

## **2022 Maryland Association of Student Councils State Student Member of the Board of Education Election Rules**

### Article 1: Purpose of the 2022 Maryland Association of Student Councils State Student Member of the Board of Education Election Rules

Section 1: The purpose of this document is to serve as the basis, reference, and standard by which all MASC elections officials, candidates, voting delegates, and participants shall abide by and follow in the process of selecting the two nominees for the Student Member of the State Board of Education.

Section 2: A violation of rules listed in this document is grounds for the investigation and action by the Elections Committee per Article IV, Section 4 of the Operating Principles.

Section 3: To preface the remainder of the legislation, the terms of delegate and participant shall be defined.

Subsection A: Participants are any student attendees that are not a part of MASC member schools. These are attendees such as campaign staff and nominees.

### Article 2: Candidate Nomination Process and Voting

Section 1: The MASC General Assembly shall consider up to five candidates for the selection of MASC's two nominees for the position of the Student Member of the Maryland State Board of Education. A selection committee will select these candidates as finalists, by the procedure established in Article VII of the Operating Principles. Only the names of the finalists will appear on the ballot. Candidates nominated for state SMOB shall not be required to attend a member school. Candidates nominated for State SMOB shall not be required to attend an MASC member school. The principal or their designee will register the candidate for the Legislative Session.

Section 2: Only voting delegates from MASC member schools or members of the MASC Executive Board may vote.

Section 3: Using a preferential ballot, delegates shall elect two candidates. Write-in candidates shall not be considered. MASC will forward to the Governor's office the names of the two candidates receiving the most votes. The Governor's office will then, as per their established procedures, appoint one student to the position of Student Member of the State Board of Education.

### Article 3: Candidate Campaigning and Electioneering

Section 1: The definition of Campaigning and Electioneering in MASC is as follows:

*The public statement of one's candidacy to voting or non-voting delegates; the act of persuading voters to bolster one's candidacy; the act of distributing materials directly related to a candidate by that candidate and/or the candidate's campaign staff; any action that is directly related to assisting a person's candidacy by the candidate or candidate's campaign staff. Buying and preparing materials does not constitute Campaigning and Electioneering. (See the exception to this rule in Article 4 in this document.)*

- A. Campaign materials are considered any wearable items, documents (flyers/posters), digital correspondence, media posted on social media accounts, and any digital transmission that electioneers use to publicize a candidate.
- B. SMOB candidates shall not be allowed to use stickers within their campaign material at in-person events.

Section 2: Campaign Staff is defined as no more than ten participants or delegates attending the Legislative Session, who distribute campaign materials and make general announcements about a candidate. A list of each candidate's campaign staff must be turned in to the Executive Director(s) on or before 5:00 p.m. the Saturday before the Legislative Session.

Registered campaign staff are the only members at Legislative Session that may take part in any campaigning or electioneering, besides the candidate. Candidates are only responsible for the actions of their campaign staff and not the delegates of the assembly. Campaign staff must be registered by the published registration deadline by their school's advisor or administration, following all guidelines and permissions for conference registration.

Section 3: All Legislative Session presenters, MASC officers, and current State SMOB (unless a candidate) are prohibited from being campaign staff.

Section 4: The total cost of each candidate's campaign materials may not exceed \$80. Donated materials and professional services must be included at fair market value.

- A. On or before 5:00 p.m. the evening before the Legislative Session, candidates must submit a campaign report, including copies of appropriate receipts, and also report all social media, websites, and other digital platforms used for electioneering.
- A. At the Legislative Session, candidates may begin to campaign during the morning "informal" gatherings/divisional meetings, and during the lunch break.
- B. Prior to the Legislative Session, with candidate permission, MASC will publish names, campaign statements/resume, and recorded speeches for delegates to view and read before the event.

Section 5: Candidates may not engage in negative campaigning. Negative campaigning is defined as any actions on behalf of a candidate that may libel, slander, or defame another candidate.

Section 6: Candidates are prohibited from organizing in-person school visits or private meetings for the purpose of electioneering. Candidates may conduct such virtually.

Section 7: Following the conclusion of the State SMOB election and casting of ballots, the vote percentages of the election shall be released for the top two earners and posted publicly to all MASC delegates in a timely manner.

Section 8: Incumbent local and state SMOBs who are nominees may not electioneer while conducting official duties.

## Article 4: Utilization of Social Media in Campaigning

Section 1: Once notified by the MASC executive director(s) of their selection as a finalist, candidates may use social media, websites, and other digital platforms to campaign for SMOB. This does not include sending personal or mass emails.

Section 2: Candidates must use a newly formed social media account, created specifically for the purpose of electioneering. The candidate may not use their personal accounts to campaign in any way. Interactions between candidacy accounts and personal accounts are prohibited.

Section 3: Candidates must still strictly follow all campaign rules when using any forms of digital platforms to campaign, specifically Article 3 section 5 of these election rules.

## Article 5: Candidate Speeches and Question-and-Answer Period

Section 1: Prior to the voting period, all candidates shall have the right to record a campaign speech that shall not exceed five minutes each and may utilize visual aids. MASC will check times on speeches before posting. Speeches that exceed five minutes will be cut off. The candidate will also have the opportunity to give a live five-minute speech at an in-person event. The MASC secretary or designee shall be responsible for keeping time throughout the speeches and candidate question and answer period.

Section 2: Speeches recorded by candidates will be uploaded to the MASC YouTube account as an "unlisted" video for viewing by registered delegates. The candidate may use the same speech or a different speech at the live event.

Section 3: There will be at least a thirty (30) minute question and answer period.

- A. All students have the opportunity to submit a question to ask the candidates. If virtual, a form will be distributed to all registered delegates prior to the event to collect questions for candidates. If in-person, voting delegates will receive an electronic or paper form to submit a question. Questions will be randomly selected and reviewed for decency and appropriateness by a panel of two students and one advisor. The president will read the approved questions to the candidates, who will each have a right to respond to every question.
- B. Questions may be addressed to any candidates or all candidates. All candidates shall have the option of responding to any question.
- C. Responses will be limited to one minute.
- D. The order in which the candidates respond will be rotated.

## Article 6: Procedure for Election Violations

Section 1: Violations of the election rules listed herein are to be reported to the Executive Director(s) and the President.

Section 2: All violations must be reported in writing no later than two hours before the listed opening of voting.

Section 3: Upon receiving a written and signed report of a witnessed violation(s) of these election rules, the president will convene the Elections Committee. The President will then present the alleged violation(s) to the Elections Committee who will investigate the charges by holding meetings with both the candidate and the witness of the alleged violation(s).

Section 4: A 2/3 vote of the Elections Committee shall be required to take action concerning the violation. (Article 4, Section 4 MASC Operating Principles)

Section 5: The Election Guidelines will guide all actions made by the Elections Committee.

Section 6: The rulings of the Elections Committee are final.