

# The Election Rules of the Student Assembly

*Updated on November 7, 2024*

## ARTICLE I: ELECTION GUIDELINES

### **Preamble.**

Elections are the foundation upon which representative governance rests. These rules are designed to protect the rights of all candidates, as well as all members of the University community, and to ensure that the election process takes place in an open and fair arena. Candidates must respect the rights and privileges of all members of the Cornell community and follow all election guidelines outlined in this document. Election rules are subject to the approval of voting members of the Student Assembly each semester.

### **§ 100. Definitions.**

The following words throughout the Election Rules are defined as such:

- (1) “Candidate” means any person who the Elections Committee has verified is a candidate by the publication of the candidate’s name on the Candidate List, as described in these Election Rules;
- (2) “Classroom” means any space in which a professor, teaching assistant, or any other instructor holds prescribed class time. “Classroom” includes in-person, hybrid, and online courses;
- (3) “Constituency” means a particular group of voters, the specific meaning of which shall be context dependent, but shall refer to one of the following:
  - (a) The whole population of full-time, undergraduate students;
  - (b) A subset of the undergraduate student population enrolled in any of the following schools or colleges: the College of Arts & Sciences; the College of Agricultural & Life Sciences; the College of Arts, Architecture, and Planning; the Dyson School of Applied Economics and Management; the Nolan School of Hotel Administration; the School of Industrial and Labor Relations; the Brooks School of Public Policy; the College of Human Ecology; or the College of Engineering;
  - (c) A subset of the undergraduate student population the members of which each began his or her undergraduate course of study at a university or school other than Cornell University (to be known as the “transfer student population”); or
  - (d) A subset of the undergraduate student population the members of which each is in his or her first year of enrollment at Cornell University, except for those students who are members of the transfer

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- 49 student population (to be known as the “freshman student  
50 population”);  
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- 52 (4) “Cyber Bullying” means is the act of bullying in any online space. These  
53 election rules follow the same definition of bullying as outlined in the Student  
54 Code of Conduct and applicable university policies or governmental laws;  
55
- 56 (5) “Individual or self-promoting publicity” means any outreach events, office  
57 hours, postings, or public facing events, whether in-person or virtual, in which  
58 interaction with, or promotion of, the candidate is a substantial reason for the  
59 act;  
60
- 61 (6) “Group Chat” means any closed platform not otherwise defined as “Social  
62 Media” for sharing information text and images; examples include, but are not  
63 limited to: iMessage, WhatsApp, Slack, GroupMe, SnapChat (messaging  
64 functions only), Instagram (messaging functions only), and SMS services;  
65
- 66 (7) “Objector” means an individual or group of individuals who have filed a  
67 general objection or specification of a specific objection;  
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- 69 (8) “Organization” means any registered student organization at Cornell  
70 University;  
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- 72 (9) “Respondent Candidate” means the candidate against whom an objection has  
73 been filed;  
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- 75 (10) “Social Media” means any online service that allows users to share, create,  
76 or post content for social-networking purposes. Social media services include,  
77 but are not limited to: Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, LinkedIn, Twitter,  
78 Facebook, Tumblr, Reddit, MySpace, Pinterest, YouTube, and  
79 CampusGroups;  
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- 81 (a) Email, GroupMe, WhatsApp, Signal, and text messaging are not social  
82 media.  
83
- 84 (11) “University Assembly office” means an office of the University Assembly  
85 elected by and from the whole population of undergraduate students;  
86
- 87 (12) “Voter” means an individual who is eligible to vote in an election for a  
88 particular office;

### 89 § 101. Voter Eligibility.

- 90 A. To be a voter in an election for any Student Assembly or University Assembly office  
91 elected by the whole of the undergraduate student population, an individual must:  
92
- 93 (1) Be a full-time, matriculated undergraduate student enrolled in a degree-  
94 granting unit of the Ithaca campus of the University; and,  
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96 B. To be a voter in an election for any Student Assembly office elected by any  
97 constituency, other than that of the whole of the undergraduate student population, an  
98 individual must:

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100 (1) Be a full-time, matriculated undergraduate student enrolled in a degree-  
101 granting unit of the Ithaca campus of the University; and,

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103 (2) Be a member of the constituency for which the seat is designated.

