

(b) Sanctions include but are not limited to: restriction of communication with executive officers or Presidents of student organizations for campaigning, restriction of campaign social media account use, or prohibition of social media advertising.

2) The use of unsolicited mass mailings, e-mailings, or messaging is prohibited, and the ticket will face a sanction.

(a) Sanctions include but are not limited to: restriction of communication with executive officers or Presidents of student organizations for campaigning, restriction of campaign social media account use, or prohibition of utilizing email to campaign.

ii. Use of any Missouri State University property or software to obtain email addresses is strictly prohibited.

iii. The Chief Elections Commissioner is to be included in all email correspondences with individuals and added to the GroupMe.

1) Any ticket choosing to exclude the Chief Elections Commissioner from emails, emailing individuals, or the GroupMe without their explicit agreement will face sanctions.

2) Sanctions include but are not limited to: restriction of communication with executive officers or Presidents of student organizations for campaigning, restriction of campaign social media account use, or prohibition of social media advertising.

B. Off-Campus Campaigning

i. Off-campus materials are restricted to privately owned property subject to the permission of the property owner(s).

1) The ticket must first receive written permission from the property owner to use campaign materials on their property.

2) The written permission must be proven in writing to the Chief Elections Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving permission from the property owner or the ticket will face a sanction.

(a) Sanctions include but are not limited to: prohibition of the candidate/ticket from utilizing off-campus materials, loss of campaign privileges for a specified amount of time, or a reduction in allowed on-campus campaign areas.

ii. Off-campus campaigning is subject to the rules and budgets outlined in the Elections Code.

iii. Distasteful off-campus campaign materials will be determined as such by the Chief Elections Commissioner.

1) Upon notice, tickets will have twenty-four (24) hours to remove the material(s), and the ticket will face a sanction.

2) Sanctions include but are not limited to: prohibition of the candidate/ticket from utilizing off-campus materials, loss of campaign privileges for a specified amount of time, or a reduction in allowed on-campus campaign areas.

IV. Residence Halls and On-Campus Facilities
   A. If a ticket wishes to post campaign materials within a residence hall, the procedures and policies of Residence Life must be followed without exception.
      i. Candidates cannot request individuals to post campaign materials in their private rooms or living spaces.
   B. No campaign materials may be posted in the dining halls.
   C. Active campaigning within any Missouri State University building, except for the Plaster Student Union, is prohibited.
      i. The only exception is if an official student organization meets inside of a Missouri State University building.
         1) The ticket must first receive written permission to attend the meeting from an executive officer of the student organization.
         2) The written permission must be proven in writing to the Chief Elections Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving permission from the executive officer of the student organization or the ticket will face a sanction.
         3) Sanctions include but are not limited to: a restriction on areas on campus that the candidate/ticket can campaign at, a reduction in the campaign time period, or a reduction in the number of posters allowed for the candidate/ticket.
   D. Campaigning or posting campaign materials within any Missouri State University athletic or performance event or facility is prohibited.

V. Posters
   A. Campaign posters may be placed on open bulletin boards on campus.
      i. All posters must be approved by the sponsor of the board.
         1) If the board is not open for public use, a signature or stamp of approval must be on the back of the poster before it may be hung.
      ii. There is a maximum of one (1) poster per board.
         1) Posters are limited to 8.5" by 11" in size.
      iii. Campaign posters may not overlay other posters.
      iv. Other posters may not be removed to make room for campaigning posters.
   B. The Chief Elections Commissioner and the Elections Commission reserve the right to remove distasteful posters, and the ticket will face a sanction.
      i. Any poster found in violation of Missouri State University regulations, or the Elections Code will be immediately removed, and the ticket will face a sanction.

ii. Sanctions include but are not limited to: prohibition of utilizing posters, limitation of poster board options on campus, or a poster removal fee.

VI. Miscellaneous
- A. Staking is not permitted.
- B. Parades and rallies may only be permitted with the permission of the Vice President for Student Affairs (or designee) and the Dean of Students (or designee).
- C. Microphones and other amplification devices may only be used to speak at engagements arranged with and approved by the appropriate officials.

VII. Sanction Examples
- A. During the campaigning season, sanctions may include but are not limited to a social media time restriction, purchasing restrictions, poster restrictions, etc.

