

TITLE 9 ELECTIONS

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SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS:

- 1.1. Election Agency EA: A board strictly directed by the bylaws to organize and certify elections (See Title 9 Section 2).
- 1.2. Intent to Run Filing: A filing announcing a candidate or candidate pair's intent to run for an office (See Title 9 Section 3).
- 1.3. Candidate: Someone running for a senate seat or part of a candidate pair.
- 1.4. Candidate pair: Two individuals running together as a ticket for the offices of President and Vice President.
- 1.5. Campaign budget: An itemized budget including all campaign expenses and receipts.
- 1.6. Technological difficulty: A computer problem that inhibited voters from casting votes, that caused votes to be duplicated, or that did not accurately count casted votes.
- 1.7. Meaningful impact: Something that causes or could cause election results to appear as though a candidate won an election in which the candidate did not actually win.
- 1.8. Popular vote: A vote in which the entire student body of Oklahoma State University may participate.
- 1.9. Academic units: The College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources, The College of Engineering Architecture and Technology, The College of Arts and Sciences, The College of Human Sciences, The College of Education, The Spears School of Business, and The University College.
- 1.10. Living Groups: Greek, Off-campus, and Residential Life
- 1.11. Polling Station: Official SGA Constituency Day Table.
- 1.12. Enticement: Any tangible object given by a candidate/candidate pair for the sole purpose of persuading the recipient. Examples are, food, drinks, gifts, etc.
- 1.13. Advertisement Materials: Physical or digital objects that state the candidate/candidate pair's name and/or the position for which they are seeking election. Examples are, buttons, flyers, promotional t-shirts, etc.

SECTION 2. Election Agency: Election Agency (EA) - Shall implement the provisions set forth in Title 9 of the Student Government Association bylaws and those set forth in the Student Government Association Constitution.

2.1. COMPOSITION – The EA shall be composed of members of the Graduate and Professional Student Government Association.

2.1.1. The students serving on the EA shall be nominated by GPSGA and then approved by the Senate.

- 2.1.2. No candidate for office shall serve on the EA. If a member of the EA resigns for the purpose of running for office, GPSGA will nominate a replacement candidate who will then be approved by Senate.
- 2.1.3. No member of SGA leadership, including, but not limited to members of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch shall serve on the EA.
- 2.1.4. No Member of the EA shall endorse a candidate/candidate pair.
- 2.1.5. The current University Chair with the assistance of the Attorney General shall facilitate the training of new members of the EA.
 - 2.1.5.1. Training shall consist of a thorough education of the bylaws pertaining to the election, how to run a meeting, and a brief overview of the Oklahoma Open Meetings and Open Records Acts.
- 2.2. **RESPONSIBILITIES – Responsibilities of the EA shall include:**
 - 2.2.1. **ACCEPT INTENT TO RUN FILINGS –** The EA shall accept intention to run filings from any student of Oklahoma State University.
 - 2.2.2. **VALIDATE INTENT TO RUN FILINGS –** The EA shall validate each potential candidate/candidate pair’s intent to run filing to ensure that the candidates meet the minimum requirements outlined in Title 9 of the Student Government Association bylaws and those outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.
 - 2.2.3. **CREATION OF BALLOT –** The EA shall work with the Senior Administrative Support Specialist to create a ballot composed of those candidate/candidate pair(s) whose intent to run filings were validated in accordance with section 2.2.2., the ballot should also include any constitutional amendments that have been approved for consideration by the student body.
 - 2.2.4. **HEAR REPORTS OF CAMPAIGN VIOLATIONS –** The EA shall hear reports of campaign violations and misconduct and determine within 48 hours of receiving the complaint if enough evidence exists for a formal Supreme Court hearing.
 - 2.2.4.1. The EA shall not determine guilt or innocence only if enough evidence exists to warrant a Supreme Court hearing.
 - 2.2.4.2. **IF** it is determined that the complaint is valid and enough evidence exists for a trial; **THEN** the EA shall inform the Attorney General and the Supreme Court Chief Justice.
 - 2.2.4.3. **IF** the EA determines that not enough evidence exists for a Supreme Court trial; **THEN** the decision cannot be appealed.
 - 2.2.5. **ACCEPT CAMPAIGN BUDGET(S) –** The EA shall accept campaign budgets from every candidate/candidate pair.
 - 2.2.5.1. **VALIDATE CAMPAIGN BUDGET(S) –** The EA shall validate each candidate/candidate pair’s campaign budget at 5:30 pm CST on the last Election Day.
 - 2.2.5.2. The EA shall ensure that each candidate/candidate pair’s campaign expenditures are less than or equal to the maximum campaign expenditure outlined in Title 9 Section 4.2 of the Student Government Association bylaws.
 - 2.2.5.1.1. **IF** a candidate/candidate pair is found, by the EA, to have exceeded the allowed campaign expenditure as outlined in Title 9 Section 4.2 of the Student Government Association bylaws, **THEN** that candidate/candidate pair shall be automatically disqualified.
 - 2.2.6. **VALIDATE ELECTION RESULTS –** The EA shall validate the election results by determining that no technical issue affected the election results.
 - 2.2.6.1. The EA shall investigate any report of technological difficulties to determine if the technological difficulty had a meaningful impact on the election results.

