

**TITLE 10
ELECTIONS**

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SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS:

- 1.1. Election Commission EC: A board strictly directed by the bylaws to organize and certify elections (See Title 10 Section 2).
- 1.2. Intent to Run Filing: A filing announcing a candidate or candidate pair’s intent to run for an office (See Title 10 Section 3).
- 1.3. Candidate: Someone running for a senate seat or part of a candidate pair, whom has also properly filed.
- 1.4. Candidate pair: Two individuals running together as a ticket for the offices of President and Vice President, whom has also properly filed.
- 1.5. Campaign budget: An itemized budget including all campaign expenses and receipts.
- 1.6. Technological difficulty: A computer problem that inhibited voters from casting votes, that caused votes to be duplicated, or that did not accurately count casted votes.
- 1.7. Meaningful impact: Something that causes or could cause election results to appear as though a candidate won an election in which the candidate did not actually win.
- 1.8. Popular vote: A vote in which the entire student body of Oklahoma State University may participate.
- 1.9. Academic units: The College of Agriculture Sciences and Natural Resources, The College of Engineering Architecture and Technology, The College of Arts and Sciences, The College of Human Sciences, The College of Education, The Spears School of Business, and The University College.
- 1.10. Living Groups: Greek Life, Off-Campus, and Residential Life
- 1.11. Polling Station: Official SGA Constituency Day Table.
- 1.12. Enticement: Any tangible object given by a candidate/candidate pair for the sole purpose of persuading the recipient, or any tangible object given in exchange for voting in a particular manner. Examples include but are not limited to, food, drinks, and gifts.
- 1.13. Advertisement Materials: Physical or digital objects that state the candidate/candidate pair’s name, logos and/or the position for which they are seeking election. Examples include but are not limited to, buttons, stickers, and t-shirts. Advertising materials given in exchange for voting in a particular manner may be considered enticement.
- 1.14. SGA Officer: Any member of SGA elected or appointed to their position.
- 1.15. Active Campaigning: An act or series of acts which engages potential voters by advocating for, references materials which advocate for, displaying in motion materials which advocate for, or creating materials which advocate for a candidate/candidate pair. This shall also include communicating to any individual with direction to commit an act defined in this section.
- 1.16. Inactive Campaigning: An act limited solely to the display of campaign materials in the form of

buttons or stickers.

- 1.17. Campaign Staff: Any individual not having been properly removed by a candidate/candidate pair, which has communicated with and responded to direction from a candidate/candidate pair or any individual filed pursuant to 4.4.1 of Title X. Campaign Staff shall also be any individual filed pursuant to 4.4.1 of Title X.

SECTION 2. Election Commission: Election Commission (EC) - Shall implement the provisions set forth in Title 10 of the Student Government Association bylaws and those set forth in the Student Government Association Constitution.

2.1. COMPOSITION – The EC shall be composed of an executive director, and three members of the student body.

2.1.1. The students serving on the EC shall be nominated by The SGA President, SGA Senate 10 Chair, SGA Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. One student shall be nominated to the Election Commission by the SGA President, one by the SGA Senate Chair, and one by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court and then approved by the Senate.

2.1.1.1. The SGA Programs Coordinator shall serve as the Executive Director of the EC. The Executive Director shall not vote on reports to be submitted to the SGA Attorney General

2.1.2. No candidate for office shall serve on the EC. If a member of the EC resigns for the purpose of running for office, a replacement shall be nominated by the nominator whom nominated the member resigning who will then be approved by Senate.

2.1.3. No member of SGA leadership, including, but not limited to members of the executive, legislative, or judicial branch shall serve on the EC.

2.1.4. No Member of the EC shall endorse a candidate/candidate pair, nor shall any member of the EC participate as a member of any campaign team.

2.1.5. The SGA Programs Coordinator shall be the chairperson of the EC.

2.1.6. The Coordinator of SGA Programs shall facilitate the training of new members of the EC.

2.1.6.1. Training shall consist of a thorough education of the bylaws pertaining to the election, how to run a meeting, and a brief overview of the Oklahoma Open Meetings and Open Records Acts.

