

# **Temple Student Government Elections Code**

**Updated: 2/5/17 // Elections Committee**

# **Article I: Eligibility & Responsibilities** **of Candidates and the Campaign**

## **Section 101 Definitions**

### **101.01 Campaign**

A *Campaign* consists of all Campaign Members working officially on behalf of any Candidate(s) who can solicit and receive endorsements, raise funds, hang banners, advertise electronically, distribute promotional items, and conduct other activities that could be perceived as campaigning by a student on behalf of any Candidate(s) who has/have been approved by the Elections Commissioner(s).

### **101.02 Candidate**

A *Candidate* is any individual on the ballot for election to the office of President, or Vice President, or member of Parliament who has met the filing criteria outlined in Section 102

### **101.03 Campaign Member**

A *Campaign Member* is any individual, including the Candidate(s), who is actively working to benefit a Campaign or an individual Candidate with respect to Campaign functions, operations, or events. All Campaign Members must fulfill the criteria outlined in Section 102.2

## **Section 102 Campaign Member Qualifications**

### **102.01 Student Status**

A Campaign Member must be a registered full-time student of Temple University Main Campus and must be able to fulfill all duties as defined in the Temple Student Government Constitution and By-Laws.

### **102.02 Requirements**

Each Campaign Member is required to meet the eligibility standards outlined for members of the Executive Branch of Temple Student Government. Each Campaign Member must disclose any University conduct infractions as well as any outstanding University conduct proceedings to the Elections Commissioner(s) and the Temple Student Government Administrative Advisor. Each Candidate for Parliament must also meet the additional requirements for their respective seat as outlined in the Temple Student Government Constitution.

### **102.03 Restrictions**

No Campaign Member shall serve as the Auditor General or as a member of the Elections Committee of Temple Student Government unless a specific exception is granted by the Elections Commissioner(s) and Temple Student Government Administrative Advisor prior to the beginning of Campaigning.

### **102.04 Application Deadline**

Each Campaign must submit an application including the Candidate(s) resume(s), a list of all Campaign Members, and a completed and signed application form at or before a time specified by the Elections Commissioner(s) and announced prior to the beginning of Elections. Each Candidate must also have fully read through the Elections Code before campaigning begins.

## **Section 103 Registered Candidates**

### **103.01 Definition**

*Registered Candidates* are Candidates who turned in a completed application packet to the Temple Student Government Elections and meet all requirements as outlined in the Elections Code and the Temple Student Government Constitution.

### **103.02 Determination**

The Elections Committee will review the completed packet and qualifications of each Campaign Member and verify that the Campaign is in compliance with the Elections Code and Temple Student Government Constitution.

## **Section 104 Responsibilities and Accountability**

### **104.01 Governing Policy**

All Candidates shall be responsible for knowing and understanding:

- a. The rules set forth in the Election Code
- b. The policies set forth by the Elections Committee
- c. The rules set forth in the Temple University Student Code of Conduct
- d. The rules and regulations of Student Center Operations, Residence Halls, Academic Spaces and Temple University
- e. The [guidelines](#) for use of Temple University logos and branding

### **104.02 Ignorance of Regulation**

Ignorance of a regulation is/will not be an acceptable defense for a violation of the Elections Code or policies set forth by the Elections Committee

### **104.03 Accountability I**

Each Candidate shall be responsible for all of their Campaign materials and shall be held liable for any violation of University or Temple Student Government policies by their Campaign. Candidates shall be held liable for any violation of University of Temple Student Government policies listed in section 104.01.

### **104.04 Accountability II**

It is the duty of the Candidate(s) to police their own Campaign Members. If the Elections Committee finds sufficient evidence of an Election Code violation by any Campaign Member, it shall be considered equal to a violation by the Candidate(s).

## **Section 105 Campaign Finance and Resource**

### **105.01 Contributions**

The Elections Commissioner(s) are to set two spending caps, one for all Parliament Campaigns and another for all executive Campaigns. The spending cap is to be set based on the available budget for reimbursing Executive Campaigns. All spending is to be considered under this cap, including any tangible gifts given to Campaigns. The Elections Commissioner will determine how to count the value of said gifts on a case by case basis.

### **105.02 Restrictions**

Funds for the Campaign shall not come from Temple Student Government Allocations or Temple University Student Organizations.

