

MINNESOTA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

2019 ELECTION RULES

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Abstentions: Ballots or votes cast neither for nor against a candidate, which will not be recorded as part of the vote total.
- B. Campaign Activities: Any public effort by a candidate, candidates or ticket to support or defeat a candidate, candidates or ticket.
- C. Campaign Materials: Any campaign activity or material that is coordinated/prepared/distributed by a candidate/ticket, for a candidate/ticket or against a candidate/ticket, including but not limited to electronic media.
- D. Delegate: A student member of a Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government delegation.
- E. Delegation: An authorized group of delegates from a YMCA, school or community. Groups participating in the Model Assembly or Model United Nations will only count as one delegation. Guests and participants from other state programs do not count as delegations.
- F. Electronic Campaigning: The use of e-mail, websites, social media systems or other mass media to promote or defeat a candidate or ticket.
- G. Form: An online or paper submission of materials.
- H. Non-Monetary In-Kind Contributions: Supplies or services rendered to the candidate/ticket at no cost or at a discount not available to the general public. This includes items already owned by the candidate or his/her family.
- I. Plurality: Receiving the most votes in respective race, election or question.
- J. Program Area Elections: Elections for leadership of program areas of the Model Assembly or Model United Nations that are voted exclusively by the members of the specific areas, as published by the Youth in Government State Office.
- K. Secret Ballot: Anonymous written vote, by an individual delegate, on a paper ballot.
- L. State Program Committee: Standing Committee of the State Board charged with long-range planning for Youth in Government programs. This committee is made up of appointed student and adult representatives.
- M. State Steering Committee: Student representatives selected by delegations and charged with oversight of election rules and candidacy process. Each delegation may send any number of representatives to sit on the State Steering Committee, though each delegation has one (1) vote.
- N. State Steering Committee Executive Session: Sub-group of the State Steering Committee, comprising of one (1) student representative from each delegation. Candidates for elected office under review may not be a member of any Executive Session.
- O. Statewide Officers: Candidates who are elected by the entire Model Assembly, including: Governor/Lt. Governor ticket and Secretary of State. Candidates who are elected by the entire Model United Nations, including: Conference Resource Center (CRC) Director.
- P. Statewide Officer Elections: Elections for leadership of the overall Model Assembly or Model United Nations that are voted by the conference at-large. These areas include Governor/Lt. Governor ticket and Secretary of State for Model Assembly and

Conference Resource Center Director for Model United Nations.

- Q. Ticket: A combination of one Governor candidate and one Lt. Governor candidate, running for office together.

II. QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING DELEGATES

- A. Voters must be in the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. They must also participate in a recognized Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government delegation.
- B. Guests and delegates from other state programs are not eligible to vote.
- C. All voters must display their current, valid Youth in Government nametag and sign the roster to receive a ballot and to vote.

III. STATE STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

- A. All elections will be overseen by the State Steering Committee, which will determine all election rules and set qualifications for candidacy.
- B. The Secretary of State will serve as the chief election official for Model Assembly; the CRC Director for the Model United Nations. They will each be responsible for the conduct of elections in their respective sessions.
- C. The officers of the State Steering Committee will consist of the Chair and Vice Chair. The Chair and Vice Chair will each serve a two-year, staggered term. Each year, the Vice Chair will be elected by the members present at the State Steering Committee Retreat by a plurality vote. The Vice Chair will become the Chair in the second year of the term. The Vice Chair must be able to serve a two-year term, as a delegate, during the entire term.
- D. The Chair and Vice Chair will, by virtue of their offices, be full members of the Youth in Government State Board and classified as Elected Officers at Model Assembly and Model United Nations as leaders of the Steering Committee Executive Office.
- E. The Chair and Vice Chair must participate in Model Assembly AND Model United Nations.
- F. Should the Chair be unable or unwilling to serve his/her full term, the Vice Chair will become the Chair for the remainder of the Chair's term, separate from his/her own regular term. If the Vice Chair becomes unable or unwilling to serve his/her full term (including ascendance to the Chair), the State Steering Committee will elect a replacement at its next scheduled meeting or at a special meeting during Model Assembly or Model United Nations.

