Article VII. Election By-Laws
A. Eligibility
   1. Candidate Eligibility
      a. To be a candidate for USG elections, one must be a registered undergraduate student at The Ohio State University and may not be on disciplinary or academic probation or warning from the time nominating petitions are approved and through the first day of the elected term.
      b. No candidate can have a pending application for graduation prior to the first day of the elected term.
      c. Candidate and candidate teams must sign the Official Declaration of Intent form in order to receive nominating petitions.
      d. Candidates and candidate teams for office who wish to be placed on the official election ballot must collect the necessary number of signatures by the deadline set by the EGB.
      e. Candidates for the Offices of President and Vice President shall run in tandem.
      f. No candidate or candidate team can run concurrently for more than one elected position in any USG general election.
      g. All Living Area Senators must live in the area that they represent at the beginning of the Autumn Quarter following the general election and must reside in that area for the remaining term of office.
         1) Off-campus area: Those areas within the boundary street/lines of Olentangy River, NYC Railroad Tracks, Arcadia Avenue (East of High) through Dodridge Road (West of High), Fifth Avenue and outside of the Ohio State University Campus.
         2) Commuter Area: All areas outside of the defined off-campus area.
      h. An International Student Senator is any student wishing to represent undergraduate international students and those students who are studying abroad.
      i. A Regional Campus Senator must attend the regional campus that they represent for two full quarters prior to their term of office.
         1) Regional Campus: All Ohio State University campuses outside of the Columbus branch.
      j. A College Senator must be enrolled in the college that they are to represent at the time of petition validation and through their elected term.
      k. A Diversity Senator is any student wishing to represent the issues of diversity of the undergraduate student body as a whole.

B. Penalties
   1. Violating these bylaws carries a penalty. All penalties are counted as part of a campaign’s value and must be reported on Campaign Value Report. These penalties will represent the value of the advantage a candidate, candidate team, or slate has gained through bylaw violation.
      a. Violating any type I bylaw has a maximum penalty of $20 per instance of violation.
      b. Violating any type II bylaw has a maximum penalty of $100 per instance of violation.
      c. Violating any type III bylaw has a maximum penalty of $200 per instance of violation.
      d. Violating any type IV bylaw has a maximum penalty of disqualification or $200 per instance of violation.
2. For every Judicial Panel order concurrent with a penalty, the penalty doubles every 24 hours after the parties to the decision have been notified and the concurrent order has not been carried out.
   a. If the party(ies) decide(s) to appeal the decision, this provision is suspended until a decision on the appeal is made.

C. Petitions and Nominations

1. Submission Protocol
   a. All petitions to be submitted shall be subject to the rules and regulations stated in the Elections bylaws.
   b. Signatures contained within the petition must come from registered and active Ohio State University undergraduate students.
      1) The EGB shall verify and validate all petitions submitted.
      2) Any unqualified signatures shall be rejected as invalid, but shall not invalidate other valid signatures on the same petition.
   c. No petioner shall allow any undergraduate student to sign any name other than his/her own to all petitions.
   d. Every page of the petition shall bear the name of the circulator, verifying that he/she identified the purpose of said petition and witnessed that all signatures placed upon it were made by eligible students to the best of his/her knowledge, for that page to be valid.
   e. Before filing a petition with the EGB, the circulator of a petition may strike out any signature he/she does not wish to present as part of that petition.
   f. Any person may remove their own signature before it is filed with the EGB by striking out his or her name on said petition.
   g. A list of official candidates, candidate teams, referenda, and initiatives shall be posted by the EGB on the USG website, within 48 hours of validation of signatures.
   h. All official candidates, candidate teams, and/or sponsors of official referenda, and initiatives shall be notified in writing and e-mail of their status by the EGB by the eighth Friday of Winter Quarter.