2.1.7. IN THE CASE OF A SPECIAL ELECTION– The EC shall follow all rules outlined in sections 2.2.6, 2.2.7, and 2.2.8.

2.1.7.1. In the event of a special election properly appointed EC members may fulfilled the outlined 2 duties of their office pending senate approval.

2.2. RESPONSIBILITIES – Responsibilities of the EC shall include:

2.2.1. ACCEPT INTENT TO RUN FILINGS – The Coordinator of SGA Programs shall accept intention to run filings from any student of Oklahoma State University.

2.2.2. VALIDATE INTENT TO RUN FILINGS – The Coordinator of SGA Programs shall validate each potential candidate/candidate pair’s intent to run filing to ensure that the candidates meet the minimum requirements outlined in Title 10 of the Student Government Association bylaws and those outlined in the Student Government Association Constitution.

2.2.3. CREATION OF BALLOT – The Coordinator of SGA Programs shall create a ballot composed of those candidate/candidate pair(s) whose intent to run filings were validated in accordance with section 2.2.2., the ballot should also include any constitutional amendments that have been approved for consideration by the student body. Upon the ballots creation the members of the EC shall be notified.

2.2.4. HECCR REPORTS OF CAMPAIGN VIOLATIONS – The EC shall hear reports of campaign violations and misconduct and create and agree to a report which shall include

a recommendation on action and submit it to the SGA Attorney General within 48 hours of receiving a complaint.

2.2.4.1. The EC shall notify the SGA Attorney General of all complaints submitted to the commission

2.2.4.2. All reports submitted to the Attorney General shall include any evidence and any testimony submitted to the EC related to the given complaint.

2.2.5. ACCEPT CAMPAIGN BUDGET(S) – The Coordinator of SGA Programs shall accept campaign budgets from every candidate/candidate pair.

2.2.5.1. VALIDATE CAMPAIGN BUDGET(S) – The EC shall validate each candidate/candidate pair’s campaign budget at 5:30 pm CST on the last Election Day.

2.2.5.2. The EC shall ensure that each candidate/candidate pair’s campaign expenditures are less than or equal to the maximum campaign expenditure outlined in Title 9 Section 4.2 of the Student Government Association bylaws.

2.2.5.1.1. IF a candidate/candidate pair is found, by the EC, to have exceeded the allowed campaign expenditure as outlined in Title 10 Section 4.2 of the Student Government Association bylaws, THEN that candidate/candidate pair shall be automatically disqualified.

2.2.6. VALIDATE ELECTION RESULTS – The EC shall validate the election results by determining that no technical issue affected the election results.

2.2.6.1. The EC shall investigate any report of technological difficulties to determine if the technological difficulty had a meaningful impact on the election results.

2.2.6.2. IF the EC finds that a technological difficulty did meaningfully impact the election results THEN the EC shall use its discretion to remedy the issue.

2.2.7. DECLARE ELECTION WINNER(S) – The EC will be provided the results by the Coordinator of SGA Programs and shall review the validated election results and the validated campaign budget(s) to declare an election winner.

2.2.7.1. DECLARATION OF PRESIDENTIAL/VICE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION WINNERS – The Presidential/Vice Presidential candidate pair must receive a majority to be declared the winner unless a candidate pair’s budget is not validated.

2.2.7.1.1. If a candidate pair has received greater than 50% of the popular vote as reported in the validated election results and the candidate pair’s campaign budget was validated and each candidate of the pair is in good standing with the University then that candidate pair shall be declared the election winner.

2.2.7.1.2. If a candidate pair has received greater than 50% of the popular vote and the candidate pair’s campaign budget was not validated or either candidate of the pair is not in good standing with the University then that candidate pair shall be disqualified.

2.2.7.1.3. If no candidate/candidate pair received greater than 50% of the popular vote and there are more than one (1) candidate/candidate pair whose campaign budget was validated and each candidate of each candidate pair whose budget was validated is in good standing with the University then a runoff election shall be held in accordance with Title 10 Section 5.4 of the Student Government Association bylaws.

2.2.7.2. DECLARATION OF SENATE ELECTION WINNERS - Senators shall be elected on a plurality basis.

2.2.7.2.1. IF the number of validated senate candidates from any constituency are less than or equal to the total number of available seats THEN all candidates shall be declared winners.