Article 5: Blitz Week

I. Timeline
- A. Blitz will begin at 8:00 pm on a date chosen and promulgated by the Chief Elections Commissioner.
- B. All Blitz participants must begin at the Bear Statue outside of the Plaster Student Union.
  - i. Failure to meet at this location without explicit permission will result in a time sanction, with the exception of emergency or inclement weather.
- C. Blitz will end at 5:00 pm on a date chosen and promulgated by the Chief Elections Commissioner.
- D. All ticket promotions must abide by the Advertising Policy of Missouri State University.

II. Chalking
- A. Chalking is only permitted between the start of Blitz and 5:00pm on the final day of voting.
- B. Tickets may chalk on any outdoor surface as permitted by the Missouri State University Chalking Policy.
- C. Spray-on chalk or altering the chalk in any way is prohibited.
- D. Chalking over another organization's chalking is prohibited, regardless of whether permission was received
- E. Chalking must adhere to the Missouri State University Advertising, Distribution, and Solicitation Policies.

III. Banners
- A. Hanging banners is only permitted during Blitz.
- B. Each ticket is limited to ten (10) banners.
- C. Banners must be twin size.
- D. Banners cannot be hung on academic buildings.
- E. Banners cannot be damaging to university property.
  - i. Banners may not be taped to painted surfaces.

F. Banners cannot impede the flow of campus traffic.
G. The Chief Elections Commissioner and the Elections Commission reserve the right to remove distasteful banners.
    i. Any banner found in violation of Missouri State University regulations, or the Elections Code will be immediately removed, and the ticket will face a sanction.
    ii. Sanctions include but are not limited to: a time restriction during Blitz, a limit on other Blitz activities like chalking or hanging up posters, or an additional removal fee.

IV. Miscellaneous
A. A report of all banner locations must be submitted to the Chief Elections Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of the Blitz start time.
B. Candidates assume responsibility for ensuring all Blitz materials are compliant with Missouri State University policies and the Elections Code.
C. If campaign materials must be removed by university personnel, the ticket will be responsible for paying for any associated costs and will face a sanction.
    i. These costs will come from the ticket's budget that is outlined in the Elections Code.
    ii. Sanctions include but are not limited to: a time restriction during Blitz, a limit on other Blitz activities like chalking or hanging up posters, or an additional removal fee.
D. Any permission given by faculty or administrators to override these rules will not be acknowledged or permitted.

V. Clean-up
A. All tickets are responsible for removing all campaign materials once the polls close.

VI. Sanction Examples
A. During Blitz, sanctions may include but are not limited to, a time delay to the start of Blitz, a time restriction during Blitz, a social media time restriction, etc.

Article 6: Voting

I. Ballots and Polling
A. Polling will be conducted online at a secure website that requires a student's BearPass login to be entered before voting can occur.
B. All voting will be done online with no paper ballots.
    i. The polling website will contain clear instructions in written form indicating to the voters how to use the online voting system.
    ii. The polling website will contain clear instructions in written form indicating to the voters how to use the online voting system.
C. Exceptions to paper ballots can be made for a student's personal needs.
    i. Individuals in need of special voting arrangements shall contact the Chief Elections Commissioner.

ii. Missouri State University and the Student Government Association are equal opportunity/affirmative action institutions/associations and will assist individuals in need of special voting arrangements.

D. An official display of all issues and candidates shall be posted online for the voters to reference by when polls are available for Missouri State Students.

E. The Student Government Association Senate must approve the ballot language through a General Bill.

i. Once ballot language is approved, it cannot be altered in any fashion outside of grammatical corrections.

F. The Chief Elections Commissioner is responsible for putting together the ballot

G. Freshman, sophomore, junior, senior, graduate, and non-degree seeking Missouri State University students may vote in the Student Body Elections.

H. All categories on a ballot will have an option for abstention

I. If a ticket is running unopposed, voters must have the opportunity to vote "No Confidence" on that ticket.

J. The Chief Elections Commissioner must have the ballot design approved and reviewed by the Student Body President before publishing the ballot.

K. Only junior, senior, and graduate students with 60 or more completed credit hours will be permitted to vote on Senior Class President tickets.