### 104 § 102. Candidate Eligibility and Requirements.

105 A. To be a candidate for Student Assembly or University Assembly office, an individual,  
106 at the time of the registration specified in the election calendar, must:

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108 (1) Be a voter for the office to which the candidate is seeking election;

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110 (2) Plan to remain seated so for the full term to which they are seeking election;

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112 (3) Submit a completed candidate registration form and any associated materials  
113 required in that form;

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115 (4) Have not, during the two terms preceding the term to which the candidate is  
116 seeking election:

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118 (a) Resigned for a reason other than a health leave of absence from the  
119 Student Assembly or University Assembly; or

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121 (b) Been removed from the Student Assembly or University Assembly;

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### 123 § 103. Candidate Registration.

124 A. Registration Form.

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126 (1) Each candidate shall submit as part of the registration form with the following  
127 information:

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129 (a) First and Last Name;

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131 (b) Preferred pronouns;

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133 (c) Net-ID;

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135 (d) College or school of enrollment;

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137 (e) Major, if declared;

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139 (f) Year of expected graduation;

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141 (g) Photograph;

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143 (h) Phone number; and

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- (i) A declaration stating that the candidate has reviewed the Election Rules and is eligible to stand for election;

B. Statement of Candidacy.

- (1) Each candidate may submit a statement of candidacy, which may be no more than 1,250 characters including spaces, as part of the candidate registration form in plain text.
- (2) Statements will be displayed in informational materials published by the Elections Committee.
- (3) Statements may not include names of any political coalitions.
- (4) Statements not conforming to the requirements set forth in this section, shall not be posted.

C. Candidate Photographs.

- (1) Each candidate photo will be displayed in informational materials published by the Elections Committee.
- (2) Candidates shall submit a photograph of themselves that conforms to the specifications noted in the online candidate registration form, or have their photograph taken by a staff member in the Office of the Assemblies.

**§ 104. Candidate Requirements.**

A. Candidate Video Profile Submission.

- (1) All candidates shall submit a video recording of themselves, answering questions which will be provided by the Elections Committee, by the beginning of the voting period on Wednesday, November 20, 2024.
- (2) The questions shall be identical for each candidate.
- (3) These recordings will be uploaded to the Fall 2024 Candidate Information page on the Office of the Assemblies website, where they will be publicly accessible.

B. Mandatory Campaign Meetings

- (1) The Director of Elections shall have the power to call and schedule mandatory meetings, and to disqualify candidates for non-participation

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195 **§ 105. Early Campaigning Prohibition.**

196 A. Outside of the Campaign & Voting Period, no candidate or any supporter acting on his  
197 or her behalf may:

- 198
- 199 (1) Distribute online campaign materials to the public;
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  - 201 (2) Distribute campaign materials in-person to the public;
  - 202
  - 203 (3) Canvass voters;
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  - 205 (4) Make official speeches or statements to student organizations related to a  
206 candidate; or
  - 207
  - 208 (5) Promote a candidate through email, social media, or other digital media.
  - 209

210 B. The Elections Committee may file an objection against or disqualify a candidate if a  
211 violation is found to compromise the fairness of the election.

212 **§ 106. Restrictions for Current Student Assembly Members.**

213 A. Current Student Assembly members seeking reelection must not host constituency  
214 outreach events that are meant to fulfill an outreach requirement during the Campaign  
215 & Voting Period.