2.2.7.2.2. IF the number of validated senate candidates from any constituency is greater than the number of available seats THEN the available seats shall be filled with the candidates who have the largest percentages of the popular vote and those candidates shall be declared winners.

2.2.7.3. ADOPTION OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS – Constitutional amendments shall be adopted if the proposed amendment received the majority.

2.2.8. NOTIFY MEDIA OF ELECTION WINNER(S) – Upon declaring election winners the EC shall notify the O’Colly.

2.3. MEETINGS – The EC shall hold meetings as necessary to fulfill the responsibilities outlined in 2.2. of Title 10 of the Student Government Association Bylaws.

2.3.1. A Quorum of 50% plus 1 members of the EC shall be present in order to hold and meeting and transact business.

2.3.1.1 Failure to attend a scheduled meeting without extenuating circumstances, as determined by the EC Chair, shall result in removal from the EC.

2.3.2. The EC Chair shall be responsible for posting an agenda at least 24 hours before any EC meeting, for recording minutes of any EC meeting, and for ensuring that any EC meeting is in compliance with any State or Federal laws that are applicable.

SECTION 3. CANDIDACY AND FILINGS:

3.1. CANDIDACY – Any student of Oklahoma State University may run for the office of Senator, President, or Vice President provided the student meets the minimum requirements outlined in 3.2 of the Student Government Association bylaws and the Student Government Association Constitution.

3.1.1. The President and Vice President shall be elected together as one ticket.

3.2. QUALIFICATIONS –

3.2.1. SENATOR QUALIFICATIONS – Any student filing for a senate seat must:

3.2.1.1. Be a graduate or full-time undergraduate student of Oklahoma State University

3.2.1.2. Possess a 2.0 cumulative grade point average and not be on academic probation. Should the student be a first-semester freshman, midterm grades will be used for filing, and should they win the seat, final semester grades will be checked before the first Senate meeting of that calendar year.

3.2.1.2.1 If the student does not have any midterm grades and/or if their midterm GPA is below 2.0, they may contact the student activities officer with evidence of GPA above 2.0 in order to file.

3.2.1.3. Have intent to enroll in at least two subsequent semesters following the semester of filing

3.2.1.4. Have completed at least one (1) semester as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater by the time of their position beginning.

3.2.1.5. Be a member of the constituency for which the senate seat is sought

3.2.1.6. Be in good standing with the University and Student Conduct

3.2.2. PRESIDENT/VICE PRESIDENT QUALIFICATIONS –

3.2.2.1. Be a graduate or full-time undergraduate student of Oklahoma State University.

- 3.2.2.2. Possess a 2.5 cumulative grade point average and not be academic probation.
- 3.2.2.3. Have intent to enroll in at least (2) two subsequent semesters following the semester of filing.
- 3.2.2.4. Have completed at least two (2) semesters as a full-time undergraduate or graduate student at Oklahoma State University in Stillwater.
- 3.2.1.5. Be a member of the constituency for which the senate seat is sought.
- 3.2.2.6. Be in good standing with the University and Student Conduct
- 3.3. FILING – Any student who files for a Student Government Association office must:
 - 3.3.1. File no later than 11:59 PM CST on the first business day of February for the spring Presidential election and 11:59 CST the first business day of March for the spring senatorial election and 11:59 PM CST on the last Monday of October for the fall election.
 - 3.3.2. When filing for a Student Government Association office the file must contain:
 - 3.3.2.1. Candidate/Candidate pair's full legal name(s)
 - 3.3.2.2. Candidate/Candidate pair's Campus Wide ID number(s)
 - 3.3.2.3. Candidate/Candidate pair's contact information including address(s), phone number(s) and email(s)
 - 3.3.2.4. Candidate/Candidate pair's academic transcript(s). (official or unofficial)
 - 3.3.2.5. Candidates filing for President and Vice President must obtain verifiable signatures of 2% of the student body, or 500 students, whichever is less. The signature petition must include the student's full name, signature and CWID.
 - 3.3.2.6. All requirements of Section 3.3.2 must be completed by submitting digital versions of all required documents to the SGA website by the filing deadline.
 - 3.3.2.7. The Election Commission may request physical copies of all documents to be provided in a timely manner should the need arise.
- 3.4 CANDIDATE INFORMATIONAL SESSION:
 - 3.4.1 No more than five (5) days after the filing deadline, the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Internal Affairs and the SGA Attorney General shall host a mandatory informational meeting to review Title X in its entirety with all presidential and vice presidential candidates.