L. Ballot order will be randomized.

II. Voting Booths

A. Tickets or supporters cannot sponsor voting booths

III. Results

A. The ballots will be tallied by the Chief Elections Commissioner and verified by the Campus Judicial Board (CJB).

B. Immediately following the ballot count for any election, the Chief Elections Commissioner must submit a written statement to the CJB suggesting the election to be declared valid or invalid according to their outlines.

i. This statement will outline any necessary citations of specific infractions and violations of election bylaws that may have changed the outcome of the election.

a) The CJB will meet immediately upon receiving this statement to confer with the Chief Elections Commissioner.

b) The decision of the Campus Judicial Board and reasons for their decision will be posted on the SGA bulletin board.

ii. The Chief Elections Commissioner and Elections Commission, in consultation with members of the CJB, will forward a report of documented campaign violations to the Dean of Students.

C. The Chief Elections Commissioner will announce the results of the Student Body Election following the closing of the polls.

D. The Chief Elections Commissioner may only publicly release the results of the election, the number of votes for each option on the ballot, and the total number of participating voters

IV. Voting Integrity
    A. No candidate, Elections Commissioner, or campaign supporter may:
        i. access another student's ballot;
        ii. request another student disclose how they voted;
        iii. cast a ballot on behalf of another student;
        iv. interfere with a student's independent ability to vote;
        v. alter or interfere with the electronic voting system; or
        vi. intentionally provide false information concerning voting procedures.
            1. No campaign shall provide a student with compensation, gifts, or other consideration in exchange for voting or refraining from voting.

V. Miscellaneous
    A. In respect of voter privacy and confidentiality, the Chief Elections Commissioner may only release any additional necessary information to the Dean of Students.

Article 7: Run-Off Elections

I. In the election, a plurality of votes cast is needed to win.

II. If only a single presidential ticket is present on the ballot and abstentions receive the plurality of votes, then the candidate will not be elected, and new elections will be called.
    A. These elections must be held by the third week of the semester.
    B. Senate will be convened by the outgoing Vice President and will elect a Speaker Pro Tempore who will serve as President until the run-off election is held.

III. The results of the run-off election will be considered official.

IV. The run-off elections shall be conducted in a manner found fitting by the Dean of Students, outgoing Student Body President, and the Chief Elections Commissioner.
    A. The Chief Elections Commissioner will communicate the decisions of how the election will be conducted to the Senate and to those participating in the run-off election. The run-off elections will be influenced by Robert's Rules of Order.

Article 8: Special Elections

I. The Student Body President, with two-thirds (2/3) majority of Senate seats filled, has the power to call a Special Election.

II. An issue may be put before the student body for a vote after a petition of signatures is submitted to the Chief Elections Commissioner.
    A. 500 current Missouri State University students must sign the petition.
        i. The petitions must include the agreeing student's first and last name as it appears on the student's BearPass, and the student's signature.

ii. Bribery, coercion, or any similar methods to obtain signatures from students are strictly prohibited.

B. Petitions may only be collected in public outdoor spaces on campus and in the Plaster Student Union.
   i. Petitions cannot be collected inside the gates or doors of a Missouri State University athletic or performance event.
   ii. Petitions may not be collected inside residence halls, dining centers., or the Meyer Library

C. Petitions may be collected inside on-campus buildings, inside residence halls, and at student organization events if an official Missouri State University student organization meets within these locations.
   i. The ticket must first receive written permission to attend the meeting from an executive officer of the student organization.
   ii. The written permission must be proven in writing to the Chief Elections Commissioner within twenty-four (24) hours of receiving permission from the executive officer of the student organization.

III. Proposed issues defeated in Senate will not be referred to the student body for votes.
   A. The exception is if the Senate is presented a petition containing the signatures of ten (10) percent of the student body.
      i. If such a petition is presented, a referendum will be automatically referred to the student body to vote on.
      ii. Proposed issues will be adopted when ratified by a majority of those voting in the referendum.

Article 9: Sanctions

I. Rules
   A. The Chief Elections Commissioner in conjunction with the Elections Commission and the Dean of Students reserves the right to issue appropriate sanctions to offending tickets
   B. Sanctions will be determined on a case-by-case basis.
   C. Tickets are expected to respond promptly and respectfully to any sanctions issued by the Chief Elections Commissioner.

