

The Election Rules of the Student Assembly

*Adopted by the Elections Committee on
March 16, 2026*

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. To this end, the Committee's independence is a reflection of the Student Assembly's commitment to free and fair elections. Candidates must respect the rights and privileges of all members of the Cornell community and follow all election guidelines outlined in this document.

§ 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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- 50 student population (to be known as the “freshman student
51 population”);
52
- 53 (4) “Cyber Bullying” means the act of bullying in any online space. These election
54 rules follow the same definition of bullying as outlined in the Student Code of
55 Conduct and applicable university policies or governmental laws;
56
- 57 (5) “Individual or self-promoting publicity” means any outreach events, office
58 hours, postings, or public facing events, whether in-person or virtual, in which
59 interaction with, or promotion of, the candidate is a substantial reason for the
60 act;
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- 62 (6) “Group Chat” means any closed platform not otherwise defined as “Social
63 Media” for sharing information text and images; examples include, but are not
64 limited to: iMessage, WhatsApp, Slack, GroupMe, SnapChat (messaging
65 functions only), Instagram (messaging functions only), and SMS services;
66
- 67 (7) “Listserv” is software which allows a sender to send one email to a list, which
68 then transparently sends it on to list subscribers;
69
- 70 (8) “Personally attack” means an abusive, offensive, critical remark about a
71 person, often without supporting evidence;
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- 73 (9) “Objector” means an individual or group of individuals who have filed a
74 general objection or specification of a specific objection;
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- 76 (10) “Organization” means any registered student organization at Cornell
77 University;
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- 79 (11) “Respondent Candidate” means the candidate against whom an objection has
80 been filed;
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- 82 (12) “Social Media” means any online service that allows users to share, create, or
83 post content for social-networking purposes. Social media services include,
84 but are not limited to: Instagram, Snapchat, TikTok, LinkedIn, Twitter,
85 Facebook, Tumblr, Reddit, MySpace, Pinterest, YouTube, and
86 CampusGroups;
87
- 88 (a) Email, GroupMe, WhatsApp, Signal, and text messaging are not
89 social media.
90
- 91 (13) “University Assembly office” means an office of the University Assembly
92 elected by and from the whole population of undergraduate students;
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- 94 (14) “Voter” means an individual who is eligible to vote in an election for a
95 particular office;

96 **§ 101. Voter Eligibility.**

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- 97 A. To be a voter in an election for any Student Assembly or University Assembly office
98 elected by the whole of the undergraduate student population, an 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,
102
- 103 B. To be a voter in an election for any Student Assembly office elected by any
104 constituency, other than that of the whole of the undergraduate student population, an
105 individual must:
106
- 107 (1) Be a full-time, matriculated undergraduate student enrolled in a degree-
108 granting unit of the Ithaca campus of the University; and,
109
- 110 (2) Be a member of the constituency for which the seat is designated.

111 § 102. Candidate Eligibility and Requirements.

- 112 A. To be a candidate for Student Assembly or University Assembly office, an
113 individual, at the time of the registration specified in the election calendar, must:
114
- 115 (1) Be a voter for the office to which the candidate is seeking election;
116
- 117 (2) Plan to remain seated so for the full term to which they are seeking election;
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- 119 (3) Submit a completed candidate registration form and any associated materials
120 required in that form;
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- 122 (4) Have not, during the one term preceding the term to which the candidate is
123 seeking election:
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- 125 (a) Resigned for a reason other than a health leave of absence from the
126 Student Assembly or University Assembly;
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- 128 (5) Have not, during the two terms preceding the term to which the candidate is
129 seeking election:
130
- 131 (a) Been removed from the Student Assembly or University Assembly;
132

133 § 103. Candidate Registration.

- 134 A. Registration Form.
135
- 136 (1) Each candidate shall submit as part of the registration form with the following
137 information:
138
- 139 (a) First and Last Name;
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- 141 (b) Preferred pronouns;
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- 143 (c) Net-ID;

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- (d) College or school of enrollment;
- (e) Major, if declared;
- (f) Year of expected graduation;
- (g) Photograph;
- (h) Phone number; and
- (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. Petition for Candidacy.