- 2.2.6.2. IF the EA finds that a technological difficulty did meaningfully impact the election results THEN the EA shall use its discretion to remedy the issue.
- 2.2.7. DECLARE ELECTION WINNER(S) – The EA shall review the validated election results and the validated campaign budget(s) to declare an election winner.
 - 2.2.7.1. DECLARATION OF PRESIDENTIAL/VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WINNERS – The Presidential/Vice Presidential candidate pair must receive a majority to be declared the winner unless a candidate pair’s budget is not validated.
 - 2.2.7.1.1. IF a candidate pair has received greater than 50% of the popular vote as reported in the validated election results AND the candidate pair’s campaign budget **WAS** validated AND each candidate of the pair is in good standing with the University THEN that candidate pair shall be declared the election winner.
 - 2.2.7.1.2. IF a candidate pair has received greater than 50% of the popular vote AND the candidate pair’s campaign budget **WAS NOT** validated OR either candidate of the pair is not in good standing with the University THEN that candidate pair shall be disqualified.
 - 2.2.7.1.3. IF no candidate/candidate pair received greater than 50% of the popular vote AND there are more than one (1) candidate/candidate pair whose campaign budget was validated AND each candidate of each candidate pair whose budget was validated is in good standing with the University THEN a runoff election shall be held in accordance with Title 9 Section 5.4 of the Student Government Association bylaws.
 - 2.2.7.2. DECLARATION OF SENATE ELECTION WINNERS - Senators shall be elected on a plurality basis.
 - 2.2.7.2.1. IF the number of validated senate candidates from any constituency are less than or equal to the total number of available seats THEN all candidates shall be declared winners.
 - 2.2.7.2.2. IF the number of validated senate candidates from any constituency is greater than the number of available seats THEN the available seats shall be filled with the candidates who have the largest percentages of the popular vote and those candidates shall be declared winners.
 - 2.2.7.3. ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS – Constitutional amendments shall be adopted if the proposed amendment received the majority.
- 2.2.8. NOTIFY MEDIA OF ELECTION WINNER(S) – Upon declaring election winners the EA shall notify the O’Colly.
- 2.3. MEETINGS – The EA shall hold meetings as necessary to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in 2.2. of Title 9 of the Student Government Association Bylaws.
 - 2.3.1. All members of the EA shall be present in order to hold and meeting and transact business.
 - 2.3.1.1 Failure to attend a scheduled meeting without extenuating circumstances, as determined by the EA Chair or University Chair, shall result in removal from the EA.
 - 2.3.2. The EA Chair who is to be selected by their fellow EA members shall be responsible for posting an agenda at least 24 hours before any EA meeting, for recording minutes of any EA meeting, and for ensuring that any EA meeting is in compliance with any State or Federal laws that are applicable.
- 2.4 CANDIDATE INFORMATIONAL MEETING – The Election Agency shall host a non-mandatory informational meeting to review Title 9 in its entirety with all candidates as soon as possible after campaign filings have been made.