2. Nominating Petitions
   a. The name(s) of the candidate or candidate team must appear on each nominating petition.
   b. To appear on the official ballot for USG office, a candidate or candidate team must obtain the necessary number of valid signatures on the petition to be submitted for certification by the EGB by the Eighth Week of Winter Quarter:
      1) For each President/Vice President Candidate Team: 750
      2) For each Senator: 50

3. Initiative Petitions
   a. An initial petition, without any signatures, for an initiative must be submitted to the EGB by the Sixth Week of Winter Quarter for review.
   b. The EGB must return the revised initiative within one week of its submission for review. EGB review may not entail changing any substantive aspect of the initiative.
   c. Final petitions for initiatives must be submitted to the EGB Director by 5pm on the last Friday of Winter Quarter bearing the full text of the approved initiative’s language at the top of the petition along with the signature of the EGB director and at least 500 valid OSU signatures.
D. Campaign Procedures

1. Candidate Conduct I: Campaign Materials
   a. Candidates, candidate teams, and slates may not disseminate libelous or slanderous information against another candidate. This is a type III bylaw.
   b. No candidate or campaign member shall post a flyer over, conceal, or otherwise deface any material created by the EGB. This is a type II bylaw.
   c. No candidate or campaign member shall post a flyer over, conceal, or otherwise deface any material created by another candidate. This is a type II bylaw.
   d. All websites maintained by a candidate, candidate team, or slate are subject to review by the EGB and must adhere to the rules and regulations in these bylaws. Such websites must have a visible link to the EGB website on their main page. This is a type I bylaw.
   e. All e-mail advertising a specific candidate must include a disclaimer at the bottom of the e-mail that reads, “Please reply to sender requesting removal from e-mail list if you do not wish to receive further e-mail from this candidate. If you still receive e-mail from this candidate please contact the Elections Governance Board at usgelections@osu.edu.” Any such request must be honored within 24 hours. This is a type I bylaw.
   f. No candidate, candidate team, or slate may use supplies, materials, or equipment from the SOURCE for any campaign activity. This is a type IV bylaw.

2. Candidate Conduct II: Campaigning
   a. Campaigning may not interfere with classroom activities. This is a type II bylaw.
   b. No person may campaign within a student-computing site during voting days. This is a type II bylaw.
   c. Candidates, teams and slates may not solicit for votes or campaign before campaign season begins. This is a type III bylaw.
      1) Candidates, candidate teams, and slates may solicit for assistance in campaigning from individuals at any time.
      2) Candidates, candidate teams, and slates may produce campaign materials and create, but not publish, a website at any time.
   d. All campaigning must follow guidelines set by Facilities Operations and Development Posting and Chalking Guidelines, Residence Life, Student Code of Conduct, City of Columbus, State of Ohio, and Federal Law. This is a type I bylaw.
      1) The EGB will take necessary steps to disseminate this information.
   e. The EGB Director reserves the right to name areas off-limits for campaigning. No campaigning may be done in these areas. This is a type II bylaw.
      1) The EGB Director must give all candidates notice of what areas are off-limits and how long they will be considered so at least 24 hours before an area is declared off-limits.
   f. No campaigning of any sort is allowed in the Undergraduate Student Government office. Furthermore, no person may use any USG resources for any campaign activity. This is a type IV bylaw.
   g. A candidate team, candidate, and slate are responsible for the actions of any and all campaign members.
   h. Campaigning shall begin on the Sunday of the 2nd week of spring quarter at 8pm pending the approval of all candidate and candidate teams. Campaigning shall end
immediately upon the end of voting at 11:59pm on Friday of the third week of Spring Quarter.

3. Candidate Conduct III: Miscellaneous
   a. Write-in candidates are expected to adhere to the EGB bylaws with regard to campaigning and all other guidelines therein. If, after a write-in candidate has been elected, he/she is found to have been in violation of the elections bylaws, said candidate will be subject to disqualification.
   b. Only the EGB may maintain polling sites of any sort. This is a type II bylaw.
   c. All campaigns must submit the names of their campaign manager(s) and treasurer(s). This is a type I bylaw.
      1) The campaign manager and treasurer can be the same person or the candidate him/herself.
      2) This list must be submitted with nominating petitions. Changes or updates must be submitted within 24 hours of said change.

4. Slates
   a. Slates must register with the EGB – by the end of finals week of winter quarter -- a complete list of all member-candidates, campaign managers, and treasurers. Slates must inform the EGB director of any membership changes within 24 hours of the change. This is a type I bylaw.
      1) A senate candidate may at no time be a member of more than one slate.
      2) Member-candidates reserve the right to withdraw from a slate until the start of campaigning.
   b. A slate is completely liable for any and all bylaws violations of which that slate, member-candidates of that slate, or any other slate campaign members are found guilty.
      1) Penalties against a slate, slate member-candidate, or slate campaign member are counted as part of the value of the slate’s campaign.
      2) If, for whatever reason, a slate is disqualified, every member-candidate is disqualified from the election.
      3) The exceptions to this rule are:
         i. If, for whatever reason, a member-candidate is individually found ineligible for candidacy the slate suffers no penalty.
         ii. If, for whatever reason, a member-candidate is individually found to have falsified a document the slate suffers no penalty.
   c. Any and all campaign expenditures of a slate, member-candidate, or other slate campaign members are counted only once and only towards the value of the slate’s campaign. This includes, but is not limited to, t-shirts featuring the names of multiple candidates, chalk, flyers featuring the name of only one senator, and websites.