SECTION 4. CAMPAIGNING:

4.1. VIOLATIONS:

- 4.1.1. Alleged violations of campaign regulations may be reported by any student to the Elections Commission via email from an official okstate.edu email address.
 - 4.1.1.1. The election commission shall determine if enough evidence of a violation exists to warrant a trial in the Supreme Court.
 - 4.1.1.2. If the EC determines enough evidence exists to warrant a trial; THEN, the EC shall inform the Attorney General; The Attorney General shall then inform the accused candidate to cease and desist the activity in violation and provide notice of impending trial.
 - 4.1.1.3. The Supreme Court will then hear the case and, if necessary, assess an appropriate penalty.
 - 4.1.1.3.1. The Supreme Court may implement one of the following penalties as they deem appropriate.
 - 4.1.1.3.1.1. Level One – written warning: may be issued in response to the first violation of Title X.

4.1.1.3.1.2. Level Two – suspension of further active campaigning and/or distribution of campaign materials; may issue in response to violations of Title X.

4.1.1.3.1.3. Level Three – Disqualification; awarded when required by Title X or in response to serious repeated violations of Title X.

4.2. CAMPAIGN BUDGET – Candidates shall set their campaign budget as they deem fit and report the budget and fundraising to the EC.

4.2.1. Each Senate Candidate’s campaign budget shall not exceed \$250.

4.2.2. A campaign budget shall include an itemized list of expenditures.

4.2.3. All candidate/candidate pair’s campaign budgets shall be submitted to the EC no later than 5:30 PM CST on the final Election Day.

4.3. CAMPAIGNING RESTRICTIONS –

4.3.1. No candidate/candidate pair may campaign in the Student Government Association office or within open meeting of the Student Government Association, Senate, Core Branch, or Programming Branch, after the candidate (s) have officially filed intent-to-run.

4.3.1.1. Section 4.3.1. shall not be construed to prohibit campaigning at events of independent departments of the Executive Core and Programming Branches.

4.3.2. No candidate/candidate pair may use any Student Government Association resources for campaigning.

4.3.3. No candidate/candidate pair shall campaign within 100 feet of a polling station.

4.3.4. No candidate/candidate pair may distribute any form of enticement.

4.3.5. Candidates may distribute advertising materials.

4.4. Campaign Staff:

4.4.1. All candidates must submit a detailed list of all individuals associated with their campaign.

4.4.2. The list of campaign staff must include the name, phone and Oklahoma State University email address of every individual.

4.4.3. List of campaign staff must be submitted to the EC by 5:00 CST on the Monday prior to elections or must be submitted within twenty-four hours, should they receive a request from the EC.

4.5. PROHIBITED ACTS:

4.5.1. Candidates/candidate pairs and/or members of their campaign staff are prohibited from presenting any potential voter with a direct opportunity to vote.

4.5.1.1. No language in the above section shall be construed to limit a candidate’s/candidate pair’s or a campaign staff member’s ability to instruct potential voters on how to vote.

SECTION 5. ELECTIONS:

5.1. VOTER ELIGIBILITY- Every enrolled OSU Stillwater student is registered under the provisions of this act as an elector of the living group and college in which he/she is entitled to vote, and his/her CIS user identification and password will be the certification of registration.

5.1.1. Students directly associated with the Greek system who live out of house, including new members, shall ensure that their names be on the rolls of the Inter-Fraternity Council or Pan-Hellenic Council for the purposes of apportionment and intent to vote as a member of the Greek community.

