



**RIT Student
Government**

**Rochester Institute of Technology
Student Government Bylaws**

Appendix C: Standing Rules of Elections

Last Amended: February 6, 2026

Appendix C: Standing Rules of the Elections

Section 1: Election Timeline

1. The Spring election timeline and an overview of the elections process and rules shall be presented by the Director of Elections 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

Section 2: Election Amendments

1. The Senate shall approve election amendments with a majority vote.
 - a. During the election timeline, election amendments shall be approved by a two-thirds majority vote.
2. The election timeline can be amended during the election season with a $\frac{2}{3}$ majority vote by the Senate.

Section 3: Position Procedures

1. President & Vice President
 - a. The candidates for President and Vice President shall run on the same ticket.
 - b. Each team shall meet eligibility requirements as stated in Article III, Section 1.
 - c. Each team shall gather the required number of signatures to reach candidate eligibility as determined in Appendix C, Section 4.
 - i. Exceptions to the eligibility rules may be proposed by administrative advisors confirmed by the Elections Committee.
 - d. Each team shall make an effort to meet with the current sitting President and Vice President.
2. Senators
 - a. Each candidate shall meet eligibility requirements as stated in Article III, Section 1.
 - b. Each candidate shall gather support as determined by Appendix C, Section 4.
 - i. Exceptions to the eligibility rules may be proposed by administrative advisors confirmed by the Elections Committee.
 - c. 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.

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- d. The Accessibility Senator shall be elected by a vote of their community's populace.
 - i. A student is considered eligible for this position and to vote for this position as long as they identify as needing support through accessibility advocacy.
- e. The Women's Senator shall be elected by a vote of their community's populace.
 - i. A student is considered eligible for this position and to vote for this position as long as they identify as a woman.
- f. The Greek Senator shall be elected pursuant to the following guidelines:
 - i. All candidates must be a member of an Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life (OFSL) chartered organization.
 - ii. 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.

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Section 4: Signatures

1. Senators

- a. Below is the breakdown for the signatures required. Candidates are only responsible for obtaining the signatures from the college/community they are representing.

| College | Student Population | Signatures Required |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| College of Art & Design | 1,637 | 35 |
| College of Engineering Technology | 1,865 | 35 |
| Thomas Golisano College of Computing & Information Sciences | 3,827 | 55 |
| College of Health Sciences & Technology | 512 | 15 |
| College of Liberal Arts | 727 | 15 |
| College of Science | 1,195 | 25 |
| Saunders College of Business | 885 | 20 |
| Kate Gleason College of Engineering | 3,010 | 50 |
| National Technical Institute for the Deaf | 550 | 15 |
| School of Individualized Study | 418 | 10 |
| Community | Student Population | Signatures Required |
| Accessibility | Self-Identification | 30 |
| Cross Registered | 477 | 10 |
| Graduate | 2,419 | 40 |
| Women's | Self-Identification | 50 |

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2. President & Vice President

- a. Below is a list of the breakdown for the signatures required. Note that no signatures are required from the Golisano Institute for Sustainability (GIS), or any other unlisted college.

| College | Student Population | Signatures Required |
|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| College of Art & Design | 1,637 | 35 |
| College of Engineering Technology | 1,865 | 35 |
| Thomas Golisano College of Computing & Information Sciences | 3,827 | 55 |
| College of Health Sciences & Technology | 512 | 15 |
| College of Liberal Arts | 727 | 15 |
| College of Science | 1,115 | 25 |
| Saunders College of Business | 885 | 20 |
| Kate Gleason College of Engineering | 3,010 | 50 |
| National Technical Institute for the Deaf | 550 | 15 |
| School of Individualized Study | 418 | 10 |
| Totals | 14,490 | 275 |

3. The above signature charts (1a and 2a) are able to be updated by the Elections Committee with majority vote and do not require Senate approval if no signature requirement is increased or decreased by more than 20% of the current signature requirement from year-to-year.
- a. The Director of Elections must present the signature requirement change at the next Senate meeting.
- b. If the Elections Committee wishes to increase or decrease a signature requirement by more than 20% of the current signature requirement, it must be approved by the Senate.