- A. All candidates shall submit a Petition for Candidacy containing the following:
 - (1) For school representative: candidates will collect at minimum 30 signatures from undergraduate students enrolled in the school they wish to represent;
 - (2) For at-large representative: candidates will collect at minimum 50 signatures from any member of the undergraduate student body;
 - (3) For President: candidates will collect at minimum 70 signatures from any member of the undergraduate student body;

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192 B. The signatures shall be compiled electronically by the candidates and completed
193 by a date set by the Elections Director. Failure to do so will result in disqualification
194 or other action decided by the Elections Director.

195

196 C. Should all potential candidates for a specific position fail to meet the petitioning
197 requirement, all candidates who have fulfilled 75% of the requirement will be
198 permitted to run. Should any one candidate successfully complete the whole
199 requirement, this does not apply.

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201 **§ 105. Candidate Requirements.**

202 A. Candidate Forum.

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204 (1) Should one be held, all candidates are encouraged to participate in the
205 Candidates' Forums held by the Elections Committee during the Campaign &
206 Voting Period. Candidates are also encouraged to use the forum as an
207 opportunity specifically to discuss why they are more qualified for the
208 contested position than their opponent(s).

209

210 (2) The Elections Committee will be responsible for planning, coordinating, and
211 marketing these forums. At the forum, candidates are encouraged to discuss
212 their experience, platforms, and more. The Director of Elections shall reach
213 out to student organizations that receive funding from the Student Assembly,
214 encouraging them to use the candidate forum as an opportunity to consider
215 candidates for endorsements.

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217 B. Mandatory Campaign Meetings.

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219 (1) The Director of Elections shall have the power to call and schedule mandatory
220 meetings.

221 (2) Candidates who cannot attend a meeting must make a genuine effort to
222 reschedule with the Elections Director. Should the candidate fail to do this, the
223 candidate may face disqualification from the Director.

224 (3) Campaign advisors associated with specific candidates may be in attendance
225 as long as those individuals identify themselves to the Elections Director.

226 **§ 106. Early Campaigning Prohibition.**

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

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230 (1) Distribute online campaign materials to the public;

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232 (2) Distribute campaign materials in-person to the public;

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234 (3) Canvass voters;

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236 (4) Make official speeches or statements to student organizations related to a
237 candidate; or

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239 (5) Promote a candidate through email, social media, or other digital media.

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

243 C. Candidates are permitted to make non-public arrangements before campaigning,
244 including but not limited to creating draft social media accounts, purchasing and
245 storing campaign materials, and communicating with student organizations about
246 submitting an endorsement application.

247 **§ 107. Restrictions for Current Student Assembly Members.**

248 A. Current Student Assembly members seeking reelection must refrain from
249 hosting constituency outreach events implicitly meant as a source of campaigning
250 during the Campaign & Voting Period.

251 **§ 108. Compliance with University Policies and Student Code of Conduct.**

252 A. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf must be aware of and comply with all
253 applicable policies and provisions of the [Student Code of Conduct](#) and the [Expressive](#)
254 [Activity Policy](#). Please see both for more comprehensive regulations.

255

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

263

264 **§ 109. Campaigning.**

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

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268 (1) Distributing printed materials;

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270 (2) Canvassing voters;

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272 (3) Hanging posters;

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274 (4) Posting content to social media;

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276 (5) Addressing student organizations;

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278 (6) Sending messages through digital and social media, including through group
279 chats;

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(7) Publishing opinion editorials.

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

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(1) Sending messages related to a campaign through a Cornell administered listserv;

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(2) Sending messages through Campus Mail for campaigning purposes.

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(3) Sending any message that violates Cornell University IT policies.

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§ 110. 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.

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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.

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(1) Fair market value is the value at which something is to be obtained normally if documentation of its dollar value is not provided.

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(2) If there is a supporting receipt for goods used in a candidate's campaign, then the value of that good is the dollar value on the supporting receipt as long as the transaction was conducted at arm's length.

