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**Legislation Title:** Student Member of the Maryland State Board of Education Election Rules

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## **2026 Maryland Association of Student Councils State Student Member of the Board of Education Election Rules**

### Article 1: Purpose of the 2026 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 selection officials, nominees, 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 the rules listed in this document is grounds for the investigation and action by the SMOB Selection Committee using the MASC Elections Committee Guidelines for reference.

### Article 2: Nominee Process and Voting

Section 1: The MASC General Assembly shall consider up to five nominees for the selection of MASC's two finalists for the position of Student Member of the Maryland State Board of Education. A committee will select these nominees in accordance with the procedure established in Article VII of the Operating Principles. Only the finalists' names will appear on the ballot. Nominees for the State SMOB position are not required to be enrolled in a MASC member school. The principal or their designee will register the nominee for the Legislative Session.

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 nominees. Write-in candidates will not be considered. MASC will forward the names of the two nominees receiving the highest number of votes to the Governor's Office, which will then follow its established procedures to appoint one student as the Student Member of the State Board of Education.

### Article 3: Nominee 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 nominee by that nominee and/or the nominee's campaign staff; any action that is directly related to assisting a person's candidacy by the nominee or nominee'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 nominee.

B. SMOB nominees shall not be allowed to use stickers for their campaign material.

Section 2: Campaign Staff is defined as up to eight voting or non-voting delegates attending the Legislative Session who may distribute campaign materials and make general announcements on behalf of a nominee. A list of

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each nominee's campaign staff—including school, email, and cell phone number—must be submitted to the Executive Director and President by 5:00 p.m. on the Saturday before the Legislative Session.

Only registered campaign staff may participate in campaigning or electioneering at the Legislative Session, aside from the nominee. Nominees are responsible solely for the actions of their registered campaign staff, not for the behavior of other delegates in the assembly. Campaign staff must be registered by the deadline by their school's advisor or administration, in accordance with all conference registration guidelines and requirements.

Section 3: All Legislative Session presenters, MASC officers, and the current State SMOB (unless serving as a nominee) are prohibited from participating as campaign staff.

Section 4: Candidates may receive assistance from individuals who are not officially designated as campaign staff for the purpose of creating digital media. This assistance may include, but is not limited to, the development, design, or editing of social media posts, graphics, videos, and other digital campaign materials.

Section 5: The total cost of each nominee's campaign materials may not exceed \$120. Donated materials and professional services must be included at fair market value.

- A. All nominees must inform the President and Executive Director of any social media accounts or webpages where personal campaigning may occur before any campaign content is posted.
- B. By 5:00 p.m. on the evening before the Legislative Session, nominees must submit a campaign report to the Executive Director and President. This report must include copies of relevant receipts as well as the fair-market value of any donated supplies.
- C. Once all nominees have arrived at the Legislative Session, campaigning may begin during the morning informal gathering, resume during the lunch break, and during regional breakouts.
- D. With the nominee's permission, MASC will publish the nominees' names, campaign statements/resumés, and short recorded speeches before the Legislative Session so that delegates may review them in advance.

Section 6: No edible substances are to be used as campaign materials.

Section 7: Each nominee is allowed 3 posters, sized 18 by 24 inches, to be hung in designated areas.

Section 8: No wearable campaign materials are to be distributed or worn by anyone other than the nominees and their staff. This excludes buttons, wristbands, and other jewelry.

Section 9: 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 10: All campaign materials must bear the nominee'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 11: Nominees may not engage in negative campaigning. Negative campaigning is defined as any actions on behalf of a nominee that may libel, slander, or defame another nominee.

Section 12: Nominees may not arrange in-person school visits or private meetings for electioneering purposes. Virtual outreach is permitted but must occur only through the campaign social media accounts identified in Article 4.

Section 13: Incumbent local and state SMOBs who are nominees are prohibited from electioneering during the conduct of their official duties.

Article 4: Utilization of Social Media in Campaigning

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Section 1: Upon notification by the President or Executive Director of their selection as a finalist, nominees may utilize social media or other web-based platforms to campaign for SMOB (see Article 3, Section 4A). The use of personal or mass emails for campaigning is prohibited.

Section 2: Nominees must create a new social media account solely for campaign purposes and may not use personal accounts for any electioneering. Interaction between campaign accounts and personal accounts is prohibited, including reposting, tagging, or sharing content.

Section 3: Nominees must strictly adhere to all campaign rules when using any digital platform, in accordance with Article 3, Section 5 of these election rules.

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

Section 1: Before the voting period, each nominee may deliver a campaign speech of no more than five minutes. Speeches must not include solicited audience applause or interruptions. The MASC Secretary, or a designated representative, will keep time during both the speeches and the question-and-answer period.

Section 2: The MASC President will randomly determine the order of the nominees' 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 submit questions to nominees.

- A. All students will have the opportunity to submit a question to ask the nominees. 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 submitted form to be considered.
- B. Questions may be addressed to any nominee or all nominees; however, all nominees shall have the option of responding to any question.
- C. Responses will be limited to one minute.
- D. The order in which the nominees respond will be rotated.

Section 4: Each nominee may use visuals during their campaign speech. Any electronic visuals (e.g., slides) intended for onstage projection must be submitted to the President and Executive Director by 5:00 p.m., two days before the Legislative Session.

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 via the posted Google Form.

Section 2: All violations must be reported by the end of General Assembly II.

Section 3: Upon receiving a report of a witnessed violation of these election rules, the President will convene the SMOB Selection Committee. The President will present the alleged violation(s) to the Committee, which will investigate and, if necessary, meet with both the nominee and the witness associated with the alleged violation(s).

Section 4: A 2/3 vote of the SMOB Selection Committee shall be required to take action concerning the violation.

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

Section 6: The rulings of the SMOB Selection Committee are final.