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Section 5: General Election Rules

1. Candidates shall be given a digital copy of Appendix C and their respective position packet immediately beginning their petition for candidacy.
 - a. A hard copy of Appendix C and their respective position packet shall be made available by the current Student Government upon request to the Director of Elections.
2. Candidates shall complete a petition for approved candidacy, unless explicitly stated in their independent bylaws, in order to become an approved candidate.
3. Members of Student Government or any Representative Student Organization shall not endorse or favor any candidates in any manner or assist candidates in gathering signatures or votes, 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 petitions or campaigns are prohibited from taking place within the Student Government office, Representative Student Organization offices, Student Government events, or Representative Student Organization events-
 - i. Exceptions include official Elections Committee meetings.
4. Candidates shall not solicit support from University faculty, staff, or departments.
 - a. University departments, programs, faculty, or staff may not publicly endorse specific candidates.
 - b. 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.
5. All disputes or grievances regarding the election should be directed to the Director of Elections.

Section 6: Prospective Candidate Rules

1. An approved candidate is a candidate who is notified of their confirmed eligibility to appear on the Elections ballot by the Director of Elections or Student Government Administrative Advisors on the first day of the campaigning period.
2. Candidates shall not post flyers around campus in order to promote themselves or gain signatures or votes until after their candidacy is approved.
3. Campaigning is not permitted until candidacy is approved.
 - a. Student Government and Representative Student Organizations define 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.

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- i. Included in propaganda are all visual forms of media and any form of personal communication that exceeds a reasonable level of speculation for candidacy.
 - 1. Campaigning does not include conversations.
- 2. Candidates shall not meet with official Student Groups to discuss one's candidacy until candidacy is approved.
 - a. Official Student Groups include all RIT clubs, teams, and organizations that are not Student Government or a Representative Student Organization.

Section 7: Social Media, Advertising Materials, and Dispersal Methods Rules

- 1. Candidates, or individual(s) acting on their behalf, may not distribute their petition for candidacy or promote the candidate and their platform in any RIT distributed means.
 - a. RIT distributed means (not permitted) include any official communication channels or methods that students are automatically enrolled in or required to be in.
 - i. Examples include a class discord organized by a professor, student organization communication channels, platforms, or social media, work channels, the Reporter articles and print, etc.
 - b. Non-RIT distributed means (permitted) include in-person conversations, private messaging, personal group chats, personal social media platforms, etc.
- 2. Candidates or other individuals on their behalf may utilize personal social media accounts for petitioning and campaigning.
 - a. Candidates may create an official candidate Instagram or any other social media account before candidacy is approved, however it shall remain private and with no information in the profile until after candidacy is approved.
 - b. RIT affiliated organizations shall not promote candidates or help them gain signatures on any social media accounts connected to the organization.
- 3. Approved 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 Director of Elections.

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4. Advertising for candidates within the Student Government office, any Representative Student Organization office, any Student Government event, and any Representative Student organization event is prohibited.
5. Candidates shall not display the Student Government or any Representative Student Organization logo of any form on any petitioning or campaigning materials, including but not limited to, apparel, graphics, social media posts, flyers, buttons, stickers, etc.

Section 8: Conduct and Etiquette Rules

1. Candidates and Student Government or Representative Student Organization officers shall not engage in any destructive or disrespectful action against any candidate(s).
2. Candidates shall not harass RIT students in order to gain signatures or votes.
3. Candidates shall hold themselves responsible for their actions and anyone acting on their behalf, including word-of-mouth communications.
 - a. The division of Student Affairs, the Center for Campus Life, Student Government, and Representative Student Organizations will not assume responsibility for prospective candidate actions.
 - b. This includes any measures taken in advertising or soliciting.
4. Candidates shall not disrupt an academic class or any meeting to advertise or solicit signatures or votes.
5. Candidates shall not use their access and/or resources granted to them through RIT via affiliations they have on campus in order to gather signatures, gather votes, or promote themselves.
 - a. Examples include, but are not limited to access or privileges granted due to being a part of Student Government, Residence Life, Student Advisory Boards, Representative Student Organizations, or on-campus employment.
6. Candidates shall not actively engage with voters while they are in the process of voting, regardless of location.
7. On election dates, candidates or anyone soliciting for them, may not campaign within 50 feet of a voting location.
 - a. Candidates or teams of candidates may not solicit votes using any electronic device.
 - b. A voting location is defined as any location where elections are being promoted by Student Government or a Representative Student Organization or any location where Student Government has designated as a polling place