216 **§ 107. Compliance with University Policies and Student Code of Conduct.**

217 A. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf must be aware of and comply with all  
218 applicable policies and provisions of the Student Code of Conduct, including but not  
219 limited to:

- 220
- 221 (1) Use of Cornell Name, Logo & Artwork policy;
  - 222
  - 223 (2) Event Registration policies;
  - 224
  - 225 (3) Facilities reservation policies, including Willard Straight Hall area reservation  
226 policies;
  - 227
  - 228 (4) University Postering & Chalking policies;
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  - 230 (5) Residential & New Students Programs' policy for postering in residence halls;
  - 231
  - 232 (6) Dining hall policies, including a prohibition of distributing printed campaign  
233 materials in dining halls without permission from authorized staff, and as  
234 designated in the Student Code of Conduct;
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236 (a) Please note that it is against the University Postering and Chalking  
237 Policy to chalk on any vertical surface, regardless of the location;

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(7) Intimidation tactics and cyber-bullying online is strictly prohibited.

B. A violation of any University policy is a violation of these rules and therefore grounds for an objection if it compromises the fairness of the election. It is the candidate's responsibility to read the referenced documents and be familiar with the rules and regulations established within them. The Director of Elections may also refer any reported violations to the Office of Student Conduct and Community Standards (OSCCS) or any other appropriate office, which may impose disciplinary remedies and penalties according to its own rules and procedures.

**§ 108. Campaigning.**

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A. During the Campaign & Voting Period, candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may, among other methods, promote their campaign by:

- (1) Distributing printed materials;
- (2) Canvassing voters;
- (3) Hanging posters;
- (4) Posting content to social media;
- (5) Addressing student organizations;
- (6) Sending messages through digital and social media, including through group chats;
- (7) Publishing opinion editorials.

B. At any time, candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may not, among other prohibitions, promote their campaign by:

- (1) Sending messages related to a campaign through a Cornell administered list-serv;
- (2) Sending messages through Campus Mail for campaigning purposes.
- (3) Sending any message that violates Cornell University IT policies.

**§ 109. Campaign Finance.**

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A. Candidates or supporters acting on their behalf must submit all receipts or proof of fair market value with the signed expense report to the Office of the Assemblies by the deadline specified in the election calendar. Candidates who do not submit receipts or proof of fair market value shall be presumed to have spent \$0.00 on their campaign.

B. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may not exceed for out-of-pocket expenses and fair market value of donations of materials, professional services, or money the amount subject to reimbursement under this section (\$40.00)

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- 286  
287 (1) Fair market value is the value at which something is to be obtained normally  
288 if documentation of its dollar value is not provided.  
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290 (2) If there is a supporting receipt for goods used in a candidate’s campaign, then  
291 the value of that good is the dollar value on the supporting receipt as long as  
292 the transaction was conducted at arm’s length.  
293  
294 (3) For donated materials, professional services, or other goods for which no  
295 official receipt is provided, candidates must seek the most plausible  
296 assessment of the fair market value of the good. Professional services will be  
297 defined as any work for which the given individual/donor is typically  
298 compensated. Volunteer time donated by full-time students, who are not  
299 professionals (have received payment for service) in the area of their volunteer  
300 effort, will not be considered professional services.  
301  
302 (4) Paid advertisements and related costs on social networking sites or other  
303 websites must also be accounted for at fair market value.  
304  
305 C. Candidates will be eligible for reimbursements to cover out-of-pocket expenses from  
306 the campaigning period that can be used towards the following expenses: website  
307 expenses (web hosting, domain names, and online advertising) or any other  
308 promotional materials approved by the Director of Elections that are not a violation of  
309 these election rules.  
310  
311 (1) Each candidate shall be eligible for reimbursements up to \$40.00.  
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313 (2) The Director of Elections shall publish the amount eligible for  
314 reimbursement prior to the Campaign & Voting Period.  
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317 D. Candidates may use any platforms at their disposable, granted they are free. If these  
318 platforms require purchasing, candidates are required to report this in their expense  
319 report forms.

