

2016-2017 Elections Code



Student Government Association

Missouri State University

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Greeting from the Chief Elections Commissioner

Fellow Students,

Welcome to the Elections Code! This code is intended to be your go-to guide for anything regarding Student Government Association (SGA)-sanctioned elections. A lot of work has gone into revising this code and improving its usability. I would like to extend a special thank-you to former Student Body President Ashley Crisafulli, former Student Body Vice President Alissa Biermaier, former Chief of Staff Justin Roberts, Student Body President Adam Coffman, Student Body Vice President Brianna Duda, Chief of Staff Brandon McCoy, Senator Max Wagner, Dean of Students Doctor Thomas Lane, and countless others who contributed to making this revised Elections Code a success. A special thank-you to University of Texas-Austin, Indiana University, and Prairie View A&M University, as their existing elections codes and guidelines served as great reference. I encourage all current students to read through the Elections Code in its entirety. The Elections Code is considered an SGA Governing Document, and will be used and respected as such. If you have questions regarding any of the SGA-sanctioned elections or need clarification about something in the Elections Code, please contact me; I will happily answer your questions! Thank-you for taking the time to read through the Elections Code, and I wish you the best in your Missouri State endeavors and beyond.

Go Bears!

Tylyn Anders

Chief Elections Commissioner

Please excuse any typos or errors. If you see any typos or errors, please direct them to the SGA Chief of Staff.

Important Dates

Below are the important dates related to this year's Elections Season:

01/16/2017 at 4:00pm	Application for Senator due to SGA office
01/17/2017 at 5:30pm	Last day to be sworn in as a Senator if running in Spring Election
02/07/2017 at 7:30pm	Mandatory informational meeting potential tickets must attend
02/13/2017 at 8:00am	Petitions for Candidacy become available in the SGA office
02/17/2017 at 4:00pm	Petitions for Candidacy due to the Dean of Students office
02/24/2017 at 4:00pm	Candidates made aware of approval/disapproval of petitions
02/27/2017 at 11:00am	Budget Forms of Expenses Due <i>(repeat each Monday until 04/17/2017)</i>
04/03/2017 at 7:00am	Posters may be placed around campus
04/04/2017 at 5:00pm	Candidate Debate/Open Forum
04/04/2017 at 9:00pm	Call to postpone Blitz if necessary
04/05/2017 at 12:01 am	Blitz Begins
04/05/2017 at 12:01 am	Polls Open
04/05/2017 at 2:01am	Blitz Ends
04/07/2017 at 4:45pm	All campaign material must be removed
04/07/2017 at 5:00pm	Polls Close
04/07/2017 at 7:00pm	Announcement of Student Body Elections results

Preamble

It is the intent of the Chief Elections Commissioner that all of 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. 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 the Chief of Staff
- B. The Chief Elections Commissioner must possess a 2.75 cumulative GPA as recognized by Missouri State University
- C. The main function of the Chief Elections Commissioner is to plan and conduct the Student Body Elections
- D. The Chief Elections Commissioner must uphold the Elections Code and interpret it in the strictest manner possible
- 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. 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
 - i. If the Chief Elections Commissioner resigns or is removed from office, an Elections Committee commissioner will become the interim Chief Elections Commissioner until a new Chief Elections Commissioner is selected
 1. This interim role may only be held for a maximum of 6 weeks
 2. This commissioner may also assume the Chief Election Commissioner's roll in SGA during an absence
 3. If deemed appropriate by the Student Body President, an Elections Committee commissioner, who will 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) Elections Commissioners
 - i. Selection of the Elections Commissioners is through either a hand-selection or through an interview and/or application process
 1. During the selection process, all potential Elections Commissioners must individually disclose to the Chief Elections Commissioner the on-campus clubs, communities, organizations, or other on-campus involvement the candidate participates in
 2. The selection of Elections Commissioners must be approved by a simple majority of Senate seats filled
- 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, ticket, proposal, or issue in any way
- F. No members of the Elections Commission will be permitted to run for any post 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. However, Elections Commissioners shall be unable to be voting senators.