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(3) For donated materials, professional services, or other goods for which no official receipt is provided, candidates must seek the most plausible assessment of the fair market value of the good. Professional services will be defined as any work for which the given individual/donor is typically compensated. Volunteer time donated by full-time students, who are not professionals (have received payment for service) in the area of their volunteer effort, will not be considered professional services.

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(4) Paid advertisements and related costs on social networking sites or other websites must also be accounted for at fair market value.

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C. Candidates will be eligible for reimbursements to cover out-of-pocket expenses from the campaigning period that can be used towards the following expenses: website expenses (web hosting, domain names, and online advertising) or any other promotional materials approved by the Director of Elections that are not a violation of these election rules.

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- 327 (1) Each candidate shall be eligible for reimbursements up to \$40.00;
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329 (2) The Director of Elections shall publish a list of the amount eligible for
330 reimbursement prior to the Campaign & Voting Period.
331
- 332 D. Candidates may use any platforms at their disposal, granted they are free. If these
333 platforms require purchasing, candidates are required to report this in their expense
334 report forms.
- 335 E. If the Director of Elections or any member of the student body suspects that a candidate
336 has violated campaign spending rules, they may file a formal objection accompanied
337 by relevant evidence. Upon receiving such an objection, the Director of Elections may
338 require the candidate submit all receipts by a reasonable deadline. Failure to comply
339 with this request may lead to disqualification during the objections review process.

340 § 111. Endorsements.

- 341 A. All registered student organizations receiving funds from the Student Assembly
342 (including the Student Activity Fee) may endorse candidates. In order to publicly
343 endorse a candidate, an organization must:
344
- 345 (1) Establish a fair process where candidates interested in applying for the
346 organization's endorsement may apply;
347
- 348 (2) Submit to the Director of Elections a brief copy of the organization's process
349 with relevant deadlines for endorsing candidates and instructions to be shared
350 by the Director of Elections with all candidates as to how candidates will be
351 endorsed;
352
- 353 B. The Director of Elections may require that an endorsing organization alter some of
354 their application rules and deadlines before accepting applicants;
355
- 356 C. Endorsing organizations are allowed to submit endorsement applications during the
357 registration period before the campaign period. Should the organization create a fair
358 process approved by the Elections Director, the Director is permitted to allow an
359 organization to make an endorsement before the start of the campaign period.
360
- 361 D. The above rule only permits organizations to select their endorsees before the start of
362 the campaign period. Publication of endorsements can only be made once the campaign
363 period begins.
364
- 365 E. The Elections Committee may recommend that the Student Assembly impose fines on
366 or revoke allocated funds from organization failing to comply with these rules;
367
- 368 F. If a member of the Elections Committee sits on the Executive Board or governing body
369 of an organization, that committee member must excuse themselves from deliberations
370 on those candidates for which they may have a conflict;
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- 372 G. All registered students, except candidates, may individually endorse candidates once
373 Campaign & Voting Period begins.

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374 **§ 112. Campaign Ethics.**

375 A. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf during any portion or period
376 of an election may not:

- 377
- 378 (1) Harass, threaten, or coerce others;
- 379
- 380 (2) Provide anything of material value to a member of the Cornell community to
381 further themselves in the election or to promote their candidacy;
- 382
- 383 (3) Compel any person to endorse their candidacy, assist their campaign, or act as
384 supporter as an explicit or implicit condition for initiation to, admission into,
385 affiliation with, or continued membership in a group or organization;
- 386
- 387 (4) Publicly engage in any speech or actions that are discriminatory on the basis
388 of race, sex, gender identity, religion, color, national origin, creed, or ethnicity,
389 including, but not limited to Islamophobia and Anti-Semitism;
- 390
- 391 (5) Personally attack, name-call, or engage in libel or slander towards any
392 candidate or their supporters;
- 393

394 **§ 113. General Rules.**

395 A. Candidates and supporters acting on their behalf may not:

- 396
- 397 (1) Include any other candidate's name, a common ticket name, or a shared slogan,
398 or symbol on any promotional materials, any form of electronic
399 communication, or media;
- 400
- 401 (2) Share or pool campaign finances with any other candidates or supporters acting
402 on their behalf;
- 403
- 404 (3) Distribute any promotional materials, send any electronic communication, or
405 utilize any other form of electronic media on behalf of any other candidate
406 except if the candidate does so for another candidate in the President and/or
407 Executive Vice President races;
- 408

