

# ELECTION REGULATIONS

Any qualifying student, from any district, may seek any available office by running in the general conference election or by running in his/her respective component during the conference, with the following restriction:

- A school may run up to 3 candidates available ballot positions, not including Governor.
- This 3 office limit SHALL NOT include Governor or officers in the Press Corps, Lobbyist component, and Supreme Court.
- A school may nominate up to 3 candidates for Engrossing Clerk, Clerk, and Sergeant at Arms. These nominees will write an essay to qualify for an office.
- Should there be offices sought by no candidate, students to fill those positions shall be appointed by the YMCA Center for Civic Engagement.

## CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS:

### GOVERNOR

Gubernatorial candidates must meet the following requirements:

- Attendance at a minimum of 2 Youth in Government conferences (Attendance in the election year does count as one of the 2)
- A minimum of 1 conference having served on the Governor's Cabinet, **OR 2 consecutive hours** spent observing the Governor's Cabinet in action, documented proof of which must be obtained from the GC component leader and submitted to the YIG Executive Director at the conference. This observation time **MUST** be served in the election year, and again, must be consecutive time, not cumulative. (Time may not be served on Friday morning or Sunday morning.)
- Advisor Approval
- Behavior in keeping with the YMCA Core Values of Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility.
- Delivery of 1 candidate speech outlining his/her qualifications and platform (see guidelines on platform below).
- Participation in the Gubernatorial Debate.
- Candidate speeches should be **issue-based and state the candidate's platform**. Just as the sitting governor outlines his/her vision and supported legislation, gubernatorial candidates should use the current proposed legislation as a guide for outlining his/her policy views in a candidate speech. Candidates may not use props during their speech.
- If you are running for Governor, you will receive an additional Gubernatorial Candidate Supplement that further explains the responsibilities of gubernatorial candidates and gubernatorial debate specifics.

### ALL OTHER OFFICES- (EXCLUDING COURT, LOBBYIST, & PRESS)

- Attendance at **one** Youth in Government conference. (Current year counts towards this requirement)
- Submission of Candidate Nomination Form by Deadline
- Advisor Approval
- Strong Peer Leadership Skills

- Working general knowledge of parliamentary procedure
- Behavior in keeping with the YMCA Core Values of Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility.
- Candidates for Lt. Governor, Speaker, and Floor Leader must submit a platform.
- Candidates for Lt. Governor, Speaker, and Floor Leader must give a 2 minute speech at the opening session. The speech must contain the candidate's platform and be submitted for approval to the CCE by designated deadline. Candidate speeches must be in keeping with the YMCA Core Values of Honesty, Caring, Respect, and Responsibility. Candidates may not use props during their speech.

## COURT, LOBBYIST, & PRESS

- Attendance at **one** Youth in Government conference (Current year counts towards this requirement) and participating in voting component.
- Submission of Candidate Nomination by deadline set at the conference
- Strong Peer Leadership Skills
- Candidate will give speeches in their component prior to voting. Speeches must be issue based and germane, pertaining to you and your desire to lead. A funny anecdote alone does not make your speech germane.

## BALLOT SELECTION

Use the following guidelines when choosing the office for which you would like to run.

- **SPEAKER/LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR/SPEAKER PRO-TEMP:** Students will run for Speaker of the Red House, Speaker of the White House, Speaker of the Blue House, Red Lt. Governor, White Lt. Governor, Blue Lt. Governor. There will be no candidates for Pro-Temp. Winner of those 6 races will be Speaker/Lt Governor. Runner up (2nd place) will serve as Speaker Pro-Temp for that chamber.
- **FLOOR LEADERS:** Students will run for Red Floor Leader, White Floor Leader, or Blue Floor Leader. There will be no candidates for chamber specific Floor Leaders (i.e. - Red Senate Floor Leader). When completing the nomination form, candidates get to state their preference for house or senate. Winner gets first choice, and runner up (2nd) gets other chamber.
- **Engrossing Clerk, Clerk, and Sgt at Arms:** These offices (for all chambers) will be nominated by schools/advisors and the nominee must write a short essay. A panel of judges will help select winners (who will be announced at the end of the conference just like the campaigning officers). Nomination form and essay questions will be on the website. These applicants will not need to submit a platform (see below). Please note- there is no longer be an officer position for Chaplain.

## PLATFORMS

- **All Candidates (including Governor) must have a PLATFORM. Platforms will be submitted with the candidate nomination form. Platforms must be explained in a candidate's speech.** The platform includes three issues that a candidate believes are important for YIG to address. These three issues must include:
  1. An issue that affects the candidate's community service interests.
  2. An issue that affects the candidate's local community.
  3. An issue that affects the State of Tennessee as a whole

- A platform should be more than listing problems, but does not necessarily need to endorse specific policies.
- If a student is elected, his/her platform will be posted on our "Meet Your Officers" page.
- We plan to offer some way for Lt. Gov/Speaker/Pro-Temp to advocate for their platform while serving as officers. This will most likely take form in a small Speaker's Docket that advances 2 bills from committee for consideration. Obviously, Floor Leaders will be able to advocate for their platform from the floor.

## **CAMPAIGN MATERIAL REGULATIONS**

Candidates will be permitted the use of four (4) types of materials to use during their campaigns. These are the ONLY materials that are allowed. No candidate can spend more than \$100 on these materials, including the retail value of items donated from any person or organization:

1. **(One) Trifold Board (3ft x 5ft) - specifics will be emailed to registered candidates.**
  2. **Business Cards**
  3. **Buttons**
  4. **Speech (2 minutes max) --- required\*\***
- No other items or promotional materials will be allowed, even within your delegation. This includes, but is not limited to: posters, pens, bracelets, flyers, ribbons, t-shirts, stickers, gum, candy, toys, and items restricted by the hotel. Distribution of any non-approved items will result in a candidate being removed from the ballot.
  - Social media outlets can be used by students for their campaign, but may not be paid for; this includes Snapchat Geo Filters, Facebook Ads, or other promotions. Students may not be endorsed by politicians, other partisan groups, or celebrities. Finally, students may not campaign in the voting area.

## **OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST**

- The election for 2020 officers is scheduled for Saturday in the State Capitol at the Cordell Hull Building, Capitol, and Supreme Court. This will be the only opportunity for delegates to vote, so please encourage them to do so.
- Delegates may only vote at the voting machine assigned to their respective component. Machines will be clearly marked with component signs.
- Each delegate may only vote once. The CCE provides poll workers for supervision of voting.
- All candidates, except those seeking the office of Governor, will have an opportunity to make speeches during the opening ceremony on Thursday. Gubernatorial candidates will be required to participate in a debate on Thursday evening following dinner. Candidates will deliver their campaign speeches at the Governor's Banquet on Friday evening.
- Winners are determined by simple majority vote. There will be no run-offs unless there is an exact tie between any top candidates.
- For Gubernatorial Elections Only: If there is a large field of gubernatorial candidates, a run-off will be held at the discretion of the Center for Civic Engagement.
- Each candidate may spend NO MORE than \$100.00 on his or her campaign, donated materials included. Please KEEP ALL RECEIPTS. In the event there is a question raised about campaign expenditures, any receipts become public domain.
- Candidates who are in violation of any guidelines or who are considered to be acting in a way contrary to the YMCA Core Values will be removed from the ballot or deemed ineligible.