Article 2: Eligibility for Candidacy

- I. Each candidate seeking the Office of Student Body President and Student Body Vice President must maintain a status of good standing within SGA throughout the semester they wish to seek office
 - A. Potential candidates must turn in their senator application by the date specified by the Chief Elections Commissioner in the “Important Dates” section of the Elections Code to be eligible to seek office
 - B. Candidates serving as a senator in good standing, cabinet member in good standing, or commissioner in good standing before the date specified by the Chief Elections Commissioner are eligible to seek office
 - C. All potential candidates must attend an informational meeting hosted by the Chief Elections Commissioner at a date chosen by the Chief Elections Commissioner.
 - i. Failure to attend this meeting will disqualify potential tickets from being eligible to seek office
- II. Student Body President and Student Body Vice President Candidates
 - A. Candidates must be a Missouri State University student during Elections Season
 - i. Candidates must be full-time students at the undergraduate or graduate level
 - B. Candidates must possess a cumulative GPA of 2.75 throughout the entire Elections Season
 - i. Candidates who do not meet this requirement will be unable to assume office
 - C. Each ticket may have one (1) candidate for Student Body President, one (1) candidate for Student Body Vice President, and one (1) candidate for campaign manager
 - i. Any ticket that fails to have all three (3) candidates will be viewed as invalid and will not be permitted to run for office
 - D. No person may file for more than one (1) office, or on multiple tickets, during a single Elections Season
 - i. 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
 - 1. Any individual or ticket choosing to drop from the election must notify the Chief Elections Commissioner and current Student Body President in writing

2. Individuals dropping from a ticket may not be replaced on the same ticket; the ticket becomes null-and-void
 - a. If a ticket wishes to drop from the election, the ticket may read a Letter of Resignation to senate
 - ii. Tickets may not be rearranged, rewritten, redesigned, repurposed, or altered in any other way
 - E. All individuals interested in seeking office must agree to and sign all documents provided by the Chief Election Commissioner
- III. Senior Class President
- A. Candidates must be a Missouri State University student during Elections Season
 - i. Candidates must be full-time students at the undergraduate or graduate level
 - B. Candidates must possess a cumulative GPA of 2.75 throughout the entire Elections Season
 - i. Candidates who do not meet this requirement will be unable to assume office
 - C. Candidates must have completed ninety (90) credit hours by the end of the semester in which the candidate is running
 - i. Candidates must submit an unofficial transcript to the Dean of Students by June 1 following elections
 1. The unofficial transcript must prove that the candidate has met the ninety (90) credit hours requirement
 - ii. The credit hours must be recognized as valid by Missouri State University
 - iii. Candidates who do not meet the ninety (90) credit hours requirement will be unable to assume office
 - D. Each ticket may have one (1) candidate for Senior Class President and one (1) candidate for campaign manager
 - i. Any ticket that fails to have both candidates will be viewed as invalid and will not be permitted to run for office
- IV. Campaign Managers
- A. Campaign managers 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 Elections Season
- V. Other Tickets
- A. Other tickets must be sponsored and/or authored by a Missouri State University student
 - B. The issue on the ticket and the language of the ticket must be approved through senate of the Missouri State University Student Government Association
 - C. Once the issue and language is approved through senate, the issue and language may not be altered in any way