409 B. The provisions of subsection A of this section shall not be construed to penalize any
410 candidate, or supporter acting on their behalf for:

- 411
- 412 (1) Communicating with any other candidate;
- 413
- 414 (2) Appearing at the same event or public place with any other candidate;
- 415
- 416 (3) Sharing supporters with any other any other candidate;
- 417
- 418 (4) Sharing endorsements by any organization with any other candidate; or
- 419
- 420 (5) Coordinating campaign activities with any organization.
- 421

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422 C. Each candidate, except for each candidate for the office of President or Executive Vice
423 President, may distribute promotional material, send electronic communications,
424 campaign on behalf of, and speak for any candidate for the office of President or
425 Executive Vice President.

426 § 114. Plagiarism.

427 A. Candidates may not disseminate written statements, promotional materials, or
428 electronic communications that are plagiarized or substantially copied from any such
429 items created or distributed by any current or former candidate.
430

431 B. A candidate may reuse their old election materials or utilize other candidates' formats
432 with their expressed permission.
433

434 C. Materials distributed by the Director of Elections, Elections Committee, and the Office
435 of the Assemblies may be used as templates by candidates.

436 § 115. The Elections Committee.

437 A. The Director of Elections shall serve as chair and a designated representative of the
438 Office of the Assemblies shall serve as a non-voting, *ex-officio* member of the
439 Elections Committee.
440

441 B. The Director of Elections shall publish a list of Assembly seats to be filled, in
442 accordance with the Student Assembly Charter.
443

444 C. During an Objection Review Meeting, the interpretation of the Elections Rules shall
445 lie with the sitting Elections Committee.
446

447 D. Elections Committee members are expected to abide by the highest standards of
448 personal conduct and integrity. Students are mandated to excuse themselves from
449 serving on the Elections Committee if they plan to take part in a campaign. Therefore,
450 members should not be involved in the campaigning process. Elections Committee
451 members may not deliberate on candidates that have an endorsement from an
452 organization they are presently on the Executive Board of.
453

454 E. The Elections Committee should be prepared to meet immediately following the
455 objection submission deadline to rule on all pertinent objections. The Elections
456 Committee shall use *Robert's Rules of Order* to consider objections, in addition to the
457 election rules. In the event of conflict, these election rules supersede *Robert's Rules of*
458 *Order*. The Elections Committee has no power to overrule the election rules under any
459 circumstances. The Elections Committee, understanding all of this, may adopt internal
460 Standing Rules to guide their meetings as long as they are in line with the election
461 rules.
462

463 F. The Director of Elections may publish to the undergraduate student body during and
464 following the Campaign & Voting Period information on turnout and voting
465 participation.
466

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467 G. The Director of Elections shall have in a confidential setting access to all information
468 necessary to effectuate voter turnout.

469

470 H. The Director of Elections shall give a final report on the results of the election when
471 there are no remaining unresolved matters.

472 **§ 116. Independence of the Elections Committee.**

473 A. Members of the Elections Committee are expected to abide by the highest standards of
474 integrity; members also enjoy independence from undue interference. Students may
475 not falsely accuse, harass, threaten or coerce any member of the Elections Committee
476 for actions taken in their official capacity.

477

478 B. Subject to the determination of the Elections Committee, any violation of this section
479 can result in temporary or permanent disqualification from contesting elections to the
480 Student Assembly or University Assembly.

481

482 C. Members of the Elections Committee cannot personally endorse any candidates.
483 However, members of the Committee may still privately vote in the elections
484 themselves.

485 D. See the Student Assembly Bylaws for information on Committee membership
486 procedures and requirements.

487

488 **ARTICLE II: ELECTION PROCEDURES**

489

490 **§ 117. The Election Calendar.**

491 A. The Director of Elections, in consultation with the Office of the Assemblies, will draft
492 the election calendar at some point prior to the Campaign & Voting Period, and will
493 be approved by the Elections Committee at a meeting whenever possible.