5.2. FALL ELECTION – The Fall election shall be held on the second Tuesday and Wednesday of November.

5.2.1. Senators representing academics units shall be elected during the fall election.

5.3. SPRING ELECTION – The Spring election shall be held the second Tuesday and Wednesday of March.

5.3.1. In the event that the second Tuesday and Wednesday of the month of March fall on spring break, the election will be held on the first Tuesday and Wednesday of the month.

5.3.2. Senators representing living groups shall be elected during the spring election.

5.3.3. The President and Vice President shall be elected during the spring election.

5.4. RUNOFF ELECTION – If needed, a runoff election may be held the next available Tuesday and Wednesday that classes are in session.

5.5 SPECIAL ELECTION – A special election may be held at any time if deemed necessary by the Student Government Association President with the approval of the senate.

5.6. ELECTIONS WEBSITE – All Student Government elections shall be administered via a website provided by the Department of Leadership and Campus Life.

5.6.1. CANDIDATE INFORMATION

5.6.1.1. Candidates may submit to the EC upon filing for candidacy a digital image and a narrative not to exceed 200 words that will be placed on ballot for voter information.

5.6.2. The election shall be administered by a Student Government Association employee or Department of Leadership and Campus Life employee.

5.6.2.1. Any election administrator shall not disclose election results or data to anyone not associated with the EC prior to election results validation.

5.6.3. The online election system shall accept votes from 8:00 AM CST on the first Election Day until 5:00 PM CST on the same day. Polling stations shall then reopen to accept votes at 8:00 AM CST on the second Election Day until 5 PM CST the same day.

5.7 ELECTION RESULTS – The results of any given election to the elected positions within SGA, shall be posted on the official social media accounts and presented, in the form of a press release, on the official SGA website. The duties outlined in this subsection, shall be the responsibility of the Public Relations Director.

5.7.1. Results, as put for in section 5.7 of this title, shall be described as numerical representation of the amount of votes cast in favor of any given candidate, given in percentage of total votes cast or gross number of votes given to the candidate.

SECTION 6. POLLING STATIONS:

6.1 ESTABLISHING POLLING STATIONS - The Student Government Association will have designated tables at the following locations on campus for students to vote in all SGA elections.

6.1.1 Polling station locations shall be at the Student Union Plaza, outside the southside of Edmond Low Library, outside the south east corner of Ag Hall, and outside the north west Corner of Spears School of Business.

6.1.1.1 In the case of inclement weather The University Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and/or senior most member of the committee shall be responsible for moving designated polling stations inside the nearest designated building.

6.1.2 The SGA University Chair or in their absence the committee vice chair or the senior most member of the University Committee will be responsible for set up and maintenance of said polling stations.

6.1.2.1 The University Committee Chair, Vice Chair, and/or senior most member of the committee shall be responsible for designating SGA officers to designated polling stations for their designated shifts.

6.1.3 No language in the above sections shall be construed to limit or deny any student the ability to vote in an election via the SGA sponsored online

voting platform.

6.2 POLLING STATION ADMINISTRATORS – Student Government Association Officers shall be responsible for managing polling stations during designated polling times.

6.2.1 SGA Judicial officers shall be prohibited from working at any designated SGA polling stations.

6.2.2 SGA senators and executives who have not filed for candidacy in an SGA election for said election shall manage the polling stations.

6.2.2.1 The SGA University Committee Chair in Conjunction with the SGA Senate Chair and Vice Chair shall set attendance requirements for Senators managing said polling stations.

6.2.2.2 The SGA President, Vice President and Senate Chair shall set attendance requirements for all executive officers managing said polling stations.

6.3 POLLING STATION HOURS

6.3.1 SGA designated Polling Stations shall be open for no less than four (4) hours per day an election is to take place.

6.3.1.1 The SGA University Committee Chair in conjunction with the SGA Senate Chair shall set polling station hours not to exceed the 8:00 AM CST to 5:00 PM CST times.

6.4 POLLING STATION TABLE REQUIREMENTS AND SET UP

6.4.1 There shall be no less than two SGA officers working said polling station at any time.

6.4.2 SGA shall provide a minimum of two portable electronic devices including but not limited to laptops and tablets set to the SGA sponsored online voting platform for the purposes of voting.

6.4.3 SGA shall also provide Quick Response (QR) Codes to access the election on personal mobile devices.