IV. QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES

- A. All candidates for nomination to elected office must fulfill the qualifications as ruled by the State Steering Committee. The Chair and Secretary of State/CRC Director must give final approval to all filings in accordance with the election rules.
- B. Candidates for the Statewide Officer positions need not meet any age or grade requirements but must be qualified for future program participation as a delegate.
- C. Candidate Filing Forms must be RECEIVED at the Youth in Government State Office/Secretary of State's Hotel Office/CRC Office by the deadline as listed on the official schedule of program deadlines as posted on the Youth in Government website.
- D. Candidates are solely responsible for management and completion of their forms, signatures, and for adherence to all deadlines. Neither the State Steering Committee nor the Youth in Government State Office will be responsible for late or misdirected mail, errors of timing, failure of electronic transmission, mechanical failure or advisor error.

- E. All filing forms for Model Assembly or Model United Nations may only be submitted online via the official filing portal. Candidate Expenditure Forms may only be submitted as a paper copy at the respective conference site.
- F. Delegates may only hold one elected officer position, per conference.
- G. All the information that candidates provide may be used in the official Voter's Guide and/or publicity release and each candidate must sign and swear that the information contained in the forms is true to the best of the candidate's knowledge.
- H. If a candidate for any office should wish to withdraw, notice must be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary of State/CRC Director. Withdrawal may or may not allow for removal from the ballot, depending on when written notice is received.
- I. Should a candidate withdraw or be dismissed from the program, the student's candidacy will be null and void and the student will be ineligible to serve in the elected office.

V. STATEWIDE OFFICER CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS

- A. Statewide Officer Candidates will make presentations to the electorate on Friday evening at the Town Hall Debate session for the Model Assembly and in special World Briefing session on Friday afternoon at Model United Nations.
- B. Each debate session will be moderated by a Resource Advisor/Secretariat.
- C. Statewide Candidate Presentation Overview
 - 1. Debate Sessions will generally consist of:
 - Introductions and process overview
 - Candidate opening statements 2 minute each
 - Questions by moderator & audience As long as time allows
 - Candidate Closing Statements 1 minute each
 - Wrap-up by moderator
 - 2. Delegates will be able to submit questions for use in Statewide Candidate Presentations. The moderator will review questions and determine which will be used.
 - 3. Statewide Officer candidates will speak in random, rotating order by a method to be determined by the moderator.

VI. PROGRAM AREA OFFICER CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS

- A. Model Assembly Program Area Candidates will address their prospective program areas as the first order of business on Saturday morning. Model United Nations Program Area Candidates will address their prospective program areas as the first order of business immediately following a special World Briefing Session on Friday. A maximum of one hour will be set aside for these purposes.
- B. Program area candidate presentations will be facilitated by a moderator chosen by the Secretary of State/CRC Director/Chair.
- C. The duties of moderator will include (but are not limited to): presiding over the session, keeping and adjusting time of speeches, filtering the written questions submitted during Question & Answer time, maintaining decorum and enforcing all election rules.
- D. All Program Area Candidates will be allowed an equal amount of time (a suggested maximum of 5 minutes) to make a presentation to their prospective program area meeting.
- E. At the end of all candidate speeches, there will be a question and answer session where all eligible voters in the program area may ask candidates questions. Any questions must be submitted, in writing, to the moderator.

- F. All candidates will speak in the order in which profiles are printed in the Voter's Guide.