SECTION 3. CANDIDACY AND FILINGS:

3.1. CANDIDACY – Any student of Oklahoma State University may run for the office of Senator, President, or Vice President provided the student meets the minimum requirements outlined in 3.2 of the Student Government Association bylaws and the Student Government Association Constitution.

3.1.1. The President and Vice President shall be elected together as one ticket.

3.2. QUALIFICATIONS –

3.2.1. SENATOR QUALIFICATIONS – Any student filing for a senate seat must:

3.2.1.1. Be a graduate or full-time undergraduate student of Oklahoma State University

3.2.1.2. Possess a 2.0 cumulative grade point average and not be on academic probation

3.2.1.3. Have intent to enroll in at least two subsequent semesters following the semester of filing

3.2.1.4. Have completed at least one (1) semester as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater

3.2.1.5. Be a member of the constituency for which the senate seat is sought

3.2.1.6. Be in good standing with the University and Student Conduct

3.2.2. PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT QUALIFICATIONS –

3.2.2.1. Be a graduate or full-time undergraduate student of Oklahoma State University.

3.2.2.2. Possess a 2.5 cumulative grade point average and not be academic probation.

3.2.2.3. Have intent to enroll in at least (2) two subsequent semesters following the semester of filing.

3.2.2.4. Have completed at least two (2) semesters as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.

3.2.2.5. Be a member of the constituency for which the senate seat is sought.

3.2.2.6. Be in good standing with the University and Student Conduct

3.3. FILING – Any student who files for a Student Government Association office must:

3.3.1. File no later than 11:59 PM CST on the 1st day of February for the spring Presidential election and 11:59 CST the first day of March for the spring senatorial election and 11:59 PM CST on November 1 for the fall election.

3.3.2. When filing for a Student Government Association office the file must contain:

3.3.2.1. Candidate/Candidate pair's full legal name(s)

3.3.2.2. Candidate/Candidate pair's Campus Wide ID number(s)

3.3.2.3. Candidate/Candidate pair's contact information including address(s), phone number(s) and email(s)

3.3.2.4. Candidate/Candidate pair's academic transcript(s). (official or unofficial)

3.3.2.5. Candidates filing for President and Vice President must obtain verifiable signatures of 2% of the student body, or 500 students, whichever is less. The signature petition must include the student's full name, signature and CWID.

3.3.2.6. All requirements of Section 3.3.2 must be completed by submitting digital versions of all required documents to the SGA website by the filing deadline.

3.3.2.7. The Election Agency may request physical copies of all documents to be provided in a timely manner should the need arise.

SECTION 4. CAMPAIGNING:

4.1. VIOLATIONS:

4.1.1. Alleged violations of campaign regulations may be reported by any student to the Elections Agency via email from an official okstate.edu email address.

4.1.1.1. The election Agency shall determine if enough evidence of a violation exists to warrant a trial in the Supreme Court.

4.1.1.2. If the EA determines enough evidence exists to warrant a trial; THEN, the EA shall inform the Attorney General; The Attorney General shall then inform the accused candidate to cease and desist the activity in violation and provide notice of impending trial.

4.1.1.3. The Supreme Court will then hear the case and, if necessary, assess an appropriate penalty.

4.1.1.3.1. The Supreme Court may implement one of the following penalties as they deem appropriate.

4.1.1.2.1.1. Level One – written warning: may be issued in response to first violation of enticement policy of campaigning in prohibited areas.

4.1.1.3.1.2. Level Two – suspension of further distribution of campaign materials; may issue in response to multiple violations of enticement policy and distribution of illicit materials.

4.1.1.3.1.3. Level Three – Disqualification; awarded when required by Title 9 or in response to serious repeated violations of Title 9 Section 4.