494

495 B. Consideration shall be given to any religious holidays that may fall during the election
496 period, guaranteeing that the right to free religious observance is afforded to all
497 potential candidates.

498 **§ 118. Voting and Tabulation.**

499 A. Each office shall be elected according to the Ranked Choice method of voting.

500

501 B. The order in which names appear on the ballot shall be randomly selected.

502

503 C. Uncontested candidates will not be listed for a vote on the ballot and will be deemed
504 victorious pending the resolution of objections.

505

506 D. Results for races in which objections have been filed shall be posted after the Elections
507 Committee has ruled on each objection and each objection has been fully resolved.

508

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- 509 E. The Elections Committee will not have access to the results prior to and during the
510 review of objection. The Office of Assemblies will release election results after the
511 Director of Elections or the Elections Committee has validated the election results.
512
- 513 F. A printout of election results for qualifying candidates shall be posted online on the
514 relevant webpages of the election. Disqualified candidates will not have their vote
515 tallies made available.
516

517 **§ 119. Procedure for Verifying Eligibility.**

- 518 A. The Office of the Assemblies, assisted by the Elections Committee, shall review the
519 registration of each candidate to ensure compliance with §§ 101-104;
520
- 521 B. No later than a time to be fixed by the Elections Calendar, the Office of the Assemblies
522 shall issue a report to the Elections Committee (to be known as the “Eligibility Report”)
523 on the eligibility of each candidate. The Eligibility Report shall be made available on
524 the website of the Office of the Assemblies;
525
- 526 C. No later than a time to be fixed by the Elections Calendar, the Director of Elections
527 shall review the report of the Office of the Assemblies and affirm or reject the
528 eligibility of each individual having registered as a candidate.
529
- 530 D. The outcome of the Director of Elections review of the Eligibility Report shall be
531 known as the “Candidate List”. It which shall include the names of each individual
532 deemed to be eligible to stand for election along with the office to which the individual
533 is seeking election, and the names of each individual deemed ineligible to stand for
534 election along with the office to which the individual sought to seek election;
535
- 536 E. No later than a time to be fixed by the Elections Calendar, the Director of Elections
537 shall publish the Candidate List to the Student Assembly. The Candidate List shall be
538 made available on the website of the Office of the Assemblies.

539 **§ 120. Election Process.**

- 540 A. Candidate Registration Period.
541
- 542 (1) During the Candidate Registration Period, each individual seeking election
543 shall register as a candidate with the Office of the Assemblies.
544
- 545 B. Election Preparation Period.
546
- 547 (1) During this period, which shall follow the conclusion of the Candidate
548 Registration period, the Office of the Assemblies shall prepare an
549 informational website containing the name, statement of candidacy and
550 photograph of each candidate, the necessary electronic ballots to carry out the
551 election, and the Eligibility Report for the Elections Committee.
552
- 553 (2) Notwithstanding the election calendar adopted for each election, this period
554 shall be no fewer than three (3) business days in length.
555

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556 (3) During this phase, the Elections Committee shall review the Eligibility Report
557 and issue the Candidate List.

558

559 C. Campaign & Voting Period.

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

564

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

568

569 D. Objection Submission Period.

570

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

573

574 E. Objection Review Period.

575

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

578

579 F. Declaration of Results.

580

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

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584 **ARTICLE III: OBJECTIONS**

585

586 **§ 121. Eligibility to Object.**

587 A. A general objection may be submitted by:

588

589 B. Any voter in same constituency as the candidate or candidates against whom the
590 objection is being filed (known as the “respondent candidate”);

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592 (1) The Director of Elections; or

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

595

596 C. A general objection may not be submitted by individual Committee members, except
597 for the Director of Elections.

