



WASHINGTON STATE YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

House and Senate Presiding Officers

Candidates for Lt. Governor (President of the Senate) and Speaker of the House must be enrolled in the 11th grade, or equivalent. They must have at least one year's prior experience in the YMCA Youth Legislature. They must complete and file electronically a candidate statement for use in the Voter's Pamphlet, and a black and white or color photograph of the candidate suitable for use in the Bill Book and Voter's Pamphlet (photo must also be electronic). Candidates must also file a campaign budget report to the Director of Elections in accordance with the campaign rules. Candidates for Speaker and Lt. Governor will run and be voted upon during the session. Candidates must also file a campaign budget report to the Director of Elections in accordance with the campaign rules. Runners-up in each race will become the Speaker Pro-Tem and President Pro-Tem respectively. The Presiding Officers will serve throughout the year and preside at the next session.

Presiding officers **MUST** attend leadership training as scheduled in the Program Calendar. All delegates interested in running for Presiding Officer are encouraged to apply to be part of the Washington Delegation to the Conference on National Affairs.

The **Lt. Governor (President of the Senate)** and **Speaker of the House** (and the **Pro Temps** when presiding) have the following responsibilities:

1. Preside over and act as the representatives of their respective houses at all times.
2. Ensure that the will of the majority prevails and that the rights of the minority are respected.
3. Take the chair precisely at the hour appointed for the session, call the members to order, and, if a quorum be present, proceed with the business of the body.
4. Preserve order and decorum in the chamber. In the case of disturbance or disorderly conduct within the chamber, the presiding officer shall order the Sergeant-at-Arms to suppress the disruption.
5. May speak to points of order in preference to other members, rising for that purpose, and shall decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the body by not less than ten percent of the membership of the body.

6. Answer all parliamentary inquiries, but may consult with the parliamentarian.
7. Designate who is first to speak when two or more members rise at once.
8. Announce the results of all votes taken and cast the deciding vote in the case of a tie.
9. Sign all acts, memorials and resolutions passed by the body.
10. Serve and vote on bills in their assigned legislative committee. May also provide expertise when called upon by other committees.
11. Appoint and name any special committees of the body.
12. The President shall chair the Senate Rules Committee. The Speaker shall chair the House Rules Committee.
13. The President shall preside over the opening joint session. The Speaker shall preside over the closing joint session.
14. Organize the officers of their respective chambers into efficient working teams. Meet with the officers before the formal session begins and as often as is necessary during the session and ensure that the officers are aware of their duties.
15. In the absence of the President Pro Tem/Speaker Pro Tem, the President or Speaker shall have the right to leave the chair and call any member to the chair to preside. While acting as presiding officer, the member shall not lose the right to vote. The President or Speaker may resume the chair at any time.
16. Participate in debate and vote only when not presiding.
17. Attend any meetings convened by the Youth Governor for major office holders.
18. Serve as voting members of the YMCA Youth Legislature Program Committee for the year prior to their session. This requires attendance at all scheduled Program Committee Meetings.
19. Attend the Proclamation Signing, Leadership Training and Y-Advocacy Day events, as well as the Youth Legislative session in its entirety.

The President Pro Tem of the Senate and the Speaker of the House Pro Tem have the following responsibilities:

1. Preside over their respective houses during designated sessions or in the absence of the President/Speaker.
2. Participate in debate and vote in their respective chambers, if desired, and when not presiding.
3. Preside over the O'Brien House and Cherberg Senate (the Speaker Pro Tem in O'Brien and the President Pro Tem in Cherberg).
4. Serve on a legislative committee and may vote in that committee.
5. The President Pro Tem shall be the Vice Chair of the Senate Rules Committee. The Speaker Pro Tem shall be the Vice Chair of the House Rules Committee.
6. Work in close cooperation with their respective presiding officers and rostrum staffs to ensure the smooth functioning of their respective chambers.
7. Attend the Proclamation Signing, Leadership Training and Y-Advocacy Day events, as well as the Youth Legislative session in its entirety.