320 **§ 110. Endorsements.**

- 321 A. All registered student organizations receiving funds from the Student Assembly  
322 (including the Student Activity Fee) may endorse candidates. In order to publicly  
323 endorse a candidate, an organization must:  
324  
325 (1) Establish a fair process where candidates interested in applying for the  
326 organization’s endorsement may apply;  
327  
328 (2) Submit to the Director of Elections a brief copy of the organization’s process  
329 with relevant deadlines for endorsing candidates and instructions to be shared  
330 by the Director of Elections with all candidates as to how candidates will be  
331 endorsed;  
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333 B. The Elections Committee may recommend that the Student Assembly impose fines on  
334 or revoke allocated funds from organization failing to comply with these rules;

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336 C. If a member of the Elections Committee sits on the Executive Board or governing body  
337 of an organization, that organization is prohibited from endorsing candidates.  
338  
339 D. All registered students, except candidates, may individually endorse candidates once  
340 Campaign & Voting Period begins.

341 **§ 111. Campaign Ethics.**

- 342 A. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf during any portion or period of an  
343 election may not:  
344  
345 (1) Harass, threaten, or coerce others;  
346  
347 (2) Provide anything of material value to a member of the Cornell community to  
348 further themselves in the election or to promote their candidacy;  
349  
350 (3) Compel any person to endorse their candidacy, assist their campaign, or act as  
351 supporter as an explicit or implicit condition for initiation to, admission into,  
352 affiliation with, or continued membership in a group or organization;  
353  
354 (4) Publicly engage in any speech or actions that are discriminatory on the basis  
355 of race, sex, gender identity, religion, color, national origin, creed, or ethnicity,  
356 including, but not limited to Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism;  
357  
358 (5) Personally attack, name-call, or engage in libel or slander towards any  
359 candidate or their supporters;

360  
361 **§ 111. General Rules.**

- 362 A. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may not:  
363  
364 (1) Include any other candidate's name, a common ticket name, or a shared slogan,  
365 or symbol on any promotional materials, any form of electronic  
366 communication, or media;  
367  
368 (2) Share or pool campaign finances with any other candidates or supporters  
369 acting on their behalf;  
370  
371 (3) Distribute any promotional materials, send any electronic communication, or  
372 utilize any other form of electronic media on behalf of any other candidate  
373 except if the candidate does so for another candidate in the President and/or  
374 Executive Vice President races;  
375  
376 B. The provisions of subsection A of this section shall not be construed to penalize any  
377 candidate, or supporter acting on their behalf for:  
378  
379 (1) Communicating with any other candidate;  
380  
381 (2) Appearing at the same event or public place with any other candidate;  
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- 383 (3) Sharing supporters with any other any other candidate;
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- 385 (4) Sharing endorsements by any organization with any other candidate; or
- 386
- 387 (5) Coordinating campaign activities with any organization.
- 388
- 389 C. Each candidate, except for each candidate for the office of President or Executive Vice
- 390 President, may distribute promotional material, send electronic communications,
- 391 campaign on behalf of, and speak for any candidate for the office of President or
- 392 Executive Vice President.

393 **§ 113. Plagiarism.**

- 394 A. Candidates may not disseminate written statements, promotional materials, or
- 395 electronic communications that are plagiarized or substantially copied from any such
- 396 items created or distributed by any current or former candidate.
- 397
- 398 B. Materials distributed by the Director of Elections, Elections Committee, and the Office
- 399 of the Assemblies may be used as templates by candidates.

