

2026 Class Officer Elections Information Session

Madeline Hutson, Judicial Council Vice-President of Elections
Elijah Jones, Judicial Council President
138 Debartolo, 7pm-7:30pm, February 8th

General Information

- The Class Council President, Class Council Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary **MUST** run as a ticket (you can't run individually)
- Any undergraduate student at the University of Notre Dame is eligible to run, given that they are in good academic and disciplinary standing (determined by the Registrar and OCS)
- The term in office lasts from May 1st, 2026 until April 30th, 2027
 - Senior Class Officers serve until their class reunion
- You **CANNOT** study abroad during the upcoming school year if you are elected and intend to serve as Class Council President, Vice President, Treasurer, or Secretary
- The Class Vice President and Secretary are allowed to be abroad from the April 1st to May 1st portion of the school year. The President and Secretary must be here during that period to assume duties in Senate and FMB, respectively

Responsibilities of Class Officers

- Ensure the efficient operation of Class Councils
- Class Councils sponsor functions that promote class unity (i.e., class merch, class formal, tabling events, etc.)
- Sophomore Class Officers must nominate one student to serve as the Sophomore Class Advisor to the First Year Class Council
- The Class President chairs all Class Council meetings
- The Class Vice President assists the Presidents when needed, and chairs meetings in their absence
- The Class Secretary takes attendance and sends out the agenda/slides
- The Class Treasurer must develop and present a budget to the Financial Management Board. The Class Treasurer is also a member of the Financial Management Board
- One Officer must serve on the Student Union Ethics Council

Election Timeline

- Monday, February 9: Prospective Class Council Officer Information Session — 7:00 PM
- Tuesday, February 10: Class Council Petitions available at 8 AM
- Tuesday, February 17: Class Council Petitions due at noon
- Meeting with Class Council Tickets to discuss Rules and Regulations — 8:00 PM
- Wednesday, February 18: Campaigning period begins at 8:00 AM
 - Tickets running unopposed will have their election suspended and declared the winner in Senate
- Tuesday, March 3: PRIMARY ELECTION DAY!
 - Vote on NDCentral between 8AM-8PM
- IF NECESSARY: Thursday, March 5: RUN-OFF ELECTION DAY!
 - Vote on NDCentral between 8AM-8PM
 - If there are three or more tickets for a runoff, the Judicial Council will send out individual ballots to each hall. In the case that nobody wins the runoff, the candidate who has won the most halls will be declared the winner in Senate on Wednesday, pursuant to Article XV, Section 5(3) of the Constitution

Petitions

- Virtual petitions will be used, through a Google Form
- Each candidate will have their own Google Form which will be created and monitored by the Judicial Council. You'll be able to see who signs your petition, so you won't have to ask us how many signatures you're at
- You can distribute the link to fill out the form through the blue send button in the top right corner of the form
- You must receive 200 **valid** signatures from your constituency to qualify as a candidate (you should aim for at least 250)
- To receive your petitioning form, fill out the Google Form we sent today, and I will create your form and share it with you
 - We can only guarantee forms will be ready by 8 AM if you let me know by midnight tonight
- Only responses to the form with timestamps **between 8 AM tomorrow and noon on the 17th** will be accepted. Any responses from someone not in your Class, or from someone who isn't a ND student, will not count either
- You may **NOT** petition or campaign after 12pm noon on the 17st
- Important: Do **NOT** say that you are running for Class Officer. You may say that you are **PETITIONING** to run.

Election Regulations

These are selected rules and regulations; you are responsible for knowing and will be held accountable for all rules and regulations outlined in the Student Union Constitution and in DuLac.

- Regulations are listed in Article XV of the Student Union Constitution (go to the Judicial Council website for the most recent version, don't use Google)
- The Judicial Council website also includes precedent that shows how the Election Council interprets the rules

Election Regulations

Campaigning and Petitioning:

- Petitioning consists of any public contact for the solicitation of signatures to get on a ballot
- Campaigning consists of any public contact for the solicitation of votes
- Any petitioning or campaigning before or after the specified period is a violation of campaign rules

Regulations on Where You Can Petition/Campaign:

- LaFortune: Only in the basement, and the section of the first floor that does not include the main lobby
- Duncan: Only on the first floor, except pre-scheduled appointments with campus media outlets
- No campaigning in or near any Student Union office or venues occupied by the Student Union, or any space that is funded by the Student Activities Office.
- No petitioning or campaigning in any venue while occupied by a class period, exam, or during the passing period directly before or after within the class venue.
- Zoom classrooms are venues!

Election Regulations

- All physical campaign materials (posters, fliers, etc.) must be approved by me or a member of the Election Council during approved office hours
 - Materials that will be hung up must also be approved and stamped by the SAO office (open 8am-5pm on weekdays)
 - Bring only one copy of materials to be stamped!
- Campaign spending limit is \$75
 - This includes the use of print quota!!
 - Candidates must provide **ALL RECEIPTS** to the Judicial Council at the time of approval
 - All donations shall be assessed towards the limit at fair market value with the exception of volunteer labor
 - The Judicial Council will reimburse candidates for campaigning expenses incurred **if properly presented**
 - You **may not** use listservs for campaigning — this includes any email that ends in @listserv.nd.edu or any variation of capitalization
 - Google groups created for use by a residence hall, Student Union organization, or University department, office, or official **may not** be used in campaigning

Election Regulations

- Candidates may not be involved in or instruct others to engage in any unethical behavior
 - The personal promise, or public suggestion of a promise, of any office or position in the Student Union by a ticket or candidate shall be considered unethical behavior will be considered unethical behavior. The Election Council notes that its body of precedent includes the sanction of **forfeiture of candidacy** for a violation of this regulation.