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Section 9: Penalties and Enforcement

1. In the event that a candidate, team of candidates, or other individuals acting on their behalf fail to comply with campaign rules and regulations, it shall be the jurisdiction of the Elections Committee to assign infraction points.
2. The Director of Elections shall review all infraction violation submissions and shall have the authority to dismiss submissions or bring them to the Elections Committee for discussion.
3. The process of a dismissed submission is as follows:
 - a. All dismissed submissions shall be made available to the voting members of the Elections Committee at the next meeting.
 - b. Any member of the Elections Committee shall have the authority to motion to discuss a dismissed submission with majority vote.
 - c. All dismissed submissions shall be permanently dismissed seven days after initial presentation of dismissal by the Director of Elections.
4. The process of a non-dismissed submission is as follows:
 - a. The Elections Committee shall review the submission and decide one of three options by majority vote:
 - i. No outcome.
 1. The Elections Committee decides no rules were broken and candidate(s) receive no infraction points.
 - ii. Issue a warning.
 1. The Elections Committee decides the submission showed concern, but not a clear break of the rules.
 2. The Director of Elections shall email the candidate(s) and issue a warning for the action.
 - iii. Issue infraction points.
 1. The Elections Committee decides the submission breaks the rules and issues a corresponding number of infraction points.
5. Prospective (pre-approved) candidates and candidates shall be eligible to receive infraction points.
 - a. If prospective candidate(s) receive infraction points, it shall be recorded by the Director of Elections and then displayed on the website if the prospective candidate(s) become official candidates.
6. Student Government shall make the infraction level and infractions of each candidate or team of candidates visible on the Student Government Elections website.
 - a. The website shall be updated by the Director of Technology Services at 9 AM EST and 5 PM EST.

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- b. All candidates or teams of candidates shall have a bar below their name filled in by the color of their current infraction level.
 - c. If candidates or teams of candidates have any infractions, a list of infractions and their point totals shall be displayed below their colored bar.
 - d. Any infractions under appeal shall have an asterisk next to them.
- 7. Infraction violation submissions can begin the first day of petitioning and close 24 hours after election results are announced.
- 8. Infraction violation submissions shall not be anonymous.
- 9. Prospective candidates or teams of prospective candidates shall start with zero infraction points.
- 10. Candidates or teams of candidates shall have the right to appeal any infraction decision of the Elections Committee except the expulsion of a candidate or team of candidates.
- 11. The infraction appeals power of the Election Committee shall reside within the Governance Committee.
 - a. The Governance Committee shall review the appeal and decide one of two options by majority vote:
 - i. Agree with the Elections Committee's decision.
 - 1. The original decision remains.
 - ii. Disagrees with the Elections Committee's decision.
 - 1. The Governance Committee can either overturn the infraction points in its entirety and have it dismissed from the record or;
 - 2. The Governance Committee can issue a different amount of infraction points.
 - b. Candidates or teams of candidates shall not appeal the Governance Committee's decision.
 - c. 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.
 - d. 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.
- 12. 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

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- e. Red Infraction Level: Thirteen (13) or More Points
13. Based on point totals, penalties shall include, but 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 and 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 Director of Elections 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.
 - c. Enforcement of this policy shall be at the discretion of the Elections Committee, under direct advisement by the Administrative Advisors.
14. 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.
15. The Elections Committee shall reinstate all candidates or teams of candidates if all candidates or teams of candidates meet the Red Infraction level.

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Section 10: 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 or petitioning material
 - c. Not following the advertising guidelines as defined by the Center for Campus Life or other spaces on campus
 - d. Slandering other candidates
 - e. Candidate advertising within the Student Government or any Representative Student Organization office
- 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