400 **§ 114. The Elections Committee.**

- 401 A. The Director of Elections shall serve as chair and a designated representative of the
- 402 Office of the Assemblies shall serve as a non-voting, *ex-officio* member of the
- 403 Elections Committee.
- 404
- 405 B. The Director of Elections shall publish a list of Assembly seats to be filled, in
- 406 accordance with Student Assembly Charter.
- 407
- 408 C. During an Objection Review Meeting, the interpretation of the Elections Rules shall
- 409 lie with the sitting Elections Committee.
- 410
- 411 D. Elections Committee members are expected to abide by the highest standards of
- 412 personal conduct and integrity. Students are mandated to excuse themselves from
- 413 serving on the Elections Committee if they plan to take part in a campaign. Therefore,
- 414 members should not be involved in the campaigning process. All conflicts should be
- 415 considered and resolved before the election cycle begins. Elections Committee
- 416 members may not sit on the Executive Board of an organization that endorses
- 417 candidates in a Student Assembly election. If an Elections Committee member sits on
- 418 the Executive Board of an organization or sat on that Executive Board at any time
- 419 during the same semester of a particular Student Assembly election, that organization
- 420 may not endorse candidates in that Student Assembly election, or that Elections
- 421 Committee member must resign from the Elections Committee.
- 422
- 423 E. The Elections Committee should be prepared to meet immediately following the
- 424 objection submission deadline to rule on all pertinent objections. The Elections
- 425 Committee shall use *Robert's Rules of Order* to consider objections, in addition to the
- 426 election rules. In the event of conflict, these election rules supersede *Robert's Rules of*
- 427 *Order*. The Elections Committee has no power to overrule the election rules under any
- 428 circumstances.
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- 430 F. The Director of Elections may publish to the undergraduate student body during and  
431 following the Campaign & Voting Period information on turnout and voting  
432 participation.  
433
- 434 G. The Director of Elections shall have in a confidential setting access to all information  
435 necessary to effectuate voter turnout.  
436
- 437 H. The Director of Elections shall give a final report on the results of the election when  
438 there are no remaining unresolved matters.

### 439 **§ 115. Independence of the Elections Committee.**

- 440 A. Members of the Elections Committee are expected to abide by the highest standards of  
441 integrity; members also enjoy independence from undue interference. Students may  
442 not falsely accuse, harass, threaten or coerce any member of the Elections Committee  
443 for actions taken in their official capacity.  
444
- 445 B. Subject to the determination of the Elections Committee, any violation of this section  
446 can result in temporary or permanent disqualification from contesting elections to the  
447 Student Assembly or University Assembly.  
448
- 449 C. Members of the Elections Committee cannot personally endorse any candidates.  
450 However, members of the Committee may still privately vote in the elections  
451 themselves.

## 452 **ARTICLE II: ELECTION PROCEDURES**

### 453 **§ 116. The Election Calendar.**

- 455 A. The Director of Elections, in consultation with the Office of the Assemblies, will draft  
456 the election calendar prior to the semester of the election, and will be approved by the  
457 Elections Committee at a meeting in the prior semester if possible.  
458
- 459 B. Consideration shall be given to any religious holidays that may fall during the election  
460 period, guaranteeing that the right to free religious observance is afforded to all  
461 potential candidates.

### 462 **§ 117. Voting and Tabulation.**

- 463 A. Each office shall be elected according to the Approval Method of voting.  
464
- 465 B. The order in which names appear on the ballot shall be randomly selected.  
466
- 467 C. Uncontested candidates will not be listed for a vote on the ballot and will be deemed  
468 victorious pending the resolution of objections.  
469
- 470 D. Results for races in which objections have been filed shall be posted after the Elections  
471 Committee has ruled on each objection and each objection has been fully resolved.  
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- 473 E. The Elections Committee will not have access to the results prior to and during the  
474 review of objection. The Office of Assemblies will release election results after the  
475 Director of Elections or the Elections Committee has validated the election results.  
476
- 477 F. A printout of election results for qualifying candidates shall be posted online on the  
478 relevant webpages of the election. Disqualified candidates will not have their vote  
479 tallies made available.  
480

