

**2025 Maryland Association of Student Councils
State Student Member of the Board of Education Election Rules**

Article 1: Purpose of the 2025 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.

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 Student Member of the Maryland State Board of Education. A 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 MASC member school. The principal or their designee will register the candidate for the Winter Leadership Conference.

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

Section 3: Delegates will vote for 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 of the MASC Operating Principles.)

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 for their campaign material.

Section 2: Campaign Staff is defined as no more than ten voting or non-voting delegates attending the Winter Leadership Conference, 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 on or before 5:00 p.m. the Saturday before the Winter Leadership Conference.

Registered campaign staff are the only members at the Winter Leadership Conference 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 deadline by their school's advisor or administration, following all guidelines and permissions for conference registration.

Section 3: All Winter Leadership Conference presenters, MASC officers, and the 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 \$120. Donated materials and professional services must be included at fair market value.

- A. All candidates will notify the President and Executive Director of any social media accounts & webpages in which personal campaigning may occur.
- B. On or before 5:00 p.m. the evening before the Winter Leadership Conference, candidates must submit a campaign report, including copies of appropriate receipts.
- C. Once all candidates have arrived at the Winter Leadership Conference, candidates may begin to campaign during the morning "informal" gatherings/divisional meetings, and during the lunch break.
- D. Prior to the Winter Leadership Conference, with candidate permission, MASC will publish names, campaign statements/resumes, and recorded speeches for delegates to view and read before the event.

Section 5: No edible substances are to be used as campaign materials.

Section 6: Each candidate is allowed 3 posters, sized 18 by 24 inches, to be hung in designated areas.

Section 7: No wearable campaign materials are to be distributed or worn by anyone other than the candidates and their staff. This excludes buttons, wristbands, and other jewelry.

Section 8: No campaign literature or handouts may be distributed by any student delegate or displayed by presenters during a General Assembly or small group sessions.

Section 9: All campaign materials must bear the candidate's original or reproduced signature. This includes all posters, flyers, or any campaign items that are distributed. The President and Executive Director must approve exceptions to this rule.

Section 10: 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 11: Candidates are prohibited from organizing in-person school visits or private meetings for the purpose of electioneering. Instead, candidates may conduct such virtually on campaign social media accounts (specified in Article 4 of this document).

Section 12: 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 of their selection as a finalist, candidates may use social media or other web-based 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 (including, but not limited to; reposting, tagging, and sharing posts).

Section 3: Candidates must still strictly follow all campaign rules when using any form of digital platform to campaign, specifically Article 3 Section 4 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 give a campaign speech that shall not exceed five minutes each and which is not to include solicited audience applause or interruption. The MASC secretary or designee shall be responsible for keeping time throughout the candidate's speeches and the question and answer period.

Section 2: The MASC President will randomly determine the order of the candidate's speeches.

Section 3: There will be a forty (40) minute question and answer period following the speeches in which delegates will have the opportunity to question candidates.

- A. All students will have the opportunity to submit a question to ask the candidates. Google Form responses will be randomly selected and reviewed for decency and appropriateness by a panel of two students and one advisor. The name and school of the student must be on the Google Form response to be considered.
- 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.

Section 4: Each candidate may use visuals during his/her campaign speech. Candidates must inform the executive director of any visuals to be projected onstage, such as an electronic presentation, two days before the Winter Leadership Conference.

Article 6: Procedure for Election Violations

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

Section 2: All violations must be reported in writing by the end of workshop session II.

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 Bylaws)

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

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