## **Section 106 Endorsements**

### **106.01 Definition**

*Endorsement* is a declaration of support of a Candidate or Campaign by any organization, regardless of their relation to the University community.

### **106.02 Eligibility**

Any organization, regardless of their affiliation with the Temple University community, may endorse a Candidate(s) or Campaign.

### **106.03 Candidate Solicitation**

Candidates may seek endorsements at any time from the start of the Campaign through Election Days.

#### **106.04 Compliance**

All endorsing organizations must complete the Campaign Endorsement Form and it shall be returned to the Elections Commissioner(s) prior to the placing of ads, or the distribution of any Campaign materials bearing the organization's name in support of the Candidate(s).

#### **106.05 Rights of Endorsing Organizations**

Endorsing parties may:

- a. Promote Candidate(s) through print, television, radio and internet advertising.
- b. Promote the Candidate(s) through the distribution of fliers and handbills (a copy of which must be provided to the Elections Committee prior to distribution).
- c. Promote the Candidate(s) through word of mouth.
- d. Participate in any campaigning which conforms to this Election Code, Temple University regulations, Temple University Student Code of Conduct and respects the fairness and integrity of the Temple Student Government Election.

#### **106.06 Restrictions of Endorsing Organizations**

Endorsing parties may not:

- a. Promote Candidates without having submitted a Student Organization Endorsement Form.
- b. Post any materials regarding a Campaign that have not been approved by a Candidate or a member of that respective Campaign.
- c. Participate in any campaigning, which violates the Election Code, Temple University regulations, or Temple University Student Code of Conduct, or disregards the fairness and integrity of the Temple Student Government Election.
- d. Campaigns are responsible for campaigning done by organizations that have endorsed them, and will be penalized for any Campaign violations.

#### **106.07 Voter Coercion**

No individual or organization that endorses any Candidate may offer any monetary or material prize for voting for a specific Candidate or Campaign. They also cannot coerce members to vote with any threat, including loss of membership from the organization.

### **Section 107 Posted Campaign Materials**

#### **107.01 Defacing University Property**

Stickers, self-adhesive materials, painting of windows, doors or other fixtures or the placing of Campaign materials which in some way damages or defaces walls, doors, windows or other University fixtures are specifically prohibited. Candidates may be held financially responsible for any damage that may occur.

#### **107.02 Legal Compliance**

Campaigning and posting of all printed material must be in accordance with all University rules and regulations, as well as local, state and federal statutes.

#### **107.03 Posting Restrictions I**

Posters and fliers can only be placed on the bulletin boards of academic spaces and kiosks after being approved by Temple University Student Center Operations as per their published guidelines.

#### **107.04 Posting Restrictions II**

Posters and fliers specifically may not be:

- a. Distributed underneath the room doors of the Residence Halls or off campus housing complexes
- b. Hung in a manner that they obstruct any other posted Campaign material
- c. Posted on the outside of any University building or in any unauthorized location including, but not limited to, doors, windows, and glass doors.
- d. Taped, glued or stapled on ceilings, walls, doors, podiums or anywhere in bathrooms or classrooms.

### **Section 108 Bribery and Coercion**

#### **108.01 Definition**

Bribery and coercion shall include, but are not limited to:

- a. Promises of appointment or reappointment to positions of authority
- b. Threats to politically or socially ostracize an individual/organization
- c. Transfer funds, goods, or services not relevant to the Temple Student Government Election
- d. Intimidation or threats of physical violence

#### **108.02 Elections Committee**

At no time shall an individual attempt to bribe, coerce, intimidate or otherwise attempt to exert undue influence on any member of the Elections Committee or any member of the current Temple Student Government Administration.

#### **108.03 Candidates and their Campaign**

At no time shall an individual attempt to bribe, coerce, intimidate or otherwise attempt to exert undue influence on any Candidate or a member of their Campaign staff.

#### **108.04 Voters**

At no time shall an individual attempt to bribe, coerce, intimidate or otherwise attempt to exert undue influence on any voter in the election.

## **Article II: Temple Student Government Separation**

### **Section 201 Temple Student Government Office**

#### **201.01 Restrictions**

Campaign Members are restricted from using the Temple Student Government office for any campaigning activity, including but not limited to:

- a. Using the Temple Student Government Resource Room supplies
- b. Conducting Campaign business
- c. Promotion of Candidates or Campaigns including: distribution of materials, wearing of t-shirts, buttons, pins, wristbands, etc., and word of mouth

## **Section 202 Separation and Duties**

### **202.01 Administration**

Members of the current administration shall not endorse or actively support a Candidate as a whole unless they are reported to the Elections Committee as a Campaign Member.