E. Campaign Finances
1. Reports and Submissions
   a. All candidates, candidate teams, and slates must maintain an online ledger. This is a type I bylaw.
      1) Online ledgers must be updated every day by 12:00 AM (midnight) beginning on the first day of official candidacy.
   b. The EGB reserves the right to audit a campaign and require the submission of a Campaign Value Report within 24 hours of notification. This is a type III bylaw.
2. Spending Limits
   a. No Presidential/Vice Presidential campaign shall be valued at more than $2000 total. This is a type IV bylaw.
   b. No Senatorial candidate’s campaign shall be valued for more than $125. This is a type IV bylaw.
   c. No slate’s campaign shall be valued for more than $125 per member-candidate or no more than $2000 total, whichever is less. Member-candidates of slates do not have individual spending limits. This is a type IV bylaw.
   d. No money raised for the purpose of campaigning in an Undergraduate Student Government election may be spent on or affiliated with alcohol, excluding campaigning in any establishment that serves alcohol. This is a type I bylaw.

F. Official Elections Procedures
1. Ballots
   a. Only the candidates and candidate teams that have been certified by the EGB will appear on the ballot.
   b. All initiatives and referenda shall appear on the ballot in the form of an EGB approved summary and hyperlink to the full text.
   c. A space for write-in candidates or candidate teams will be provided.
   d. Candidate names for each position shall be randomized with respect to order on each voter’s ballot.
   e. The EGB reserves the right to add EGB approved slate affiliation information to the ballot.

2. Election Validation
   a. The official certified results of the election will be announced no later than 10:00pm Monday of the sixth week of spring quarter, unless there are violations hearings still pending.
   b. Any person disrupting the election validity procedures shall be subject to University disciplinary action.
   c. One person representing a candidate, candidate team, slate, or initiative may be present at the time that votes are counted.
   d. All ballots of valid voters will be counted.

3. Voter Qualification
   a. All registered and paid undergraduate students of the Ohio State University are valid voters.
   b. Each eligible voter shall have the opportunity to vote for the following:
      1) One President/Vice-President candidate team
      2) As many Living Area Senate candidates as there are seats in the constituency in which the voter lives
      3) As many College Senate candidates as there are seats in the constituency in which the voter is enrolled
      4) As many At-Large Senate candidates as there are seats in that constituency
   c. Each eligible voter may vote yes or no for each initiative or referenda placed on the ballot.

4. Contesting the Election
   a. The validity of any election or any item on the ballot may be contested by any person by filing a petition to the Director of the Election Governance Board.
b. For a recount, the petition must contain signatures amounting to 10% of the total number of students who voted for the contested election or ballot item.

c. The EGB will act immediately on any valid petition. The EGB Director reserves the right to act on any invalid petition.

5. Voting Days
   a. Voting will begin at 12:00 AM EST of the Thursday of the third week of spring quarter and end 11:59 PM EST of the Friday of the third week of spring quarter.

G. Campaign Violations Resolution

1. Judicial Panel
   a. The Judicial Panel will review all reports of alleged misconduct related to USG elections.
      1) The Judicial Panel will make a good faith effort to hear violations within 48 hours of original filing, and must hold a hearing within 72 hours of the filing of a violation.
      2) The Judicial Panel must notify all parties involved of the hearing date and time within 24 hours of the filing of a violation.
      3) All violations must be filed with the USG Judicial Panel Clerk of Courts.
   b. All candidates or candidate teams who have been accused of committing a violation shall be considered not in violation until proven in violation based on a preponderance of evidence.
   c. The burden of proof lies on the accusers.
   d. Any decision made by the Judicial Panel must be made by a simple majority vote.
   e. The EGB Director, members of the EGB, candidates, and campaign members must respond immediately to all requests for testimony from the Judicial Panel.
   f. All violations must be filed within 12 hours of the closing of the polls.