Article 3: Pre-Campaigning

I. Petitions

- A. Candidates for Senior Class President are not required to collect petitions
- B. Only the candidates for Student Body President, Student Body Vice President and the campaign manager may collect petitions
- C. Candidates may choose three (3) topics from their platform to share with the student body while collecting petitions
 - i. The three (3) topics must be approved by the Chief Elections Commissioner
 - 1. The Chief Elections Commissioner reserves the right to approve or deny topics
 - 2. Once the Chief Elections Commissioner approves the topics, they may not be changed, revised, or altered in any way
 - ii. The topics may not be advertised in writing or printing of any fashion. Topics may only be shared verbally with students interested in signing a petition
- D. Candidates will be notified by the Chief Elections Commissioner when petitions become available in the SGA office
- E. Candidates seeking the office of Student Body President or Vice President must collect 750 petitions from the Missouri State University student body in order to become eligible to seek office
 - i. The petitions must include the agreeing student's handwritten first and last name as it appears on the student's BearPass, the student's BearPass login (abc123), and the student's signature
 - ii. Bribery, coercion, or any similar methods to obtain signatures from students are strictly prohibited
- 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 neither residence halls nor dining centers
- G. Petitions may be collected inside on-campus buildings, inside residence halls, and at Fraternity and Sorority Life 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
- H. The petitions are due to the Dean of Students Office within five (5) academic days of becoming available
- I. The Chief Elections Commissioner and the Elections Commission will verify the petitions
 - i. Petitions that are illegible will be considered null and void and will not be counted as a part of the 750 required petitions

- J. Verification of petitions will begin once the Chief Elections Commissioner receives the petitions from the Dean of Students Office
 - i. The Chief Elections Commissioner and the Elections Commission will have five (5) academic days to verify the petitions once they are received
 - K. Campaigning begins for all tickets once written permission from the Chief Elections Commissioner is received
 - L. Written permission will be issued to the tickets pending on the validity and approval of the petitions being verified
- II. Platforms
- A. Tickets must submit a written platform to the Chief Elections Commissioner 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
 - 1. The only exception is for the three (3) topics that have been approved by the Chief Elections Commissioner to be verbally shared while collecting petitions
- III. Budgets and Donated Materials
- A. Budgets for tickets for Student Body President and Student Body Vice President are together limited to \$1,800 American dollars, excluding taxes
 - B. Budgets for candidates for Senior Class President are limited to \$1,000 American dollars, excluding taxes
 - C. Budgets for Other Tickets are limited to \$500 American dollars, excluding taxes
 - D. All expenditures must be filed with the Chief Elections Commissioner
 - i. Expenditures are to be recorded 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
 - E. Student organizations or individuals may support a candidate or ticket by contributing finances or campaign materials
 - i. Candidates and tickets will not be considered to be a student organization or individual for the purpose of financial contributions
 - ii. Contributions from organizations or individuals may only be up to twenty percent (20%) of the budget's total limit
 - F. 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]"
 - G. Campus organizations may sponsor individual campaigns without providing monetary support
 - i. Endorsements must be noted

- H. 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 is received or exchanged

Article 4: Campaigning

I. General Rules

- A. Alcohol, in any fashion or reference, may not be included in a campaign
- B. Commercial businesses with Missouri State University contracts may not have their logos on flyers or handbills or be featured in campaigning 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

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 may not be transformed into campaign accounts
 - ii. Unwanted direct messaging, "tagging", or any other means of directly contacting an individual account is prohibited
 - iii. The use of unsolicited mass mailings, e-mailings, or messaging is prohibited
- 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
 - i. The Chief Elections Commissioner reserves the right to deny use of a social media account for campaigning
- C. Tickets may maintain an email list
 - i. Individuals will only be added to an email list after voluntarily giving their explicit consent
 - 1. Individuals may be added to the email list only by signing up via an Email Agreement Form that will be distributed to the tickets by the Chief Elections Commissioner
 - a. The Email Agreement Form will request the individual's first and last name, email address, and signature
 - 2. Individuals have the right to be removed from emailing lists
 - a. Individuals must be removed from an email list within twenty-four (24) hours of requesting removal
 - ii. Use of any Missouri State University property to obtain email addresses is strictly prohibited
 - iii. The Chief Elections Commissioner is to be included in all email correspondences with individuals

