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2025 Maryland Association of Student Councils' Officer Election Rules

Article 1: Purpose of the 2025 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 election officials, candidates, voting delegates, and participants shall abide by and follow in the process of electing the President, First Vice President, Second Vice President, and Treasurer of the Maryland Association of Student Councils.

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

Article 2: Candidate Nomination Process and Voting

Section 1: Nomination forms must be filed to the Executive Director(s) via Google Form by 11:59 p.m., Friday, February 7, 2025. In the case that there are no nominations filed for a specific office, the office will re-open for one week and nomination forms will be due by 11:59 p.m., Friday, February 14, 2025.

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

Section 3: The method of voting in all elections shall be by secret ballot electronically at the beginning of the closing General Session.

Section 4: Only voting delegates from MASC member schools or voting members of the MASC Executive Board may vote.

Section 5: 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 6: Elections will conclude no later than one-half hour after the designated voting times listed in the Convention program.

Section 7: Write-in candidates will not be considered.

Section 8: All candidates and their parent/guardian must attend an early candidate meeting before the Convention. Failure to do so will result in disqualification. Only when there is a notification by a parent or guardian of an extenuating circumstance preventing a candidate and a parent/guardian from attending this meeting will an absence be excused. If a candidate is unable to attend, they will be required to schedule a conference call with the Executive Director and a parent/guardian to review the information presented at the meeting. This meeting is scheduled virtually for 8:00-8:45 p.m., Monday, February 10, 2025.

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 a candidate or campaign staff. Buying and preparing materials does not constitute Campaigning and Electioneering. *(See the exception to this rule in Article 4 of 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.

Section 2: MASC defines Campaign Staff as:

No more than ten delegates attending the Convention who distribute campaign materials and make general announcements about a candidate. MASC Officers, the State SMOB, and host staff are not permitted to serve as campaign staff.

A list of each candidate's campaign staff must be turned in to the Executive Director no later than 5:00 p.m., February 25, 2025, which is two weeks before the convening of the session at which officer candidates are to be announced at the MASC Convention. Registered campaign staff are the only members at the Convention that may take part in any campaigning or electioneering, besides candidates. Candidates are responsible for the actions of their campaign staff and not the actions of delegates.

Section 3: The total cost of each candidate's campaign materials may not exceed one hundred and twenty dollars (\$120). Donated materials and professional services must be included in the total cost at a fair market value.

- A. Each candidate must turn in a campaign expense report, including appropriate receipts, by 5:00 p.m., Sunday, March 9, 2025.
- B. The Executive Director or designee shall certify candidates' expense reports and will notify candidates if there are questions.
- C. Campaigning at the Convention cannot begin until the Executive Director(s) or designee certifies all candidates' expense reports.

Section 5: No campaign literature may be distributed in or during the General Assembly, in any workshop, or during any regional meeting (not including allotted campaign times during lunch).

Section 6: Each candidate will be assigned a specific table (MASC to provide one small table easel) where their campaign materials will be displayed. Candidates may lay out any campaign literature including flyers or other objects on their tables.

- A. No campaign literature, including posters, is permitted to be posted anywhere other than the candidate's designated table. Nothing is permitted to be taped to ANY walls at the Convention Center.

Section 7: Only the candidate and registered campaign staff may wear wearable campaign materials. This excludes buttons, wristbands, and other jewelry. Shirts worn by candidates and/or their campaign

staff must be removed or covered during any undesignated campaigning time (general assemblies, workshops, and regional meetings).

Section 8: Candidates may campaign at any time except for general assemblies, workshops, and regional meetings as listed in the Convention agenda. This includes candidates/campaign staff not going into the general assembly room at any time or going into any workshop or regional meeting room within one minute of the specified time in the Convention program.

Section 9: Stickers are NOT permitted as campaign materials.

Section 10: Edible substances are NOT permitted as campaign materials.

Section 11: All campaign materials must bear the candidate's original or reproduced signature. This includes all posters, flyers, or any campaign items that are distributed. Before reproducing flyers, the candidate should include their signature as part of the design. For objects such as buttons, the President and Executive Director must approve exceptions to this rule. A picture of all campaign materials should be sent to the President and Executive Director by 5:00 p.m., Sunday, March 9, 2025.

Section 12: 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.

Article 4: Utilization of Social Media in Campaigning

Section 1: Candidates may use social media or other web-based platforms to campaign for an officer position once notified by the MASC Executive Director after their participation in the mandatory candidate-parent meeting at 8:00 p.m., February 10, 2025.

- A. 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 2: All candidates will notify the Executive Director of any social media accounts & webpages in which personal campaigning may occur.

Section 3: Candidates must still strictly follow all campaign rules when using any form of social media to campaign, specifically Article 3 Section 12 of these election rules.

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

Section 1: All candidates for office shall have the right to give a campaign speech prior to the voting period that shall not exceed five (5) minutes for presidential candidates and four (4) minutes for all others, which is not to include non-elicited applause or interruption. The MASC Secretary or designee shall be responsible for keeping time throughout the candidates' speeches and the question and answer period.

Section 2: The MASC President shall randomly determine the order of the candidates' speeches. The order will be given at the Candidate/Campaign staff meeting scheduled virtually at 8:00 p.m., Sunday, March 9, 2025.

Section 3: There will be a question and answer period following the speeches for 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. All voting delegates will receive the Google Form to submit a question. Google Form responses will be randomly selected and reviewed for decency and appropriateness by a panel of two students and one advisor. The student's name and school 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 by candidates will be limited to one minute.
- D. The order in which the candidates respond will be rotated.

Section 4: The time period in Section 3 shall not be changed, although the Chair reserves the right to shorten the question and answer period if there are not sufficient questions to fill the allotted time period or if there is only one candidate for the position.

Section 5: Each candidate may use visuals during their campaign speech. Candidates must inform the Executive Director of any visuals to be projected onstage as the equipment will be provided by MASC. Any electronic presentation must be submitted to the President and Executive Director by 5:00 PM, Sunday, March 9, 2025.

Article 6: Procedure for Election Violations

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

Section 2: All violations must be reported in writing by the beginning of the third General Session.

Section 3: Upon receiving a written and signed report of a witnessed violation(s), 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(s) of the alleged violation(s).

Section 4: A 2/3 vote of the Election Committee shall be required to take an appropriate measure. (*Article 4, Section 4 of the MASC Operating Principles*)

Section 6: The Election Guidelines will guide all actions made by the Elections Committee.

Section 7: The rulings of the Elections Committee are final.