4.2. CAMPAIGN BUDGET – Candidates shall set their campaign budget as they deem fit and report the budget and fundraising to the EA.

4.2.1. Each Senate Candidate's campaign budget shall not exceed \$250.

4.2.2. A campaign budget shall include an itemized list of expenditures.

4.2.3. All candidate/candidate pair's campaign budgets shall be submitted to the EA no later than 5:30 PM CST on the final Election Day.

4.3. CAMPAIGNING RESTRICTIONS –

4.3.1. No candidate/candidate pair may campaign in the Student Government Association office or within open meeting of the Student Government Association, Senate, Core Branch, or Programming Branch, after the candidate (s) have officially filed intent-to-run.

4.3.1.1. Section 4.3.1. shall not be construed to prohibit campaigning at events of independent departments of the Executive Core and Programming Branches.

4.3.2. No candidate/candidate pair may use any Student Government Association resources for campaigning.

4.3.3. No candidate/candidate pair shall campaign within 100 feet of a polling station.

4.3.4. No candidate/candidate pair may distribute any form of enticement.

4.3.5. Candidates may distribute advertisement materials.

4.4. FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS – All candidates must abide by federal, state, and local laws as well as by all University policies as they pertain to campaigning.

4.5. Campaign Staff:

4.5.1. All candidates must submit a detailed list of all individuals associated with their campaign.

4.5.2. The list of campaign staff must include the name, phone and email address of every individual.

4.5.3. List of campaign staff must be submitted to the EA by 5:00 CST on the Monday prior to elections.

SECTION 5. ELECTIONS:

5.1. VOTER ELIGIBILITY- Every enrolled OSU Stillwater student is registered under the provisions of this act as an elector of the living group and college in which he/she is entitled to vote, and his/her CIS user identification and password will be the certification of registration.

5.1.1. Students directly associated with the Greek system who live out of house, including new members, shall ensure that their names be on the rolls of the Inter-Fraternity Council or Pan-Hellenic Council for the purposes of apportionment and intent to vote as a member of the Greek community.

5.2. FALL ELECTION – The Fall election shall be held on the second Tuesday and Wednesday of November.

5.2.1. Senators representing academics units shall be elected during the fall election.

5.3. SPRING ELECTION – The Spring election shall be held the second Tuesday and Wednesday of March.

5.3.1. In the event that the second Tuesday and Wednesday of the month of March fall on spring break, the election will be held on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the month.

5.3.2. Senators representing living groups shall be elected during the spring election.

5.3.3. The President and Vice President shall be elected during the spring election.

5.4. RUNOFF ELECTION – If needed, a runoff election may be held the next available Tuesday and Wednesday that classes are in session.

5.5 SPECIAL ELECTION – A special election may be held at any time if deemed necessary by the Student Government Association President.

5.6. ELECTIONS WEBSITE – All Student Government elections shall be administered via a website provided by the Department of Leadership and Campus Life.

5.6.1. CANDIDATE INFORMATION

5.6.1.1. Candidates may submit to the EA upon filing for candidacy a digital image and a narrative not to exceed 200 words that will be placed on ballot for voter information.

5.6.2. The election shall be administered by a Student Government Association employee or Department of Leadership and Campus Life employee.

5.6.2.1. Any election administrator shall not disclose election results or data to anyone not associated with the EA prior to election results validation.

5.6.3. The online election system shall accept votes from 8:00 AM CST on the first Election Day until 5:00 PM CST on the same day. Polling stations shall then reopen to accept votes at 8:00 AM CST on the second Election Day until 5 PM CST the same day.

5.7 ELECTION RESULTS – The results of any given election to the elected positions within SGA, shall be posted on the official social media accounts and presented, in the form of a press release, on the official SGA website. The duties outlined in this subsection, shall be the responsibility of the Public Relations Director.

5.7.1. Results, as put for in section 5.7 of this title, shall be described as numerical representation of the amount of votes cast in favor of any given candidate, given in percentage of total votes cast or gross number of votes given to the candidate.