

# TAB 12: CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS



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# OVERVIEW OF CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS

Students are selected for leadership positions in YIG in a number of different ways. Some officers are elected by their peers, and then in turn have the power to appoint other participants for key roles. Still, other student leaders are appointed by Program Coordinators. Further, YIG allows participants to lead the charge for ballot issues, by proposing and then attempting to ratify their own ideas for laws through the initiative and referendum processes. The guidelines for submitting ballot issues, initiatives, and referenda can be found on the YIG website.

## TIMELINE AND PROCEDURES

The procedures for YIG elections and appointments are outlined as follows. These processes generally adhere to this timeline:

### October

- Students planning to run for Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, or Speaker of the House must complete the Candidate Registration Form and Packet.
- Students seeking an appointment to a Program Leader position must complete an online application by the stated deadline.
- Program Leaders are selected by Program Coordinators from the applications submitted by the stated deadline.
- Participants submit their ballot issues as initiative proposals to the State Office.

### November

- State Convention Bill Book is available on the YIG website.

### State Convention

- All students in leadership positions fulfill their assigned duties.
- Candidates for office campaign and are elected to serve during the following year.

### Post-State Convention

- All Executive and Program Officers serve as student representatives on the Program Committee.

## **ELIGIBLE VOTERS**

1. All participants registered with Missouri YMCA Youth In Government and in attendance at the State Convention shall be eligible to participate in the elections thereof. No absentee balloting will be permitted at the State Convention.

## **CANDIDATES FOR OFFICE**

1. The election of Executive Officers shall be held during the State Convention.
2. Any participant who meets the qualifications for an office shall be eligible to run for said office. Qualifications for each office are available on the YIG website and in Tab 11.
3. Any participant seeking Executive Office must complete the Candidate Registration Form and Packet and submit it to the State Office by the stated deadline. Late applications are not accepted.
4. If no candidates file for a particular office by the stated deadline, the State Office will extend the filing period for that office. The length of the extension will be determined by the State Office.

## **PRIMARY ELECTION**

1. If there are four (4) or more candidates for a Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, or Speaker of the House, a Primary Election for that office will be held on Friday night.
2. Write-in candidates are not allowed.
3. The three (3) candidates with the most votes will move on to the General Election on Saturday morning. The results of the Primary Election will be announced Friday night.
4. If one candidate receives more than 50 percent of the vote on Friday night for their particular office, they will be declared the winner of that office, and a General Election will not be held on Saturday morning for that particular office.
5. If there are three (3) or fewer candidates for a particular office, then a Primary Election for that office will not be held on Friday evening. These candidates will be listed on the ballot for the General Election held Saturday morning.

## **ELECTIONS**

1. The General Election concerning both Executive Officers and ballot issues shall be held on the last morning of the State Convention.
2. Write-in candidates are not allowed.
3. Executive Officers shall be elected in the General Election by a plurality of the votes cast by registered participants at the State Convention.
4. Executive Officers shall serve from their inauguration during the Closing Joint Session on the last day of the State Convention until their successors take office at the end of the subsequent State Convention.

5. A simple majority of the votes cast in the General Election shall be required to enact any ballot issue referred to the people, whereupon it shall become YIG law.
6. The Secretary of State shall announce the results of the General Election at the Closing Session on the last day of the State Convention.
7. Program Officers for the Judicial, Legislative, Print Press, and Video News Programs shall be selected from within said programs in a manner defined in Tab 11.
8. The Chief Justice, Editor-In-Chief, and Video News Director shall announce their successors during the Closing Joint Session on the last day of the State Convention.

# CAMPAIGN GUIDELINES

All candidates must review these guidelines prior to the State Convention and abide by all rules and regulations set forth by Missouri YMCA Youth In Government. Failure to do so may result in removal from the ballot.

1. All campaign materials must be utilized in accordance with hotel guidelines and the Student Participation Agreement. Inappropriate materials will be taken down or collected.
2. Campaign materials may not be displayed prior to 11:30 a.m. on the first day of the State Convention. Items for display or distribution may consist of banners, buttons, flyers, notepads, novelties, posters, and souvenirs.
3. No campaign materials may be affixed to or hung from any surface in the hotel.
4. The first floor atrium will be available for campaign displays provided by the candidates. These displays can include a sandwich board or display and easel. All campaign displays must be able to stand up on their own.
5. Campaign advertisements for candidates or ballot issues may be published or aired free of charge via the YIG news media. Video commercials shall be no longer than thirty seconds.
6. All campaign advertisements must be submitted to the appropriate news media by 2:00 p.m. on the first day of the State Convention.
7. Participants seeking to promote ballot issues at the State Convention may collect signatures on petitions at any time as long as such collection is not disruptive to any part of Missouri YMCA Youth In Government.
8. Campaign demonstrations or displays concerning candidates or ballot issues will not be permitted in or around the Missouri State Capitol Building and will only be permitted in designated areas at the hotel.
9. All campaign and introductory speeches given during the Joint Session on Friday must be reviewed by the candidate's delegation advisor and the State Director or his/her designee.
10. The State Director or another designated advisor has the authority to end a candidate's introductory or campaign speech if it is deemed inappropriate.
11. Speeches should reflect the core values of the YMCA and be appropriate for the program, the setting in the House Chamber, and for all students and adults.
12. Candidates should note that they not only represent themselves, but also their individual delegation and the YIG program.
13. If a candidate's speech has to be ended early due to inappropriate content or behavior, the candidate may face disciplinary action which may result in removal from the ballot, dismissal from the program, or other consequences as deemed necessary by the State Director and/or the Disciplinary Committee.
14. The State Director has the authority to modify these guidelines at any time. S/he will make those affected by any modifications aware of these in a timely manner.