



**RIT Student
Government**

**Rochester Institute of Technology
Student Government Bylaws**
Appendix C: Standing Rules of Elections

Last Amended: August 29, 2025

Appendix C: Standing Rules of the Elections

Standard Election Timeline

1. The Spring election timeline shall be determined by the Elections Committee and presented to the Senate no later than the 2nd Senate of the Spring semester
 - a. The timeline shall include but not be limited to
 - i. A petitioning for candidacy period
 - ii. Determination of eligible candidates
 - iii. A voting period
 - iv. An election result announcement
2. The Elections committee shall approve the election timeline with a majority vote
 - a. The election timeline can be amended during the election season with a 2/3 majority vote by the Senate

General Rules

1. All students must be given a digital copy of Appendix C immediately beginning their petition for candidacy
 - a. A hard copy of Appendix C shall be made available by the current Student Government upon request
2. Students must complete a petition for candidacy, unless explicitly stated in their independent bylaws, in order to become a candidate.
3. Students, or individual(s) acting on their behalf, may distribute their petition for candidacy in any non-RIT distributed means
4. The candidates, and Student Government or any RSO officers, are not permitted to engage in any destructive action against any candidate.
 - a. Examples include but are not limited to tearing down flyers, slander, or any unprofessional manner
5. Candidates or other individuals on their behalf may utilize social media for petitioning and campaigning
 - a. Social media shall not be used for destructive action against any candidate as stated above
6. Advertising for candidates within the Student Government or any Representative Student Organization office is prohibited.
7. All Candidates must abide by RIT posting policies for all RIT locations. Student Government will provide a digital copy of the Posting Procedures for Advertisement & Announcements from the Center for Campus Life
 - a. All questions regarding the Posting Procedures for Advertisement & Announcements should be brought to the Elections Committee

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8. Members of Student Government or any RSO officers may not endorse or favor any candidates in any manner, including on social media
 - a. Any form of content posted on Student Government online platforms must be applied equally towards all candidates.
 - b. Discussions about candidates and their campaigns are prohibited from taking place within the Student Government or RSO offices outside of the Elections Committee
9. On election dates, candidates, teams of candidates or anyone soliciting for them, may not campaign within 50 feet voting locations and/or within a voting location room. Candidates or teams of candidates may not solicit votes using any electronic device.
 - a. A voting location is defined as any location where elections are being promoted by Student Government or any location where Student Government has designated as a polling place.
10. At no time can a candidate disrupt an academic class or any meeting to advertise or solicit votes.
11. Candidates or teams of candidates shall not be harassing or actively engaging with voters while they are in the process of voting regardless of location.
12. Candidates hold themselves responsible for their actions and anyone acting on their behalf, including word-of-mouth communications of the candidate's intention to run. The division of Student Affairs, the Center for Campus Life, and Student Government will not assume responsibility for candidate actions. This includes any measures taken in advertising or soliciting.
13. All disputes or grievances regarding the election should be directed to the Elections Committee.
14. Campaigning is not permitted until candidacy is confirmed.
 - a. Student Government defines campaigning as the dispersal of propaganda, in print and/or electronic forms, by prospective candidates or those acting on their behalf to solicit votes from students.
 - i. Included in propaganda are all visual forms of media and any form of personal communication that exceeds a reasonable level is of speculation for candidacy.
 1. Campaigning does not include conversations.
 - b. Students may not claim they are official candidates for their respective positions until their candidacy is confirmed
 - c. Meeting with official Student Groups to discuss one's candidacy is also not permitted until candidacy is confirmed.
15. Campaign materials may not have the Student Government or any Representative Student Organization logo in any form, including but not limited to graphics on apparel, logos, etc.