VII. CAMPAIGN PROCEDURE

- A. The Secretary of State's Office/CRC Director's Office will make every effort to print a picture of equal size for each candidate along with a synopsis of his/her qualifications and include it as part of the official Voter's Guide.
- B. Electronic campaigning is subject to these election rules at all times (including before and during Youth in Government events). Neither the Secretary of State/CRC Director nor the Youth in Government State Office will be responsible for monitoring electronic campaigning outside of official Youth in Government channels.
- C. Candidates must submit any official campaign social media handles on their officer filing form.
- D. No food or beverages may be used for a campaign.
- E. No stickers or materials of any variety that have either a gummed back or a self-adhesive back may be used. Badges and buttons should be attached with pins. No powder, glitter or confetti may be used. No liquid of any kind (including, but not limited to bubbles and glow sticks) may be used for a campaign at any time. No balloons may be used for any purpose. Ink stamps are not allowed.
- F. No posters may be posted in any area used by Youth in Government, including the hotel public spaces, restrooms, elevators, sleeping room floors, State Capitol Complex, Skyways or buses. Any unattended campaign materials may be discarded at any time.
- G. No materials may be used by any delegate, candidate or advisor which may damage any facility, with particular emphasis on protecting the floors and walls. The Secretary of State/CRC Director reserves the right to take disciplinary action against a candidate distributing any item(s) which violate the Election Rules or Code of Conduct or which could scuff, cut, burn, soil, stain or otherwise damage any facility.
- H. The Secretary of State/CRC Director will establish a 'no campaign activity' zone outside the polling place, to be clearly marked and set at his/her discretion.
- I. No campaign materials may be displayed in the polling place. The voter will not receive a ballot until they remove and conceal any displayed campaign materials.
- J. Each candidate must raise his/her own funds for campaigns and activities, including electronic campaigning. YMCA, school or delegation funds may be used toward the campaign of a candidate or ticket, but must be figured into the overall spending limits total. Non-monetary, in-kind contributions may not be accepted by any candidate. Candidate Expenditure forms must be fully completed, with all receipts attached.
- K. Spending limits for Statewide Officer races/tickets will be \$150; no spending will be allowed for any program area race.
- L. Any material or messaging used in campaigns that promotes violation of the Code of Conduct is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to promotion of sex, alcohol, tobacco, and/or controlled substances.
- M. Any violation of Local, State or Federal law is prohibited. This includes and is not limited to copyright and trademark infringements.

- N. Any violation, by a candidate, of the Code of Conduct and/or approved election rules will result in disciplinary action as decided by the Secretary of State/CRC Director, which may include, but is not limited to, the following:
- required public and/or published apology
 - loss of speaking privileges at Town Hall Session or program area presentation
 - restriction of campaign activities
 - recommendation to State Steering Committee for termination of candidacy
- O. Any candidate or delegate should bring concerns or complaints regarding campaign activities to the Secretary of State/CRC Director in writing for evaluation and possible action.
1. Any delegate who has concerns related to candidate activities or adherence to election rules must notify the Secretary of State's Office/CRC Director's Office of a specific concern, in writing, by 9:00 AM on Saturday.
 2. Any delegate who has concerns about election activities occurring after candidate speeches have begun or until the results are officially released must bring that concern, in writing, to the Secretary of State's Office/CRC Director's Office immediately for review.
 3. The Secretary of State/CRC Director will review the specific concern and take actions he/she deems necessary and will notify the delegate of the decision in writing.
- P. Any delegate wishing to question a decision by the Secretary of State/CRC Director must notify the Chair of a specific concern, in writing, no later than one hour after receiving a decision from the Secretary of State/CRC Director. The Chair will review the specific activities and take any actions he/she deems necessary, including possible review by an Executive Session of the State Steering Committee. In the event that an Executive Session is convened, its decision will be final.
- Q. Any delegate wishing to question the outcome of a Model Assembly Session race must notify the Secretary of State of a specific concern, in writing, by 12:00 Noon on Sunday. The Secretary of State will review the results of the specific race and take any actions he/she deems necessary.
- R. Any delegate wishing to question the outcome of a Model United Nations race must notify the CRC Director of a specific concern, in writing, by 1:30 PM on Saturday. The CRC Director will review the results of the specific race and take any actions he/she deems necessary.
- S. In the case of a recommended sanction for loss of candidacy, the State Steering Committee will convene in Executive Session to deliberate and determine the matter. Only the Executive Session of the State Steering Committee can impose this particular sanction. In the event that an Executive Session is convened, its decision will be final.
- T. All campaign activities, including those by third parties, are subject to the Code of Conduct and to all election rules.

VIII. VOTING

- A. A plurality will rule except when otherwise stated.
- B. The polls for the Model Assembly Election will be open from 12 Noon until 8:00 PM on Saturday of the Model Assembly. Voters in line at 8:00 PM will be allowed to vote.