598 **§ 122. Manner and Form of Objections.**

599 B. General Objection.

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- 601 (1) A general objection is the first part of an objection; its purpose is to notify the
602 Elections Committee and the respondent candidate of the objector’s intention
603 to object to an alleged violation of these rules;
604
- 605 (2) Each general objection shall include:
606
- 607 (a) The full name and Net-ID (if applicable) of the objector;
 - 608
 - 609 (b) The candidate or candidates against whom the objection is being filed
610 (known as the “respondent candidate”);
611
 - 612 (c) The date and place, as near as the objector may reasonably surmise,
613 the violation took place;
614
 - 615 (d) A brief description of the alleged violation;
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 - 617 (e) An attestation by the objector that all the information contained within
618 the general objection is true and correct to the best of the objector’s
619 understanding.
620

621 C. Specific Objection.
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- 623 (1) A specific objection is the second part of an objection; its purpose is to convey
624 to the Elections Committee and the respondent candidate the specific nature
625 and details of violations of these rules the objector believes occurred;
626
- 627 (2) Each specific objection shall include:
628
- 629 (a) A copy of the corresponding general objection;
 - 630
 - 631 (b) The full name and Net-ID (if applicable) of the objector;
 - 632
 - 633 (c) The candidate or candidates against whom the objection is being filed
634 (known as the “respondent candidate”);
635
 - 636 (d) The date and place, as near as the objector may reasonably surmise,
637 the violation took place;
638
 - 639 (e) A detailed description of the alleged violation;
 - 640
 - 641 (f) A list of which rules the objector believes were violated;
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 - 643 (g) An explanation of why the alleged violation either materially
644 compromised the integrity of the election or constituted a material
645 advantage to the extent the respondent candidate should be
646 disqualified; and
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648 (h) An attestation by the objector that all the information contained within
649 the specific objection is true and correct to the best of the objector's
650 understanding.

651
652 (3) A specific objection may include any additional information or documentation
653 relevant to the objection.

654
655 (4) The specific objection must be submitted at the same time as the general
656 objection.

657
658 D. Consideration of an Objection.

659
660 (1) The Elections Committee shall consider all objections properly filed;

661
662 (2) The Elections Committee shall not consider an objection in instances where:

663
664 (a) Either the general or specific objection fails to contain all of the
665 required information specified in this section;

666
667 (b) The objector filed only one, but not both parts of an objection; or

668
669 (c) The objector failed to file either a specific or general objection in a
670 timely manner.

671 **§ 123. Objection Deadlines.**

672 A. General Objection.

673
674 (1) A general objection submitted by a voter in same constituency as the
675 respondent candidate shall only be considered when submitted within twenty-
676 four hours of the alleged violation becoming known to the objector or within
677 twenty-four hours of the conclusion of the Campaign & Voting Period,
678 whichever comes earlier;

679
680 (2) A general objection submitted by the Director of Elections or by the Elections
681 Committee shall only be considered when submitted at any time prior to the
682 declaration of results;

683
684 B. Specific Objection.

685
686 (1) A specific objection submitted by a voter in same constituency as the
687 respondent candidate shall only be considered when filed within or within
688 twenty-four (24) hours of the conclusion of the Campaign Period;

689
690 (2) A specific objection submitted by the Director of Elections or the Elections
691 Committee shall only be considered when submitted at any time prior to the
692 declaration of results;

693
694 C. Once submitted, an objection may not be withdrawn for any reason or by any person.

STUDENT ASSEMBLY ELECTION RULES

695 **§ 124. Notification of Election Objections.**

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

700
701 (1) During the Campaign & Voting Period, the Office of the Assemblies shall be
702 permitted on a rolling basis to transmit general and specific objections to the
703 Director of Elections.

704
705 B. Within twenty-four (24) hours of the transmission of the copies of specific objections,
706 the Director of Elections shall determine whether each objection is fit for consideration.

707
708 (1) If the objection is fit for consideration (to be known as a “valid objection”), the
709 Director of Elections may choose to notify by email the relevant objector and
710 respondent of this determination and may transmit a copy of both the general
711 and specific objection to the respondent candidate;

712
713 (2) If the objection is not fit for consideration (to be known as an “invalid
714 objection”), the Director of Elections shall notify by email the relevant objector
715 of this determination;

716 (3) It is at the discretion of the Director of Elections whether to notify a candidate
717 of an objection against them or maintain its confidentiality until the end of the
718 Voting Period.