2. Resolution
   a. The proceedings of a hearing are confidential. The Judicial Panel’s decision is considered public information.
   b. Each candidate reserves the right to attend a hearing in which they are accused. With the exception of witnesses, only a single member of any campaign team may be present in addition to any candidate involved.

3. Enforcement
   a. All candidates, candidate teams, and slates are to follow the Election bylaws and any directives given by the EGB.
   b. The EGB will be the agent of enforcement of all bylaws and rulings of the Judicial Panel.
   c. Any candidate, candidate team, and slate may appeal to the Office of Student Judicial Affairs on any rulings by the Judicial Panel. The Judicial Panel rulings stand until appeals are completed.
      1) The Office of Student Judicial Affairs or its designee is the final authority on matters related to these bylaws.
   d. The Judicial Panel will notify the EGB Director, USG Advisors, candidates, candidate teams, and slates of their ruling via e-mail after their decision on the day of the ruling.
   e. The EGB will notify the candidate, candidate team, or slate officially in writing with copies of all rulings immediately upon receipt.
f. The EGB reserves the right to make editorial corrections to violations and file violations with the Judicial Panel.

H. Election Governance Board Procedures

1. Conduct of the EGB Director and Members
   a. No member of the EGB can:
      1) Be a candidate for any USG position.
      2) Aid any candidate, candidate team, or slate, in any way.
   b. All members of EGB must remain neutral in all issues pertaining to election matters and voting throughout their entire term.
   c. Each Member of the Elections Governance Board may vote in the USG election.

2. Contact with EGB
   a. The EGB Director must publicize a phone number and e-mail address at which he/she can be reached.
   b. Candidates may not falsify any documents submitted to the EGB at any time. This is a Type IV by-law.

3. EGB Responsibilities
   a. The EGB Director shall have the responsibility of ensuring the overall operation of fair, valid, and nondiscriminatory elections.
   b. The EGB Director shall contact the Office of Student Judicial Affairs for all requests to contest the election.
   c. EGB reserves the right to correct any spelling, or grammatical errors to the EGB bylaws.
   d. The EGB will have a minimum of four candidate information sessions during the winter quarter to inform students seeking candidacy of the EGB rules and election procedures.
      1) These information sessions may not take place until the after the final day amendments can be made to the EGB bylaws.
   e. EGB must compile an information webpage with information about each candidate, candidate team, and slate and host them on the EGB’s official website.
   f. The EGB must hold at least one Presidential debate.
   g. The EGB must create all forms mentioned in these bylaws.
   h. The EGB must notify the SOURCE of the EGB bylaws.

I. Changes to the EGB Bylaws
   1. Any changes to the Elections Bylaws must pass Senate by simple majority vote.

APPENDIX I: GLOSSARY

“Campaigning” is defined as any action whose purpose is to persuade anyone to vote a certain way in the upcoming USG elections.

“Campaign member” is defined as any individual that assists in campaigning.

“Campaign season” the period lasting from 8:00 PM EST Sunday evening of the second week of spring quarter until the end of voting 11:59 PM EST Friday night of the third week of spring quarter.
“Campaign Value Report” is defined as a detailed report of all transactions and penalties of a campaign. This document includes all items purchased and donated as well as a photocopy of all receipts.

“Candidate” is defined as a person who has signed the EGB Official Recognition of Candidacy Form and is approved by the EGB.

“Candidate Team” is defined as a single entity composed of a candidate for the office of President and a candidate for the office of Vice President running in tandem.

“Classroom Activities” are defined as the instruction or examination of students within a facility on the property of The Ohio State University.

“Computing site” is defined as any OSU Library, or OIT-sponsored Laboratory.

“Endorsements” are defined as a written or oral declaration of formal support for a candidate, candidate team, slate, initiative, or referenda by any group or individual.

“Libel” is a false written statement or report that can injure a candidate’s, candidate team’s or slate’s reputation.

“Member-candidate” is defined as a senate candidate who is a member of a slate.

“Slander” is a false verbal statement or report that can injure a candidate’s, candidate team’s or slate’s reputation.

“Slate” is defined as any group of candidates for USG Senate who campaign together. A slate is treated by these bylaws as one unitary entity.

“USG Election” is defined as the annual process for the selection of members to the Undergraduate Student Government. It may also include voting on initiatives and referenda.