### 481 **§ 118. Procedure for Verifying Eligibility.**

- 482 A. The Office of the Assemblies, assisted by the Elections Committee, shall review the  
483 registration of each candidate to ensure compliance with §§ 101-104;  
484
- 485 B. No later than a time to be fixed by the Elections Calendar, the Office of the  
486 Assemblies shall issue a report to the Elections Committee (to be known as the  
487 “Eligibility Report”) on the eligibility of each candidate. The Eligibility Report shall  
488 be made available on the website of the Office of the Assemblies;  
489
- 490 C. No later than a time to be fixed by the Elections Calendar, the Director of Elections  
491 shall review the report of the Office of the Assemblies and affirm or reject the  
492 eligibility of each individual having registered as a candidate.  
493
- 494 D. The outcome of Director of Elections review of the Eligibility Report shall be known  
495 as the “Candidate List”. It which shall include the names of each individual deemed to  
496 be eligible to stand for election along with the office to which the individual is seeking  
497 election, and the names of each individual deemed ineligible to stand for election along  
498 with the office to which the individual sought to seek election;  
499
- 500 E. No later than a time to be fixed by the Elections Calendar, the Director of Elections  
501 shall publish the Candidate List to the Student Assembly. The Candidate List shall be  
502 made available on the website of the Office of the Assemblies.

### 503 **§ 119. Election Process.**

- 504 A. Candidate Registration Period.  
505
- 506 (1) During the Candidate Registration Period, each individual seeking election  
507 shall register as a candidate with the Office of the Assemblies.  
508
- 509 B. Election Preparation Period.  
510
- 511 (1) During this period, which shall follow the conclusion of the Candidate  
512 Registration period, the Office of the Assemblies shall prepare an  
513 informational website containing the name, statement of candidacy and  
514 photograph of each candidate, the necessary electronic ballots to carry out the  
515 election, and the Eligibility Report for the Elections Committee.  
516
- 517 (2) Notwithstanding the election calendar adopted for each election, this period  
518 shall be no fewer than three (3) business days in length.  
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520 (3) During this phase, the Elections Committee shall review the Eligibility Report  
521 and issue the Candidate List.

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523 C. Campaign & Voting Period.

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525 (1) During the Campaign & Voting Period, all candidates shall be permitted to  
526 campaign to the extent permitted by these rules and electronic voting shall be  
527 made available to all voters for the entirety of this period.

528  
529 (2) At the commencement of the Campaign & Voting Period, the Office of the  
530 Assemblies shall distribute electronic ballots for voting; no ballots may be  
531 submitted later than the time at which this period concludes.

532  
533 D. Objection Submission Period.

534  
535 (1) During the Objection Submission Period, any party eligible to submit an  
536 objection may do so, provided all timeliness requirements are met.

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538 E. Objection Review Period.

539  
540 (1) During the Objection Review Period, the Elections Committee shall undertake  
541 all necessary steps to adjudicate objections.

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543 F. Declaration of Results.

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545 (1) During this period, the Office of the Assemblies shall declare the numeric  
546 results of each election and to which offices candidates have been elected.

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548 **ARTICLE III: OBJECTIONS**

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550 **§ 120. Eligibility to Object.**

551 A. A general objection may be submitted by:

552  
553 (1) Any voter in same constituency as the candidate or candidates against whom  
554 the objection is being filed (known as the “respondent candidate”);

555  
556 (1) The Director of Elections; or

557  
558 (2) The Elections Committee, when approved by majority vote.

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560 B. A general objection may not be submitted by individual Committee members, except  
561 for the Director of Elections.

562 **§ 121. Manner and Form of Objections.**

563 B. General Objection.

564  
565 (1) A general objection is the first part of an objection; its purpose is to notify the  
566 Elections Committee and the respondent candidate of the objector’s intention  
567 to object to an alleged violation of these rules;

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(2) Each general objection shall include:

- (a) The full name and Net-ID (if applicable) of the objector;
- (b) The candidate or candidates against whom the objection is being filed (known as the “respondent candidate”);
- (c) The date and place, as near as the objector may reasonably surmise, the violation took place;
- (d) A brief description of the alleged violation;
- (e) An attestation by the objector that the all the information contained within the general objection is true and correct to the best of the objector’s understanding.