719 **§ 125. Response to Objections.**

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

723
724 B. The Director of Elections, or the Elections Committee by majority vote, may choose
725 to hold a hearing at which time a designated respondent candidate may respond in
726 person to the allegations contained within the objection to which they are a party.

727 **§ 126. Objection Review Meeting.**

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

730
731 B. The Committee, less temporarily recused members, shall provide a time for the
732 respondent candidate to respond in person if requested by the respondent candidate or
733 a member of the Committee.

734
735 C. The Director of Elections reserves the right to recuse any member of the Committee in
736 the event of a conflict of interest. Members may either recuse themselves prior to
737 objection hearings or at the discretion of the Director of Elections.

738
739 D. This meeting may be held virtually, in-person, or hybrid.

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740

741 **§ 127. Review of Objections.**

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

744

745 (1) Whether the objection asserts the occurrence of a material violation of the
746 Election Rules;

747

748 (2) Whether each alleged violation can be substantiated using a preponderance of
749 the evidence;

750

751 (a) A vote will be taken for each violation individually, and a majority of
752 the members present of the Elections Committee is required to declare
753 that a preponderance of evidence substantiates each violation; and

754

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

758

759 B. Roll Call Voting will be utilized for all votes by the Elections Committee. The
760 Director of Elections shall vote last.

761

762 **§ 128. Penalties.**

763 A. If the Elections Committee finds that either a single substantiated violation or that a
764 combination of substantiated violations, beyond a reasonable doubt, require the
765 disqualification of a candidate, the Elections Committee only may disqualify a
766 candidate with at least two-thirds of the members present of the Elections Committee
767 voting in the affirmative to disqualify.

768

769 **§ 129. Written Report.**

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

773

774 (1) The objection(s);

775

776 (2) The Elections Committee's decision; and

777

778 (3) The rationale for the decision.

779

780 B. The report is to be kept confidential and only released to the respondent candidate and
781 the objector.

782

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

785

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786 D. For each objection, the Elections Committee shall report to the objector and the
787 respondent candidate all evidence received and found, any violations substantiated,
788 and any decisions to disqualify the respondent candidate.

789 § 130. Reconsideration.

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

793
794 B. To be reconsidered, the candidate seeking such reconsideration must submit a request
795 in writing via to the Office of the Assemblies and the Director of Elections within
796 twenty-four (24) hours of receiving the disqualification email from the Director of
797 Elections. The statement should address the specific findings in the written report to
798 be reconsidered and should detail the specific points where the Elections Committee
799 failed to correctly enforce the objection procedure outlined in the Elections Rules.

800
801 C. Failure to submit all necessary documentation within twenty-four (24) hours will
802 restrict the seeking for reconsideration and the Elections Committee's decision will be
803 final.

804
805 D. The Election Committee shall convene in response to such a request. The Committee,
806 after evaluating each request for reconsideration, shall determine by a simple majority
807 vote if the decision to disqualify should be overturned. Email voting may be used by
808 the Elections Committee.

809 § 131. Confidentiality.

810 A. Members of the Elections Committee and parties to an objection may not share the
811 contents of objections, evidence, or decisions submitted to or received from the
812 Elections Committee, except when explicitly permitted by these rules or by the
813 Director of Elections. When publicly releasing confidential information, the Director
814 of Elections must redact the names of all individuals who are not the candidate
815 respondent.

816
817 B. The Director of Elections is permitted to reveal only relevant information about an
818 objection if it is in service of an investigation. However, there is virtually no instance
819 in which this would imbue the Director of Elections the power to divulge the objector's
820 name to the respondent.

821
822 C. A review of objections may take place in coordination with the Office of the
823 Assemblies, 109 Day Hall, by any member of the Cornell community. Objections may
824 not be photocopied, screen-shared, photographed, digitally recorded or removed from
825 the Office of Assemblies.

826 D. The Director of Elections may not review or be granted access to election results until
827 all objections have been adjudicated and all Committee business concluded.

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829
830