II. Notice of Alleged Violation
   A. Before a substantive sanction is imposed, the Chief Elections Commissioner shall provide the affected candidate or ticket with written notice of:
      i. The alleged violation
      ii. The provision of the Elections Code, SGA governing document, or University Policy allegedly violated
      iii. The known facts supporting the violation
      iv. The proposed sanction, if applicable
      v. The deadline for responding

III. Appealing
    A. Any disagreements a ticket may have with an issued sanction may be appealed to the Campus Judicial Board.
        i. The decision made by the Campus Judicial Board is binding.
IV. Sanction Consequences
    A. When determining a sanction, the Chief Elections Commissioner may consider:
        i. whether the violation was intentional or inadvertent;
        ii. whether the violation provided an electoral advantage;
        iii. whether the violation was promptly corrected;
        iv. whether the candidate or ticket self-reported the violation;
        v. whether the violation could reasonably have affected the election.
        vi. Sanctions may include, but are not limited to:
            a) written warning;
            b) required correction or removal of campaign material;
            c) forfeiture of improperly obtained campaign materials or funds;
            d) restriction of a particular campaign activity;
            e) reduction of campaign privileges;
            f) monetary reimbursement for University removal or repair costs, where applicable;
            g) additional reporting requirements;
            h) temporary suspension of a specific campaign activity; or
            i) disqualification, when authorized by this Code and warranted by the circumstances.
                (1) Sanctions should be determined based on the timeline of events.

Article 10: Revisions and Ratification

I. Revisions
    A. The Chief Elections Commissioner and the Elections Commission will review and revise the Elections Code at the beginning and end of each election season.
    B. Any stylistic revisions may be made by the Chief of Staff.
II. Approval
    A. The Chief Elections Commissioner and the Elections Commission must present any changes, edits, new rules, additions, or revisions to the Elections Code to the Senate and get their approval.
        i. Article 1, Section 8, Subsection C of the SGA Bylaws states that matters concerning elections require a 2/3 approval of the Senate.

GLOSSARY

Binding- a ruling that is considered final to which all parties must oblige to

Blitz- the weeklong period during which tickets may promote their campaigns more thoroughly on and the campus

Budget Form of Expenses- a form created annually by the Chief Elections Commissioner on which all tickets must report every expense acquired throughout the election season

Campaign manager- the individual selected by candidates to assist in coordinating a campaign

Candidates- the individuals seeking Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, or Senior Class President

Chief Elections Commissioner- oversees the Election Commission and conducts the Student Body Election

Commercial Business- any business unaffiliated with Missouri State University

Cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA)- transfer and Missouri State University grade point average (GPA), or Missouri State University GPA alone; whichever GPA benefits the potential candidate will be used

Donations- any materials given to the ticket that must be included in the candidates' budgets with an estimated value subject to approval by the Chief Elections Commissioner

Elections Commission- the individuals selected by the Chief Elections Commissioner to assist in conducting the Student Body Elections

Elections Season- starts on the day fundraising begins and ends after the results are announced

Electronic Petition- digital form that requires the user to provide name, bear pass number, and Missouri State Email

Endorsements- a business, organization, or similar entity's public support for a ticket

Full-Time Student- undergraduate students carrying twelve (12) or more credit hours and graduate students carrying nine (9) or more credit hours in the fall or spring semester are considered full-time students. Undergraduate and graduate students carrying six (6) or more credit hours during the summer session are considered full-time students.

Good Standing- a student who meets all academic requirements, Student Government Association requirements, and is not on level two or higher probation with the university.Intent to Run Agreement- a document authored by the Chief Elections Commissioner that outlines the expectations and standards all individuals will be held to during the election season.

Petitions- signatures from current students that are required to be collected by candidates in order to run

Platforms- the goals and plans for the university created by each ticket

Posters- a single piece of 8.5" by 11" paper; papers cannot be combined to form posters

Purchases- all money spent, and items purchased or received for a campaign

Sanctions- a penalty or disciplinary measure imposed on a candidate or campaign ticket for violating campaign rules, university regulations, or code procedures

Student Body Ticket- one (1) candidate for Student Body President, one (1) candidate for Student Body Vice President, and one (1) campaign manager.

Senior Class Ticket- one (1) candidate for Senior Class President and one (1) Campaign Manager.