### C. Specific Objection.

(1) A specific objection is the second part of an objection; its purpose is to convey to the Elections Committee and the respondent candidate the specific nature and details of violations of these rules the objector believes occurred;

(2) Each specific objection shall include:

- (a) A copy of the corresponding general objection;
- (b) The full name and Net-ID (if applicable) of the objector;
- (c) The candidate or candidates against whom the objection is being filed (known as the “respondent candidate”);
- (d) The date and place, as near as the objector may reasonably surmise, the violation took place;
- (e) A detailed description of the alleged violation;
- (f) A list of which rules the objector believes were violated;
- (g) An explanation of why the alleged violation either materially compromised the integrity of the election or constituted a material advantage to the extent the respondent candidate should be disqualified; and
- (h) An attestation by the objector that the all the information contained within the specific objection is true and correct to the best of the objector’s understanding.

(3) A specific objection may include any additional information or documentation relevant to the objection.

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619 D. Consideration of an Objection.

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621 (1) The Elections Committee shall consider all objections properly filed;

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623 (2) The Elections Committee shall not consider an objection in instances where:

624

625 (a) Either the general or specific objection fails to contain all of the  
626 required information specified in this section;

627

628 (b) The objector filed only one, but not both parts of an objection; or

629

630 (c) The objector failed to file either a specific or general objection in a  
631 timely manner.

632 **§ 122. Objection Deadlines.**

633 A. General Objection.

634

635 (1) A general objection submitted by a voter in same constituency as the  
636 respondent candidate shall only be considered when submitted within twenty-  
637 four hours of the alleged violation becoming known to the objector or within  
638 twenty-four hours of the conclusion of the Campaign & Voting Period,  
639 whichever comes earlier;

640

641 (2) A general objection submitted by the Director of Elections or by the Elections  
642 Committee shall only be considered when submitted at any time prior to the  
643 declaration of results;

644

645 B. Specific Objection.

646

647 (1) A specific objection submitted by a voter in same constituency as the  
648 respondent candidate shall only be considered when filed within or within  
649 twenty-four (24) hours of the conclusion of the Campaign Period;

650

651 (2) A specific objection submitted by the Director of Elections or the Elections  
652 Committee shall only be considered when submitted at any time prior to the  
653 declaration of results;

654

655 C. Once submitted, an objection may not be withdrawn for any reason or by any person.

656 **§ 123. Notification of Election Objections.**

657 A. No later than a time to be fixed by the Elections Calendar, the Office of the Assemblies  
658 shall transmit to the Director of Elections a final copy of each general and specific  
659 objection received by the Office of the Assemblies; this provision shall not apply to  
660 objections submitted by the Director of Elections or the Elections Committee.

661

662 (1) During the Campaign & Voting Period, the Office of the Assemblies shall be  
663 permitted on a rolling basis to transmit general and specific objections to the  
664 Director of Elections.

665

666 B. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the transmission of the copies of specific objections,  
667 the Director of Elections shall determine whether each objection is fit for  
668 consideration.

669  
670 (1) If the objection is fit for consideration (to be known as a “valid objection”),  
671 the Director of Elections shall notify by email the relevant objector and  
672 respondent of this determination and shall transmit a copy of both the general  
673 and specific objection to the respondent candidate;

674  
675 (2) If the objection is not fit for consideration (to be known as an “invalid  
676 objection”), the Director of Elections shall notify by email the relevant  
677 objector of this determination.

678 **§ 124. Response to Objections.**

679 A. No later than a time to be fixed by the Elections Calendar, each respondent candidate  
680 may file a written response to an objection to the allegations contained within the  
681 objection to which they are a party.

682  
683 B. The Director of Elections, or the Elections Committee by majority vote, may choose  
684 to hold a hearing at which time a designated a respondent candidate may respond in-  
685 person to the allegations contained within the objection to which they are a party.

686 **§ 125. Objection Review Meeting.**

687 A. The Elections Committee shall schedule a meeting to review valid objections in  
688 Executive Session.

689  
690 B. The Committee, less temporarily recused members, shall provide a time for the  
691 respondent candidate to respond in person if requested by the respondent candidate or  
692 a member of the Committee.

