

Fall 2023 Election Rules

Calvin A. Kuenzel Student Bar Association

Election Rules "Instructional Guide"

SBA Bylaws Article 5 and the Constitution cover election details. The SBA Bylaws grant the Constitution, Bylaws & Elections Committee the power to promote and manage the constitutionally mandated elections of the Association (visit the SBA page on Stetson Engage for a copy of the SBA Bylaws).

Campaigning

- Campaigning should only be done on the Stetson campus - Gulfport and/or Tampa. In addition, candidate tabling may only take place in approved areas assigned through Student Affairs.

- **ALL CAMPAIGN MATERIALS MUST BE APPROVED BY THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE & STUDENT AFFAIRS**

- Negative campaigning in any form including oral, written, or electronic communications which would appear to a reasonable and objective party to constitute bribery, slander, forcing another candidate (or voter) to reconsider, threats, improper persuasion, or voter intimidation of a candidate or voter will not be tolerated and will result in **immediate expulsion** from the current election. Voter intimidation is further defined as any hostile or confrontational behavior toward another voter or candidate regardless of mal-intent designed to reduce participation in the electoral process, campaigning, running, voting, or discussion of the candidates or their supporters. The above definitions can be expanded by the Elections Committee as necessary, to address incidents as they arise, while still in keeping with the spirit and intent of the above language. Or if a non-candidate student, other appropriate action will be taken as determined by the Student Code of Conduct and Professionalism.

- Publicly announcing your candidacy (intending to reach a public audience with a statement) for a specific term and/or posting any campaign materials in the time between the start of nominations and the end of the validation period is prohibited and will result in a violation.

- The posting of campaign materials on: professor's doors/corkboard, locked display cases, elevators, painted surfaces, any school windows/doors regardless of location on campus, chalkboards, whiteboards, on parked cars, and vending machines is not permitted and will result in a violation. Candidates can place their flyers (once approved) in central areas/bulletin boards, and within classrooms.

- No general announcements may be made during class. Announcements before or after class may not cut into any class time. Class time is defined by what is listed on "My Stetson" by the Registrar. If a student wishes to announce during a break in class or at

the very beginning or end of the registrars defined time, the student is recommended to ask permission from the professor.

- Group campaigning or ticketed races is prohibited. No candidate for an SBA position can create the impression that they are running with another candidate and/or that a vote for one candidate would also be a vote for another candidate or slate, regardless of position run for.
- Candidates may not set up any type of voting booth.
- The total cost (or value of items in the event of an acceptable donation by classmate) of all permitted campaign expenditures may not exceed: \$150 per candidate for Class Representative Elections and \$300 per candidate for Executive Board positions.
 - Elections Committee reserves the right to request receipts for campaign expenditures from all legislative candidates and the ABA position candidates, and if requested a candidate must comply within 24hrs.
 - Executive Board candidates MUST submit ALL receipts no later than 24 hours before voting ends to the Elections Committee email.
 - The campaign funding limits include any run-offs that may occur. The limit does not reset for run-off elections.
- Endorsements or economic support, by non-Stetson public and private organizations and individuals, or by Stetson faculty and staff (including contracted workers), are not permitted. This includes both monetary aid and food/goods donations.
- Candidates may not endorse other candidates, regardless of position run for.
- Current Legislative Representatives, Executive Board Members, and Committee Chairs, who are NOT running for a future SBA position, may endorse candidates following procedure for other non-candidate student.
- Non-Candidate students are able to publicly voice support through their own social media, wearing clothing/stickers/buttons or similar, or volunteering to help campaign. They are still bound by the entirety of the election rules herein.
- Student Organizations are not permitted to explicitly or implicitly endorse specific candidates. Implicit endorsement violations will be determined by the alleged endorser's position within the organization, the context the statement was made in, and if it is connected to or in furtherance of the organization's purposes or goals. Association/Membership with a Student Organization does not constitute implied endorsement of a candidate by itself.
- **All campaign materials must be removed within 96 hours after the polls close. Unless otherwise approved by the elections committee, candidates with materials up past the 96-hour deadline will be subject to a loss of voting privileges or other sanction as approved by Student Affairs.**

Materials and Media

Signage on Campus (Tampa and/or Gulfport)

- Two (2) signs no greater than 22" x 28" (standard-sized poster board) (Gulfport Campus Only).
- Ten (10) signs no greater than 8.5" x 11" (standard-sized letter paper) on the Gulfport Campus and Five (5) signs no greater than 8.5" x 11" (standard-sized letter paper) on the Tampa Campus
- All signage must be reviewed and approved by the Elections Committee & Student Affairs prior to posting. Electronic review is permissible.
- No signs may be placed on the Deland or Celebration Campuses.
- Materials and signs in violation of these, or any election rules, may be removed by the election committee without notice. If the Elections Committee determines materials must be removed or removes materials for the candidate, it must notify the candidate and give the candidate a reasonable time to respond to the violations.

Student Candidate Profile

- For the profile, candidates will have their school ID picture used and are encouraged to also provide a statement or brief bio that may not exceed 150 words or it may be cut off.
 - This is to be sent to the elections email no less than 36 hours after validations are due.
- This statement will be made available publicly to all eligible student voters prior to the start of voting.
- This is not required of every candidate to provide a statement but strongly encouraged.