Social Media:

- Candidates may create a social media account or page specifically for campaigning
- Candidates may also use a social media account or page to campaign
- The account or page must be made accessible to the Judicial Council
- Social media, as a rapidly developing and changing field, shall be interpreted by the Election Council on an ongoing basis. In the event of new or changing policies, candidates will be informed before the release of petitions

Election Regulations

Endorsements:

- Endorsements shall include public, formal, or organized communication or appearances indicating support for a candidate or ticket
- Candidates may solicit and campaign on endorsements from student groups and individuals
 - No Student Union Organization, Judicial Council Officer, Member of the Election Council, Member of the Student Senate apart from Executive Cabinet Department Directors, or University department, office, or official may endorse a candidate or ticket for office, and no candidate or ticket may seek or claim to have received any such endorsement.
- No student group may use funds of any type (allocated or unallocated) to support a candidate for student office

Note: these lists are not exhaustive. Please ask if you need further clarification on who is able to endorse.

CAN ENDORSE

EXEC CAB DEPT DIRECTORS
HALL PRESIDENTS/VPS
CLUBS
CLASS VPS, SECRETARIES, AND
TREASURERS
COMCON/PA MEMBERS
SPECIAL INTEREST ORGS

CANNOT ENDORSE

STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT
STUDENT BODY VICE PRESIDENT
CHIEF OF STAFF
STUDENT UNION SECRETARY
PARLIAMENTARIAN
JUDICIAL COUNCIL PRESIDENT
JUDICIAL COUNCIL OFFICERS
ELECTION COUNCIL MEMBERS
SENATORS
RECTORS OR RAS

HPC CO-CHAIRS
CCC PRESIDENT
STUDENT UNION TREASURER
EXECUTIVE CONTROLLER
SUB EXEC DIRECTOR
CLASS PRESIDENTS
OFF CAMPUS COUNCIL
UNIVERSITY DEPT/OFFICE
STUDENT UNION ORGS

These individuals/groups **may not** endorse, and candidates **may not seek or claim to have received** such an endorsement.

The Election

- The Judicial Council will email the ballot link to the members of your class on Election Day (March 3rd)
 - Candidates are **not** allowed to provide the link to the ballot, only the Judicial Council may do so
- In order to win, a candidate must receive a majority of valid votes cast
- If there is no candidate with a majority, the candidates with the two highest totals of votes will proceed to a runoff election
 - Runoff Election Day: March 5th
- Once candidates have finished petitioning and signatures have been verified by the appropriate offices, the Judicial Council will notify candidates of the result release procedures

Allegations of Election Misconduct

- All allegations of election misconduct must be submitted to the Vice President of Elections (Madeline Hutson)
 - Must be reported within 48 hours of the time committed or within one hour of the end of voting, whichever is **sooner**
- An allegation will be reviewed within 24 hours of its submission
 - The Judicial Council Vice President of Elections (Madeline Hutson), Judicial Council President (Elijah Jones), and Judicial Council Advisor, will determine whether or not an allegation has merit. If an allegation has merit, it will proceed to a hearing with the Election Council.
 - The Election Council will determine whether a violation of election misconduct has occurred, and, if necessary, decide on appropriate sanctions.
 - The Election Council reserves the right to change any sanctions based on the magnitude of the offense. The Council will adhere to a policy of keeping all rules uniform to all candidates
- All allegations and hearings are strictly confidential

Allegations of Election Misconduct

- In any dispute over the Election Council's interpretation of these rules, any interpretation may be appealed to the Student Senate
 - Appeals to the Senate must be submitted to the Senate Chairperson (Sonia Lumley) no later than 12 hours after the Election Council hearing
 - The Judicial Council President (Elijah Jones), Senate Chairperson (Sonia Lumley), and Senate Advisor will decide if the appeal has merit
 - The penalty imposed by the Election Council will stand until such time as the Senate hears the appeal
 - If the Senate overturns the Election Council's decision, the Council shall reconvene within 24 hours and make a final decision, not identical to the original decision
- No election results may be released to the public while any allegation or appeal is pending

Allegations of Election Misconduct

Allegation Submission:

- To submit an allegation, go to the Election Council allegation Google Form on the Judicial Council website, **AND** email vote@nd.edu
- All allegations of misconduct must include the following:
 - Your name and contact information
 - The ticket you are alleging violated the election regulations
 - A description of the alleged violation, including the constitutional section(s) you believe were violated
 - Any evidence supporting your claim

Questions

If you have any questions, please email me at vote@nd.edu or review the Judicial Council website for more information.

For all questions or information concerning elections, please email vote@nd.edu instead of jcouncil@nd.edu for a quicker response!



Thank you!

Check your email from Judicial Council to
request a petition form!

