



2021 Elections Cycle
Constitutionally Mandated General Provisions for Elections

- (a) Any Notre Dame undergraduate student in good academic standing as determined by the Office of the Registrar and good disciplinary standing as determined by the Office of Community Standards is eligible for candidacy.
- (b) A candidate/ticket shall be defined as any undergraduate student(s) with the intent of seeking office who are therefore subject to election regulations.
- (c) All election rules and campaigning are subject to University regulations as outlined in duLac. Please note that the placing of posters in non-bulletin board space is not permitted by University regulations, and candidates do so at their own risk.
- (d) **Candidates are expected to behave ethically at all times.** Involvement in or instruction of others to engage in any unethical behavior will be determined and penalized by the Election Committee of Judicial Council.
- (e) Petitioning and campaigning may be held only over a period specified by the Election Committee.
 - (1) **Petitioning consists of any public contact for the solicitation of signatures to get on a ballot.** For the purpose of petitions, the original signature of an undergraduate student shall be required to signify approval of a candidate/ticket's placement on the ballot.
 - (2) **Campaigning consists of any public contact for the solicitation of votes.** Personal appearances, placement of posters, or distribution of any election materials shall be considered campaigning.
 - (3) **Any petitioning or campaigning before or after the specified period is a violation of campaign rules.** Petitioning and campaigning within LaFortune is allowed only in the basement and the 1st floor. Petitioning or campaigning within Duncan Student Center is allowed only on the 1st floor, with the exception of the radio station WVFI and other campus media outlets with prescheduled appointments only. No petitioning or campaigning may take place in or near any Student Union



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office or venues occupied by the Student Union, or any space that is funded by the Student Activities Office. **No one may petition or campaign in any venue while occupied by a class period, exam, or during the passing period directly before or after within the class venue.**

- (f) E-mail as a source of campaigning may be used; however, the use of Listservs is prohibited. A listserv email is any email that ends in “@listserv.nd.edu” or any variations in terms of capitalization thereon. Google Groups created for use by a Residence Hall, Student Union Organization, or University department, office, or official may not be used in campaigning.
- (g) **Endorsements.**
- (1) Endorsements shall include public, formal, or organized communication or appearances indicating support for a candidate/ticket.
 - (2) Candidates/tickets may solicit and campaign on endorsements from student groups and from individual students.
 - (3) No Student Union organization enumerated in this Constitution may endorse a candidate for a student office.
 - (4) Individuals holding the following offices enumerated in this Constitution may not endorse any candidate/ticket, and candidates/tickets may not seek endorsements from the following offices:
 - (A) Student Body President.
 - (B) Student Body Vice-President.
 - (C) Student Body President-elect.
 - (D) Student Body Vice-President-elect.
 - (E) Chief of Staff.
 - (F) Members of the Election Committee.
 - (G) Student Union Board Executive Director.
 - (H) Student Union Treasurer.
 - (I) Class Council Officers.
 - (J) Off-Campus Council Officers.
 - (K) Hall Presidents Council Co-Chairs.
 - (L) Hall Presidents and Vice-Presidents.



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- (M) Club Coordination Council President.
 - (N) Hall Senators.
 - (O) Off-Campus Senator.
 - (5) No individual currently holding an office enumerated in this Constitution may endorse a candidate for that same office.
 - (6) Candidates may not seek an endorsement from or communicate an endorsement such that it can be construed to represent that of a Residence Hall, Student Union Organization, University department, office, or official.
 - (7) No student group may use funds of any type (allocated or unallocated) to support a candidate for a student office.
- (h) Social Media.
- (1) **A personal social media account or page may be used to campaign. If a candidate uses their personal media account or page for their campaign, that personal account or page must be made accessible to the Judicial Council. All actions on a personal account or page which may be construed as campaigning must adhere to the guidelines detailed in this Article.**
 - (2) “Social Media,” as a rapidly developing and changing field, shall be interpreted by the Election Committee on an ongoing basis. In the event of new or changing policies, candidates will be informed before the release of petitions.
- (i) Campaign Finance
- (1) A campaign limit is set for all elections. All outside contributions count toward the limit. All donations shall be assessed towards the limit at their fair market value with the sole exception of an individual’s labor which shall not be assessed against the limit. A campaign limit is set for all Student Body Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates’ tickets at \$200.00. The Judicial Council shall make available funds to reimburse the candidates for Student Body President and Vice-President of expenses incurred for the purpose of campaigning. These expenses must have been presented to the Election Committee. Reimbursements shall not exceed



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the campaign spending limit, and the Judicial Council President shall approve these reimbursements.

- (A) A campaign limit is set for all First Year Class Council candidates at \$20.00
- (B) A campaign limit is set for all Class Officer candidates at \$75.00.
- (C) A campaign limit is set for all Senator, Hall President, Hall Vice-President(s), and SUB Representative at \$50.00.
- (D) A campaign limit is set for all Off-Campus candidates at \$75.00.
- (2) If tickets are formed amongst any of these positions the spending limit shall apply to the entire ticket and not to the individuals who make up the ticket. Combining campaigning funds of more than one ticket is not permitted and shall result in forfeiture.
- (3) Receipts for all election materials purchased or donated must be presented to the Election Committee or Hall Election Coordinator prior to any use of the materials. All receipts must be accompanied by a list of materials purchased.
- (4) **Failure to disclose the proper cost of any election materials is a highly serious breach of campaign rules. Penalty shall be forfeiture of candidacy.**
- (5) In the event that an election proceeds to a runoff, all tickets in the runoff may have a nominal increase in their funding equivalent to 20% of the funding initially allocated for the primary election.

(j) Misconduct

- (1) All allegations of election misconduct are to be submitted to the Vice-President of Elections. All potential violations must be reported within 48 hours of the time committed or 11:59PM on the day of the election, whichever is sooner.
- (2) The Judicial Council shall then conduct a review of the allegation as outlined in Article XIII and follow appropriate procedures.
- (3) Sanctions for violations of election regulations shall be up to the discretion of the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall be able to select an appropriate sanction, up to and including forfeiture of candidacy. The Election Committee reserves the right to change any sanction based on



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- the magnitude of the offense. The committee will adhere to a policy of keeping all rules uniform to all candidates.
- (4) In any dispute over the Election Committee's interpretation of these rules, any interpretation may be appealed to the Student Senate. The penalty imposed by the Election Committee shall stand until such time as the Senate hears the appeal.
 - (5) No election result may be released to the public while any allegation or appeal is pending.
 - (6) Failure to settle any penalties before election days shall result in immediate forfeiture of candidacy.
- (k) Beginning at midnight the day of the election, all forms of campaigning are prohibited in the immediate polling place. The immediate polling place must be cleared of all campaign literature by the Hall Election Coordinator in the case of in-hall voting, and by an Election Committee member in the case of voting that takes place elsewhere. In the case that the election is held online, a personal computer is not a physical ballot station. "Immediate polling place" is defined as the area within 20 feet of a physical ballot station provided by Judicial Council or Hall Election Coordinator.
- (l) The Judicial Council President and the Judicial Council advisor shall be responsible for verifying the validity of all votes cast in any election.
- (1) Blank votes, unapproved write-ins, or split ticket votes shall not count as valid votes and shall not be considered in the final tally.
- (m) No new bylaws pertaining to elections may be put into practice after petitions become available without a three-fourths vote of the Senate.
- (n) In cases of elections where there is one candidate/ticket running unopposed the Judicial Council may recommend that the Student Senate suspend the election and the candidate/ticket shall be declared the winner.