- C. The polls for the Model United Nations Election will be open for two hours on Saturday of the Model United Nations, at times to be posted by the CRC Director at the start of the conference. Voters in line at the closing time will be allowed to vote.
- D. Election workers will be drawn from the Executive Branch/Conference Resource Center staff, with the exception of any participant who is a candidate for elected office. No candidate for elected office may be involved with the administration or tabulation of any election. Should additional assistance be required to administer elections, the Secretary of State/CRC Director will appoint members of the State Steering Committee (who are not candidates for elected office) to assist.
- E. Should the Secretary of State/CRC Director be a candidate for elected office, the Deputy SOS for Elections/Director of Elections will make all determinations related to the respective race. Additionally, the Secretary of State/CRC Director will not be involved in the tabulation of any election and the Deputy SOS for Elections/Director of Elections will be responsible for tabulation and certification of all results.
- F. All voting for offices will be accomplished by a secret ballot. All ballots will contain all names of candidates for offices and will be separated by office.
 - 1. The election official will have each voter present his/her current, valid nametag and sign the roster. As each delegate presents his/her current, valid nametag, an election ballot will be given to him/her containing all Statewide Officer candidate names and offices sought as well as the appropriate program area ballot, with candidate names and offices sought.
 - 2. Each delegate will have one vote per Statewide Office/Ticket as well as one vote per applicable Program Area Election.
 - 3. After presenting the current, valid nametag and receiving a ballot the delegate will be directed to a place in the election area to fill out the ballot and when completed, deposit it in the ballot container.
 - 4. The ballot of each delegate will be counted by the election officials and the total votes reported to the Secretary of State/CRC Director.
- G. If a candidate or ticket prevails by less than 3% of the votes or if the margin of victory is 5 votes or fewer, a recount will automatically be conducted.
- H. In the case of a leading tie, the tied candidates will be voted upon in a special election. Should a tie persist after one special election, the Secretary of State/CRC Director determine the winner by lot.
- I. Election results, including vote totals, will be officially announced by the Secretary of State/CRC Director upon certification. They will be available at the Hotel Secretary of State's Office/CRC Office for public review.

IX. PROVISIONS FOR MODEL ASSEMBLY ELECTIONS

- A. To be considered for election, all program area candidates must submit their Candidate Filing Form to the Hotel Office of the Secretary of State by 12:00 Noon on Friday of the Model Assembly Session.
- B. All Officer candidates who expend funds or use media points pursuant to these rules must submit a Candidate Expenditure Report to the Hotel Office of the Secretary of State by 12:00 Noon on Friday of the Model Assembly Session. Candidates who are required to submit Candidate Expenditure reports but do not do so will be disqualified from candidacy. Those who do not expend any funds or use any media points will not be required to submit the report.

- C. Candidates for legislative, judicial, National Issues Forum, lobbyist and media offices must, upon assuming office, meet the grade requirements of the program area they wish to lead.

<u>OFFICE</u>	<u>GRADE AT FILING</u>
- Sanford or Knutson	10 th or 11 th Grades
- Humphrey/Sibley or Stassen/Ramsey	8 th or 9 th Grades
- Supreme Court Chief Justice	10 th or 11 th Grades
- Court of Appeals Chief Judge	8 th or 9 th Grades
- Trial Court Chief Judge	8 th or 9 th Grades
- District Court Chief Judge	10 th or 11 th Grades
- National Issues Forum Presiding Officer	9 th , 10 th or 11 th Grades
- Lobbyist Executive Director	9 th , 10 th or 11 th Grades
- Media Director	9 th , 10 th or 11 th Grades