### **202.02 Separation from Board**

The Temple Student Government shall not officially endorse a candidate. Neither shall the current President, Vice President(s), Speaker of the Parliament, Executive Team members, or any Parliament members speak on behalf of any Candidate during official Temple Student Government business, such as public meetings. Under no circumstances should the Campaign of any Candidate include an official endorsement from the current President, Vice President(s) or Speaker of the Parliament.

### **202.03 Fulfillment of Duties**

Any Candidate who holds a current position within Temple Student Government must fulfill their duties until the end of the term of the current administration regardless of winning or losing the election.

## **Article III: Voting and Election Day**

### **Section 301 Eligible Voters**

#### **301.01 Criteria for Executive Voting**

Any Temple University student is eligible to vote in the Executive Temple Student Government Election. Voters are to rank Campaigns/Candidates by means of a Single Transferrable Voting mechanism.

#### **301.02 Specific Criteria for Parliamentary Voting**

The eligibility of voters for each parliament Seat is dictated by the rules below. Voters may vote in as many races as they are eligible for

- o At large seats: all students are eligible to rank their top 5 picks, in order, for the at large seats
- o Year based representatives
  - Freshmen Representatives: All Freshmen are eligible to vote
  - Sophomore Representative: All Sophomores are eligible to vote.
  - Junior Representative: All Juniors are eligible to vote.
  - Senior+ Representative: All Seniors are eligible to vote.
  - Graduate Student Representative: All Temple students enrolled in a graduate program are eligible to vote.
  - Transfer Representative: all students are eligible to vote.
- o Representatives from each undergraduate school and college
  - Any student enrolled in the College of Science and Technology is eligible to vote
  - Any student enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts is eligible to vote
  - Any student enrolled in the College of Education is eligible to vote
  - Any student enrolled in the College of Engineering is eligible to vote
  - Any student enrolled in College of Public Health is eligible to vote
  - Any student enrolled in the Tyler School of Art is eligible to vote
  - Any student enrolled in the Fox School of Business is eligible to vote
  - Any student enrolled in the School of Media and Communication is eligible to vote
  - Any student enrolled in the Boyer College of Music and Dance is eligible to vote
  - Any student enrolled in the School of Social Work is eligible to vote
  - Any student enrolled in the School of Sport, Tourism and Hospitality Management is eligible to vote
  - Any student enrolled in from the School of Theater, Film and Media Arts is eligible to vote
- o Representatives of designated Special Interest Groups on campus
  - LGBTQ+ representative: All students are eligible to vote
  - Multicultural representatives: All students are eligible to vote
  - Commuter Representative: All students are eligible to vote

- Athletics representative: Any athlete who is registered with the Student Athletic Advisory Committee is allowed to vote.
- Honors representative: Any student who is enrolled in the Honors Program is eligible to vote.
- DRS Representative: Any student who is registered with the Disability Resources and Services office is eligible to vote.
- International Student representative: Any student registered with International Students and Scholars Services is eligible to vote

## **Section 302 Voting Locations**

### **302.01 Campaigning**

Candidates are allowed to campaign up until the poll closes at 11:59pm EST on the last Election Day. The Candidates are able to campaign on Election Day(s) but must be at least 50 feet away from any official Temple Student Government polling locations.

### **302.02 Polling Locations**

Temple Student Government may set physical polling locations during Election Days. Campaigning within 50 feet of those locations is prohibited. No Campaign Member is allowed to host any polling locations not sanctioned by the Elections Committee

### **302.03 Obtaining Votes**

Candidates are not allowed to walk around campus with a laptop, cell phone, iPod, iPad, or any other technological device to solicit a direct vote.

### **302.04 Online Voting Fraud**

At no point shall any individual attempt to vote using the username of any member of the Temple University community other than themselves.

## **Section 303 Elected Candidates**

### **303.01**

The winning Candidate shall be determined by means of a Single Transferrable Vote Instant Runoff system as determined by the Elections Commissioner.