Candidate Forum Speeches (Spring Elections Only)

· Candidates for Executive Council positions will be allowed to write and give speeches to an audience of their peers. This forum will be recorded and released to the student body for those who cannot attend. Speeches for all executive council positions, except for President, may only be a maximum of 2 minutes. If a candidate submits a speech in writing, it may be no longer than 260 words. For Presidential candidates, their speeches may be 3 minutes long, or if submitted in writing, 390 words. Candidates who have excused absences, may have an Elections Committee member read their speech on their behalf. An excused absence must be approved by the Elections Committee to have a speech read. Speeches that exceed the time limit will be cut off. (There is no candidate forum for Summer or Fall election cycles)

Stickers and Buttons

- Stickers may not be greater than 2" x 4".
- Stickers may not be stuck on any school surface.
- Buttons may not be greater than 2" x 4".
- Stickers and Buttons do not need to be approved by the Elections Committee. However, they not be in conflict with the Student Code of Professionalism and Conduct

Email, Text, Phone-Calls

- Only permitted if the recipient is addressed individually. This means each recipient's address may be typed in and each recipient must be an individual person. Entering multiple emails into the address bar is permitted if they are manually typed in.
- Candidates **may not** utilize any Stetson created listserv – class, student organization, etc. – or groups from Canvas or any other classroom platform sites for the purpose of campaigning. (Such usage will result in expulsion from the election and can also constitute a Conduct Code violation for candidates and non-candidates alike.)

Social Networking Sites (including but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, etc.)

- Candidates may only ask for support for or campaign for themselves **on their personal** social media accounts (Facebook wall, Twitter feed, Snapchat story, etc.).
- Non-candidate students may post campaign messages in support of candidates only on their own private social media account. Posting of campaign messages on the social networking sites of others by candidates or student supporters is not permitted. Blatant violations of this rule can lead to the disqualification of candidates or loss of voting privileges for non-candidates. (note: posting on class or student organization Facebook pages for yourself or others is not permitted; this includes general non-personalized announcements).
- Elections Committee can make general public announcements about election information in class Facebook groups or official school media accounts.
- Social networking groups and/or the creation of individual websites is not permitted. (this includes Facebook pages or groups, or other social media accounts.)
- Special event Snapchat filters, like all campaign materials, must be approved in advance by the Elections Committee & Student Affairs.

Other Campaign Paraphernalia and Materials (candy, food, t-shirts, etc.)

- Permitted as long as campaign expenditures are not exceeded, and the chosen paraphernalia/materials would not otherwise violate SBA Bylaws or Stetson's Student Code of Conduct.

- Candidates may not use any of Stetson's logos in any way. This includes graphics and graphic design but does not include taking photos with campus landmarks or signs.
- Any food given out to the student body must be pre-made, pre-packaged, or from a licensed food seller (ex. Publix, Dominoes, etc). The cooking of food on campus is strictly prohibited.
 - The Elections Committee does not need to approve of the food being handed out, however, candidates and/or students who disregard the food rules above will receive a violation.

Voting Procedures

- Eligible students may vote online via Stetson Engage at any time during the election voting cycle.
- Setting up a voting booth or polling station of any kind on any Stetson campus is prohibited. Candidates who do this will be immediately expelled from the election and non-candidate students who do this will lose their voting privileges for a time to be determined by the Elections Committee.

Violations & Grievances

Unless stated above as an immediate expulsion:

- First violation results in the immediate required removal of campaign materials. If not completed within 4 hours of notification, you will be removed from the ballot.
- Second violation results in candidate disqualification and removal from the ballot.
- Election grievances alleging a policy violation should be filed with the Elections Committee in writing or by email within 24 hours of the incident or its discovery.
- The Elections Committee, whose decision shall be final, will investigate all grievances and forward decisions to parties involved in a timely manner.
- **All notifications of violations will be sent through Stetson email.**
- **All allegations must be submitted with proof to the Elections Committee email. Submissions lacking in proof will be dismissed.**

- The Elections Committee must give any candidate accused of a violation the ability to respond to the allegations within (a) 24 hours if outside the open voting period, or (b) 4 hours if within the voting period. The voting period shall be defined as the opening to the closing of the Stetson Engage online voting form.
- The Elections Committee reserves the right to disqualify candidates for campaign violations after voting has closed subject to approval by Student Affairs.
 - No new reports of election rule violations will be accepted later than 24 hours after voting has closed. All election rule violation reports must be submitted to the Elections Committee email.

Every candidate and student is bound by the entirety of these rules (as well as the Student Code of Conduct and Professionalism) and will be held personally responsible for all violations. Any deviation from these rules can result in repercussions, including, but not limited to, warnings, loss of campaign days, disqualification, or removal of voting privileges. The Elections Committee reserves the right to consider each allegation on an individual basis.

NON-CANDIDATE STUDENTS:

Non-candidate students are subject all the rules above and may be subject to sanctions, which may include suspension of their voting privileges for a time to be determined, by the Elections Committee and approved by Student Affairs, if they violate any rule. This applies whether the student acts at the direction of or with the knowledge of a candidate or not.

Questions regarding elections should be directed to:
SBA Elections Committee at elections@law.stetson.edu

Rules current as of Fall 2023.