

CAMPAIGNS AND ELECTIONS



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INTRODUCTION

Students are selected for leadership positions in YIG in a number of different ways. The Executive and Program Officers are elected by their peers. In some cases, this is by all students at the State Convention. In other cases, this is by students specifically within a program area. Some student officers then have the power to appoint other participants for key roles. Finally, many student leaders are appointed by Program Coordinators through an application process.

This guide focuses on students who are running for one of the following offices at the State Convention:

- Governor
- Lieutenant Governor
- Secretary of State
- Attorney General
- Speaker of the House

On the following pages, you will information about how to file for office, the structure of the YIG election process, and how to conduct your campaign. Please be sure to visit our website at www.moyig.org for all campaign deadlines and to officially register as a candidate.

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 the Student Leadership Overview.
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. Candidates shall not spend more than the maximum allowed \$200 limit. Candidates for all offices should keep receipts of all campaign related purchases in case their spending is called into question by the Secretary of State.
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.