- D. Candidates for the offices of Secretary of State and Governor/Lt. Governor ticket need not meet any age or grade requirements but must be qualified for future program participation as a delegate.
- E. Nomination of Judicial Offices: Judicial leadership will be elected by the members of the respective courts. Supreme Court will elect the Chief Justice; Court of Appeals, Trial Court and District Court will each elect a Chief Judge.
- F. Nomination of Legislative Offices: Legislative leadership will be elected by the members of the respective legislative bodies. Houses will each elect a Speaker; Senates will each elect a President.
- G. Nomination of National Issues Forum Offices: Forum leadership will be elected by the members of the National Issues Forum, which will elect a Presiding Officer.
- H. Nomination of Lobbyist Offices: Lobbyist leadership will be elected by the members of the Lobbyist program. The Lobbyists will elect an Executive Director. All Lobbyists will meet together at the Hotel on Saturday morning to hear candidate presentations by Lobbyist Executive Director candidates.
- I. Nomination of Media Offices: Media program area leadership will be elected by the combined members of the media, who will jointly elect the Media Director.
- J. Each program area candidate may use up to 100 media points to promote their campaign. Each Statewide Officer candidate/ticket may use up to 150 media points to promote their campaign.
- K. All advertisements at Model Assembly must be coordinated through the Secretary of State's Hotel Office. All media materials must be submitted to the Secretary of State's Hotel Office by 12:00 Noon on Friday. The Secretary of State's Office will transmit campaign materials to the media. The media is required to publish all approved advertisements prior to opening of the polls.
- L. Media points may be expended on the following schedule. All media materials must be produced and supplied by the candidate or ticket and submitted according to standards of each media program area. (Note – TV and Radio ads must be completed by the candidate before arrival at Model Assembly. Rebroadcasts, reprints or forwards in media outlets do not count against media points.)
- 100 points full-page Newspaper ad (8" x 10")
 - 50 points up to 60 second TV ad
 - 50 points ½ page Newspaper ad (8" x 5" or 3 ¾" x 10")
 - 25 points 30 second Radio ad

- 25 points 1 tweet from Digital Media (limit two per day)
- 10 points 15 second Radio ad

Submission standards for media ads are as follows:

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|--------------|---------------|
| .jpg or .pdf | Newspaper ads |
| .mp3 or .wav | Radio ads |
| .mp4 | TV ads |
| no specifics | Digital ads |

Candidates must provide files via physical media – thumb drive, zip drive, etc. (not via Cloud, etc.). Any item with un-licensed music or images will not be published.

X. PROVISIONS FOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS ELECTIONS

- A. To be considered for election, all candidates must submit their candidate filing form and any other required forms to the Conference Resource Center by 9:00 AM on Friday of the Model United Nations.
- B. Nomination of Program Area Offices: Program leaders will be elected by the members of the respective program areas.
 - The Mondale and Anderson General Assemblies (GA) will each elect a President
 - The Sr. Economic and Social Council and Jr. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will each elect a President
 - The International Court of Justice (ICJ) will elect a President
 - The Human Rights Council (HRC) will elect a President
 - The Security Council will elect a President
 - The Conference Media will elect a Director

XI. OTHER

- A. The Secretary of State/CRC Director will make determinations on election activities as they apply to these rules.
- B. The group of officers announced at the closing session will be the official officers of the respective programs for the following session.
- C. In the event that an officer or officer-elect (with the exception of the Chair, Vice Chair, Governor and Lt. Governor) is unable or unwilling to fulfill his/her leadership role at the respective program, the candidate receiving the next-highest number of votes will fill the role.
- D. Should the Governor be unable or unwilling to serve his/her full term, the Lt. Governor from that ticket will assume the office of Governor. Should the Lt. Governor be unable or unwilling to serve his/her full term or should the office become otherwise vacant, the Governor will appoint a replacement. In the event that Governor/Lt. Governor ticket is unable or unwilling to fulfill their leadership roles, the ticket receiving the next-highest number of votes will fill the roles.
- E. An officer or officer-elect will be deemed unwilling to serve if he/she has two or more unexcused absences from program training events or otherwise fails to meet the basic duties of the position in a timely manner. The Chair, Vice Chair and State Program Executive will jointly determine what constitutes an unexcused absence or failure to complete basic duties.

- F. Should there be no remaining candidates or should no candidates stand for election in a particular race, the rising Governor or CRC Director will discuss potential candidates, with the advice of the current, outgoing Officer in the particular program area and will appoint a replacement Officer. In the event of no rising Governor or CRC Director, the Steering Committee will meet in special session to fill the vacant office.
- G. Election officials are not to reveal the results of each particular election until it is officially announced. Any person in the above capacity violating this requirement will be expelled from the leadership position and may be barred from holding a leadership position the next year.

Approved by the State Steering Committee – 9/22/18
21 delegations in favor, 3 delegations opposed