## **Section 304 Announcements and Tie Votes**

### **304.01 Tie Votes**

If a tie occurs for Executive Office, there shall be a runoff election between those Candidates tied within one week of the initial date of election.

### **304.02 Result Announcements**

Only after the online votes have been counted will the Elections Committee officially and publicly announce the results of the election. No Candidate may take office until the election is certified by the Elections Committee and Institutional Research.

## **Article IV: Elections Committee and Authority**

### **Section 401 Definitions**

#### **401.01 Election Code**

The *Elections Code* is a body of rules set up the Elections Committee, which governs the election process and all persons involved with the election or an individual Candidate or Campaign

### **Section 402 Duties**

#### **402.01 Campaign Review**

The *Elections Committee*, in addition to the Temple Student Government Administrative Advisor, will provide, receive and determine the eligibility of all Campaign Application Packets received from Candidates running for Office.

### **Section 403 The Election Commissioner(s)**

#### **403.01 Authority I**

The Elections Commissioner(s) shall preside over all meetings of the Elections Committee and shall act as its spokesperson and executive director in all matters of election business.

#### **403.02 Authority II**

In the event that there needs to be an extended deadline for applications, the Temple Student Government Administrative Advisor and the Elections Commissioner(s) have the authority to determine when that extension shall be.

#### **403.03 Enforcement**

The Elections Commissioner(s) shall oversee the Committee members, and is in charge of their recusal or removal should any ethical conflicts arise.

#### **403.04 Discretion**

For all matter related to the election for which there is no established provision with the Temple Student Government Constitution, Bylaws or supplementary elections materials, the Elections Commissioner(s) shall have the authority to establish and maintain those provisions necessary to ensure a fair, honest and efficient election.

### **Section 404 The Committee**

#### **404.01 Neutrality**

The members of the Elections Committee shall at all times seek to make decisions based on the Election Code. Committee members shall sign documentation stating that they will not endorse or take bias towards any Candidate or issues.

#### **404.02 Appearance of Impropriety**

Members of the Elections Committee shall at all times avoid appearance of any bias, even if no real bias exists.

#### **404.03 Recusal**

Any Committee member, Elections commissioner, or other Temple Student Government member with a conflict of interests, real or perceived, will be expected to recuse themselves from any decisions where such conflict arises.

#### **404.04 Limitation of Authority**

The elections committee has no authority over the removal of Campaign materials unless they are hung in violation of university policy or the elections code.

## **Section 405 Election Programming and Campaigning**

### **405.01 Programming**

The Elections Committee, at its discretion, may sponsor programs it believes will increase voters' knowledge of the election and to increase voter turnout.

### **405.01 Public Disclosure**

Voting times shall be established by the Elections Committee and shall be publicized prior to Campaigns beginning.

## **Article V: Violations of the Election Code**

## **Section 501 Adjunction and Penalties**

### **501.01 Violations**

Violations of policies not maintained by Temple Student Government, or the Elections Committee shall be referred to the appropriate authority. This includes, but is not limited to the violations of:

- a. The Temple University Student Code of Conduct
- b. Rules and Regulations of Temple University
- c. Any applicable local, state, and federal laws

### **501.02 Penalties – Executive Campaigns**

The rules set forth throughout the Elections Code are to be adhered to by all Candidates and Campaign staff. In the event that an Executive Campaign violates the code, a predetermined numerical value assigned to that violation will be given to the Campaign. All points are cumulative and are documented and recorded by the Elections Committee. The following penalties are applied at the values listed below:

- .5-1 - Any Campaign will be served a warning
- 1.5-2 - Any Campaign found must suspend their Campaign for twenty-four (24) consecutive hours. During this suspension period, Campaigns are not permitted to distribute any Campaign materials, solicit endorsements, or advertise through print, television, radio and Internet. This includes any endorsements campaigning in your absence.
- 2.5 - Any Campaign is no longer able to receive endorsements. Any endorsements gained before penalty are allowed.
- 3 - Any Campaign will be disqualified

### **501.03 Penalties – Parliament Campaigns**

Any Candidate that violates the Elections Code will be issued one written warning. A second violation will result in immediate disqualification of the Candidate. Especially egregious violations may result in disqualification without warning.

### **501.04 Determination of Violations**

Any Campaign(s) that violate the election code will be asked to appear in front of the Elections Committee. The committee will decide if the violation renders a sanction set forth in 501.02.