

23/24-EB-04

bAuthored: Maggie Rathgeb and Michael Olsen

Passed: 12/9/23

**2024 Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC)
State Student Member of the Board of Education and MASC Officer Election Rules**

Article 1: Purpose of the 2024 Maryland Association of Student Councils State Student Member of the Board of Education and Maryland Association of Student Councils Officer 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 (SMOB) and the process of electing the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Treasurer of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MASC).

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- SMOB

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 (SMOB). 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 an MASC member school. The principal or their designee will register the candidate for the Convention.

Section 2: Only voting delegates from MASC member schools and 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.

Section 4: Elections will conclude no later than one-half hour after the designated voting times listed in the Convention program.

Article 3: Candidate Nomination Process and Voting- MASC Officers

Section 1: Nomination forms must be filed to the Executive Director(s) via Google Form by 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 9, 2024. In the case that there are no nominations filed for a specific office, the office will reopen for one week and nomination forms will be due by 5:00 p.m., Friday, February 16, 2024.

Section 2: Only the name of those delegates who have been officially nominated shall appear on the ballot.

Section 3: If there are two or fewer candidates for an office, the candidate receiving a simple majority of the votes shall win. Preferential balloting shall be used in all elections involving three or more candidates.

Section 4: Elections will conclude no later than one-half hour after the designated voting times listed in the Convention program.

Article 4: Candidate Campaigning and Electioneering - SMOB and MASC Officers

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 campaign social media accounts, and any digital transmission that electioneers use to publicize a candidate.

B. Candidates shall not be allowed to use stickers for their campaign material at in-person events.

Section 2: Campaign Staff is defined as no more than ten voting delegates attending the Convention, who distribute campaign materials and make general announcements about a candidate. A list of each candidate's registered campaign staff must be turned in to the Executive Director(s) on or before 5:00 p.m. the Saturday before the Convention. If any campaign staffers drop out prior to the first day of Convention, substitutions will only be accepted for members that were originally submitted. Additional campaign staffers cannot be added after the deadline.

Registered campaign staff are the only members at the Convention 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: 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. On or before 5:00 p.m. two days before the convention, candidates must electronically submit a campaign report, including copies of appropriate receipts. Before use, all candidates must report all social media, websites, and other digital platforms used for electioneering.
- B. At the Convention, candidates may begin to campaign at the beginning of recreation.
- C. Prior to the Convention, with candidate permission, MASC will publish names, campaign statements/resume, ~~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 spaces in the convention center area only.

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 be displayed by presenters in and during a General Assembly or during small group sessions and workshops.

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.

23/24-EB-04

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 events virtually on social media accounts (specified in Article 4 of this document).

Section 12: Incumbent officers and state SMOBs finalists may not electioneer while conducting official duties.

Article 5: Utilization of Social Media in Campaigning

Section 1: Once notified by the MASC executive director(s) after their participation in the mandatory candidate meeting prior to the Convention, candidates may use social media or other web-based platforms to campaign. Social media 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.

Article 6: 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 (SMOB and Presidential candidates) and four (4) minutes for all others, which is not to include non-elicited audience applause or interruption. The MASC parliamentarian or designee shall be responsible for keeping time throughout the candidate speeches and the question and answer period.

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

Section 3: There will be a thirty (30) minute question and answer period following the speeches of the SMOB candidates. There will be a question and answer period following the speeches of each of the candidates for Treasurer, Second Vice President, and First Vice President that shall not exceed fifteen (15) minutes. There will be a question and answer period for the presidential candidates that shall not exceed twenty (20) minutes.

- A. All students have the opportunity to submit a question to ask the candidates. Questions will be submitted via Google Form. The name and school of the student must be included on the form in order 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 the campaign speech. For any projected images, no later than two hours before their speech, candidates must turn in (via a USB drive labeled with the candidate's name) their visuals to the Convention IT company.

Article 7: 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 thirty minutes before the end of the last General Assembly on Thursday evening.

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.