693  
694 C. The Director of Elections reserves the right to recuse any member of the Committee in  
695 the event of a conflict of interest. Members may either recuse themselves prior to  
696 objection hearings or at the discretion of the Director of Elections.

697  
698 **§ 126. Review of Objections.**

699 A. For each valid objection, the Elections Committee shall determine as applicable in the  
700 following order:

701  
702 (1) Whether the objection asserts the occurrence of a material violation of the  
703 Election Rules;

704  
705 (2) Whether each alleged violation can be substantiated by a preponderance of  
706 evidence;

707  
708 (a) A vote will be taken for each violation individually, and a majority of  
709 the members present of the Elections Committee is required to declare  
710 that a preponderance of evidence substantiates each violation; and  
711

712 (3) Which, if any, substantiated violations or combination thereof materially  
713 compromised the integrity of the election or constituted a material advantage  
714 to the extent the respondent candidate should be disqualified.

715  
716 **§ 127. Penalties.**

717 A. If Elections Committee finds that either a single substantiated violation or that a  
718 combination of substantiated violations, beyond a reasonable doubt, require the  
719 disqualification of a candidate, the Elections Committee only may disqualify a  
720 candidate with at least two-thirds of the members present of the Elections Committee  
721 voting in the affirmative to disqualify.

722  
723 B. The Elections Committee may, by a majority vote of the members present, impose  
724 lesser sanctions on a candidate as it sees fit

725 **§ 128. Written Report.**

726 A. For each rule violation, the Director of Elections or a member of the Elections  
727 Committee as delegated by the Director shall draft a written report thoroughly  
728 detailing:

729 (1) The objection(s);

730 (2) The tallies of all votes taken by the Elections Committee including the  
731 bifurcated voting process;

732 (3) The Elections Committee's decision; and

733 (4) The rationale for the decision.

734  
735  
736  
737 B. The report is to be kept confidential and only released to the respondent candidate and  
738 the objector.

739 C. A copy, with all names other than the respondent candidate redacted, is kept in the  
740 Office of the Assemblies, 109 Day Hall.

741  
742 D. For each objection, the Elections Committee shall report to the objector and the  
743 respondent candidate all evidence received and found, any violations substantiated,  
744 and any decisions to disqualify the respondent candidate.

745  
746  
747  
748 **§ 129. Reconsideration.**

749 A. If the Elections Committee determines a candidate should be disqualified, the  
750 respondent candidate may request reconsideration within twenty-four hours of  
751 receiving the written report.

752  
753 B. To be reconsidered, the candidate seeking such reconsideration must submit a request  
754 in writing via to the Office of the Assemblies and the Director of Elections within  
755 twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the disqualification email from the Director of  
756 Elections. The statement should address the specific findings in the written report to



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757 be reconsidered and should detail the specific points where the Elections Committee  
758 failed to correctly enforce the objection procedure outlined in the Elections Rules.

759

760 C. Failure to submit all necessary documentation within twenty-four (24) hours will  
761 restrict the seeking for reconsideration and the Elections Committee's decision will be  
762 final.

763

764 D. The Election Committee shall convene in response to such a request. The Committee,  
765 after evaluating each request for reconsideration, shall determine by a simple majority  
766 vote to if the decision to disqualify should be overturned. Email voting may be used  
767 by Elections Committee.

768 **§ 130. Confidentiality.**

769 A. Members of the Elections Committee and parties to an objection may not share the  
770 contents of objections, evidence, or decisions submitted to or received from the  
771 Elections Committee, except when explicitly permitted by these rules or by the  
772 Director of Elections. When publicly releasing confidential information, the Director  
773 of Elections must redact the names of all individuals who are not the candidate  
774 respondent.

775

776 B. A review of objections may take place in coordination with the Office of the  
777 Assemblies, 109 Day Hall, by any member of the Cornell community. Objections may  
778 not be photocopied, screen-shared, photographed, digitally recorded or removed from  
779 the Office of Assemblies.