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16. Candidates may not solicit support from University faculty, staff, or departments.
 - a. University departments, programs, faculty, or staff may not publicly endorse specific candidates. If it is found that a department, program, faculty or staff member is publicly supporting a candidate, it is the candidate's responsibility to request them to remove their public support.
17. Candidates may not use their access and/or resources granted to them through RIT via affiliations they have on campus
 - a. Examples include, but are not limited to Student Government, Residence Life, Student Advisory Boards, Representative Student Organizations, or on-campus employment
18. Any use of an official RIT communication platform endorsed and supported by faculty or staff is strictly prohibited
 - a. Examples include but are not limited to official RIT Slack, Discord, or any mass communication platform
19. All candidates must meet eligibility requirements outlined in the Student Government Bylaws Article III and Position Procedures
20. All prospective candidates or candidate teams must gain support, as described the by the Elections Committee, in order to officially become a candidate
 - a. Expectations to the eligibility rules may be proposed by administrative advisors confirmed by Governance Committee
21. The Senate and Governance shall approve election amendments with a majority vote
 - a. During the election timeline, election amendments shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote.

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Penalties and Enforcement

1. The Elections Committee Chair shall review all infraction violation submissions and shall have the authority to dismiss submissions or disperse warnings, as needed.
 - a. All dismissed submissions shall be made available to the voting members of the Committee at the next available meeting.
 - b. Any member of the Committee shall have the authority to introduce a dismissed infraction violation submission for discussion, with majority vote.
 - c. All dismissed infraction violation submissions shall be permanently dismissed 7 days after initial presentation of dismissal by the Chair.
2. Any infraction violation submission submitted for discussion shall be approved with majority vote
3. Any infraction violation submission shall be submitted no later than 24 hours after the conclusion of the election
4. Any member of Student Government or a Representative Student Organization Executive Board shall not be allowed to submit infractions on any candidate or teams of candidates
 - a. If a candidate is an internal member of Student Government or a Representative Student Organization, they shall be allowed to submit infractions
5. No infraction violation submission shall be anonymous
6. Every candidate, prospective candidate, or presidential & vice presidential team shall begin with an initial zero infraction points
7. Candidates or teams of candidates shall follow the following infraction point levels:
 - a. Green Infraction Level: Zero (0) to Three (3) Points
 - b. Yellow Infraction Level: Four (4) to Six (6) Points
 - c. Orange Infraction Level: Seven (7) to Nine (9) Points
 - d. Brown Infraction Level: Ten (10) to Twelve (12) Points
 - e. Red Infraction Level: Thirteen (13) or More Points
8. Any candidate or team of candidates shall have the right to appeal any infraction decision of the Elections Committee
 - a. The only exception to this rule is the appeal of an expulsion of a candidate or team of candidates
9. Student Government shall make available the infraction level of the candidate or team of candidates on the official Student Government Elections page.
 - a. The Elections Committee chair shall work with the current Student Government Director of Technology Services to update the website twice a day
 - i. These updates shall take place at 9 AM EST and 5 PM EST

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- b. The following information shall be available on the website for every candidate for public viewing
 - i. Color of infraction level
 - 1. Hash marks shall be placed on the color bar for a candidate or team of candidates going through an infraction appeal
 - ii. Total number of infraction points
 - 1. Infractions and points under appeal shall have an asterisk next to them
 - iii. A list of all infractions on each candidate or candidate team with their associating points
 - 1. Infractions and points under appeal shall have an asterisk next to them
10. Based on point totals, penalties shall include, but shall not be limited to:
- a. Any candidates or team of candidates at the Orange Infraction level shall be subject to
 - i. Limits to campaign resources through Student Government including but not limited to the inability to campaign as determined by the Elections Committee
 - b. Any candidates or team of candidates at the Brown Infraction level shall be subject to
 - i. Restrictions on participation in Student Government sponsored campaign-related events as determined by the Elections Committee
 - c. Any candidate or team of candidates at the Red Infraction level shall be subject to expulsion from candidacy
 - i. For a candidate or team of candidates to be expelled from candidacy, a member of the Elections Committee shall make an official written motion, including an evidence based, documented justification for the motion for expulsion
 - 1. It shall be the responsibility of the Elections Committee Chair to contact the candidate or team of candidates and to schedule and chair the meeting
 - a. Once an official motion has been made, the candidate or team of candidates shall be present for the discussion of their eligibility, and shall have the opportunity to present and defend their actions and motives to the Elections Committee.
 - b. Expulsion from candidacy shall be decided by majority agreement of the Elections Committee, under supervision by the Administrative Advisors of Student Government

