



# WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

## GENERAL CAMPAIGN RULES

- I. All campaign activity must be mindful of the fact that we are on the Capitol Campus. Appropriate materials, dress, and behavior must be maintained at all times. It is particularly important that we not litter and/or in any way damage, mark, or make a mess of Capitol grounds and facilities. In addition, the following rules will apply:
  - All candidates will emphasize and abide by the YMCA core values:
    - Honesty
    - Respect
    - Responsibility
    - Caring
  - There will be no negative campaigning. Materials will refer to each delegate's own candidacy, qualifications and achievements.
  - Each candidate is responsible for his or her campaign materials including message, cleanup, and appropriate placement of campaign items.
  - There will be no campaigning during committees, inside the House, Senate, O'Brien House, Cherberg Senate, or 8<sup>th</sup> Grade House and Senate chambers, or within other offices while regular Youth Legislature business is being conducted. Campaigning is also prohibited within 20 feet of designated polling places.
  - Endorsements are allowed, however, candidates may be held responsible for actions taken on their behalf.
  - Speeches are to be given by the candidate only, and no introductions aside from those assigned by the Director of Elections are permitted. Candidate speeches must be approved by the Director of Elections at least two (2) hours prior to the time that speeches are scheduled to take place. Approval requires the official stamp, mark, or signature of the Director of Elections on the final version of the speech.
  - Speeches may not be more than 2 minutes.
  - Candidates must inform their advisor and the Program Director of any absence during Youth Legislature before the event.
  - Candidates **MUST** be present for all campaign –related activities, including; speeches, awards and acceptances. An absence may result in a forfeit of the candidates campaign and/or office.

## **II. Campaign Finance**

The maximum amount that each candidate may spend on the campaign is Fifty Dollars (\$50.00). This amount includes in-kind and direct contributions and all amounts spent by supporters. For example, if a friend prints up a flyer on paper from his parent's office, the fair market value of that flyer (paper and copying or printing costs) must be included in the \$50.00. Expenses such as glue, printer paper, ink, etc. must be included – the costs of these items may be estimated if necessary.

All candidates must prepare and submit a draft plan/budget to their advisor and a final plan/budget to the Director of Elections on the first day of session. Each candidate must also submit an itemized expenditure report including valid receipts and/or fair market value for all expenditures to the Director of Elections prior to the opening of the polls.

## **III. Campaign Materials**

All campaign materials (signs, posters, flyers, etc.) must include a disclaimer which clearly states the person(s) responsible for its production. The words "paid for by" or "prepared by," with the person's name must be on each campaign item. Two (2) copies of each item must be submitted to and approved by the Director of Elections prior to distribution or display. Approval requires the official stamp, mark, or signature of the Director of Elections.

Materials may be posted only in designated areas. No materials may be stuck to any part of the interior of the Legislative Building. You will be instructed as to where you can place campaign materials.

The following are NOT allowed:

- Banners or signs over 2' X 2'
- Balloons
- Glitter or confetti may not appear either alone or on any materials or signs
- Use of government or Youth & Government resources, i.e. printers, computers, copiers, etc.

## **IV. Elections of Chief Lobbyist Officer/Editor in Chief/PMG**

- Elections of the Chief Lobbyist Officer, Post Master General and Editor in Chief will be run by the Fair Elections Commission.
- FEC's will address each group on the first day of session to explain election rules and the duties of respective positions.

- Candidates will follow the same guidelines as all other major officer candidates.
- Candidates will post their candidacy on an official sheet in their work space before dinner on Thursday, after which time no additional candidates will be approved.
- FEC's will distribute and collect ballots at an assigned time on Friday.
- FEC's will deliver ballots in a sealed envelope to the Director of Elections directly following the vote.
- Ballots will be counted in the Secretary of State's Office by the Director of Elections and the Secretary of State.
- The Director of Elections and Secretary of State will certify the votes.

## **V. Enforcement**

If a candidate or candidate's supporters choose to break any of these rules, the candidate may be disqualified from the race or, if the election has concluded, may be asked to forfeit his or her seat. In this case the nearest challenger will assume the office.

Complaints regarding a rule violation will be submitted to the Director of Elections, in writing, with specific facts and evidence provided. Complaints will be considered and decided upon by the Director of Elections, Fair Elections Commissioners and Secretary of State with oversight by the State Director, and the appropriate delegation advisor within four hours.