1. Any ticket choosing to exclude the Chief Elections Commissioner from emails or emailing individuals without their explicit agreement will face sanctions
 - D. 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
 - E. Tickets are banned from addressing opposing tickets via any form of social media
 - F. Voter disenfranchisement via negative campaigning or slandering is strictly prohibited
- III. Off-Campus Campaigning
- A. Off-campus materials are restricted to the privately owned property subject to the permission of the property owner(s)
 - B. Off-campus campaigning is subject to the rules and budgets outlined in the Elections Code
 - i. 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)
- 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 may not 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
 - 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
 - i. Any poster found in violation of Missouri State University regulations or the Elections Code will be immediately removed

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

Article 5: Blitz

I. Timeline

- A. Blitz will begin at 12:01 am on the first day the ballots are open
- B. All Blitz participants must begin at the Bear Statue outside of the Plaster Student Union
- C. Blitz will end at 2:01 am on the first day the ballots are open
- D. Tickets must remove all campaign materials by 5:00pm on the final day of voting

II. Chalking

- A. Chalking is only permitted during Blitz
- B. Tickets must adhere to 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 if 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 may not be larger than 81" by 96" in size
- D. Banners may not be hung on academic buildings
- E. Banners may not be damaging to university property
 - i. Banners may not be taped to painted surfaces
- F. Banners may not 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

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
 - i. These costs will come from the budget that is outlined in the Elections Code

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. If computers or voting programs become inoperable, voting at all sites must cease until the problem is corrected
 - 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
 - E. The Student Government Association Senate must approve the ballot language
 - i. Once ballot language is approved, it may not 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 and senior students will be permitted to vote on Senior Class President tickets
 - L. Ballot order will be randomized
- II. Voting Booths
 - A. Tickets or supporters may not 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
 - 1. The CJB will meet immediately upon receiving this statement to confer with the Chief Elections Commissioner
 - 2. 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 ballots
 - 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. Other information
 - A. In respect for 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. This election must be held within three weeks of the undecided election
 - 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

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. 750 current Missouri State University students must sign the petition
 - i. The petitions must include the agreeing student's handwritten first and last name as it appears on the student's BearPass, the student's BearPass login (abc123), 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 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 neither residence halls nor dining centers
 - c. Petitions may be collected inside on-campus buildings, inside residence halls, and at Fraternity and Sorority Life 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. 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 considered to be binding

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 end of each Elections Season
 - b. Any stylistic revisions may be made by the Chief of Staff
- II. Approval
 - a. The changes and edits made by the Chief Elections Commissioner and the Elections Commission will be presented to the Senate

- b. New rules or additions to the Elections Code will only come into effect with the approval of the Senate

GLOSSARY

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

Blitz- the Monday morning of Elections Week during which tickets may promote their campaigns more thoroughly on and around 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 elections 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 Elections

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

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

Elections Season- the duration of the Student Body Election

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

Expenditures- all pre-tax money spent and items purchased or received for a campaign

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.

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 Elections Season.

Other Tickets- all tickets participating in the Student Body Election that are not running for Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, Senior Class President, or serving as a Campaign Manager

Petitions- the seven hundred and fifty (750) signatures from current students that are required to be collected by candidates in order to run; Senior Class President candidates do not need to collect petitions

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

Posters- a single piece of 8.5” by 11” paper; papers may not be combined to form posters

Run-Off Election- a follow-up, campus-wide election ordered by the Student Body President to resolve an undecided, incomplete, or otherwise invalid election

Sanctions- any reasonable punishment issued against a ticket by the Chief Elections Commissioner, the Elections Commission, and/or the Dean of Students

Senior Class President- the individual serving as a representative for the Senior Class at Missouri State University

Special Election- a campus-wide election ordered by the Student Body President, Senate, or the Elections Commission depending on the case as stated in the Missouri State University Student Government Association Constitution

Staking- the insertion of any material or object into the ground

Tagging- the notifying, marking, or inclusion of individuals in a ticket’s social media posts

Unsolicited Communications- any contact with individuals who have not willfully added themselves to a ticket’s mailing or contact list

Voter Disenfranchisement- the discouraging of individual autonomy

Unless otherwise implied or noted, this Elections Code refers to the Springfield, Missouri campus.