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- c. Enforcement of this policy shall be at the discretion of the Elections Committee, under direct advisement by the Administrative Advisors
- 11. In the event the candidate or team of candidates meet the Red Infraction level after the election has occurred, the candidate or team of candidates, not in the Red Infraction level, receiving the highest number of votes shall assume the position
- 12. The Elections Committee shall reinstate all candidates or teams of candidates if all candidates or team of candidates meet the Red Infraction level
- 13. In the event that a candidate, presidential & vice presidential team, or other individuals acting on their behalf fail to comply with these campaign regulations, it shall be the jurisdiction of the Elections Committee to assign infraction points.
- 14. Veto and infraction appeals power of the Election Committee shall reside within the Governance Committee by a majority vote
 - a. In the event that a team of candidates appeals an infraction that is within a specific Representative Student Organization, said Representative Student Organization shall not be present for appeal hearing and voting
 - i. The dismissal of this organization shall not affect quorum
 - b. Other similar significant conflicts of interest and significant personal relationships should be acknowledged or disclosed with administrative advisors who shall have say in dismissal of said individual
 - i. The dismissal of this individual shall not affect quorum

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Infraction Examples:

- A. One (1) to Three (3) Point Infractions
 - a. Campaigning before candidacy is approved
 - b. The Student Government or Representative Student Organization logo is visible in a candidate's campaign material
 - c. Not following the advertising guidelines as defined by the Center for Campus Life
 - d. Slandering other candidates
 - e. Candidate advertising within the Student Government or any Representative Student Organization office
 - f. Claiming official candidate status before candidacy is approved
- B. Four (4) to Six (6) Point Infractions
 - a. Prior to candidacy approval, meeting with official Student Groups to discuss one's candidacy
 - b. Destroying other candidates campaigning materials
 - c. Member of Student Government or Representative Student Organization supporting candidate or teams on social media
 - d. Harassing or actively engaging with voters while they are in the process of voting
- C. Seven (7) to Nine (9) Point Infractions
 - a. Using resources granted to a candidate through RIT via identities they have on campus
 - b. Soliciting votes within 50 feet of a polling place and/or within a voting location room
 - c. Disrupting an academic class or any meeting during campaigning
 - d. A University department, program, faculty, or staff member publicly endorsing a candidate or team of candidates
- D. Ten (10) to Thirteen (13) Point Infractions
 - a. Any dishonest, harmful, or disruptive behavior that may change the outcome of the election
 - i. Examples include but are not limited to the manipulation of the voting system or providing favors/compensation to members of the committee

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Position Procedures

Section 1: President & Vice President

1. The candidates for President and Vice President shall run on the same ticket.
2. Each candidate must have fulfilled two academic semesters at RIT by the end of the current semester.
3. Each team shall gather support as determined by the Elections Committee

Section 2: Academic Senators

1. Each Academic Senator shall, before being elected, gather support to be determined by the Elections Committee, from the students enrolled in their college.
2. Each candidate must have fulfilled two academic semesters at RIT and one semester in their respective college by the end of the current semester.
3. Each Academic Senator must be pursuing a degree within the college they wish to represent.
 - a. An exception may be granted for the position of NTID Senator. Eligibility for this role would include students currently enrolled in NTID as well as Cross-Registered students who have completed two full time terms in NTID, with at least one of these terms being in the last two years
 - i. Exceptions shall be granted at the discretion of the administrative advisors.

Section 3: Community Senators

1. The Women's Senator shall be elected by a vote of her community's populace.
 - a. A woman student is considered eligible for this position and to vote for this position as long as they identify as a woman.
2. The Greek Senator shall be elected pursuant to the following guidelines:
 - a. All candidates must be a member of an Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) chartered organization.
 - b. Each chapter recognized by the OFSL will receive one vote, to be cast by the chapter president. The method of determining the chapter vote is up to the respective chapter.
3. Each candidate must have fulfilled 2 academic semesters at RIT by the end of the current semester.