

Senate Resolution 2526-068

Resolution to Update the Election Oversight Guidelines

Wednesday, FEBRUARY 25th, 2026

Whereas the Election Oversight Commission has the authority to revise the Election Oversight Guidelines, and

Whereas these revised Election Oversight Guidelines serve as an extension of the Student Government Association General Bylaws, and

Whereas the Election Oversight Guidelines should be revisited to ensure optimized comprehension and clarity for all Student Government Association Senatorial and Presidential candidates, let it be

Resolved that the Student Government Association Senate approves the attached Election Oversight Guidelines (Appendix B), effective immediately.

Resolution 2526-068: Resolution to Update the Election Oversight Guidelines

Primary Sponsor:

Justin Deem-Loureiro, Class of 2026 Senator

Secondary Sponsor:

Samantha Mullett, Class of 2027 Senator

Vote:

In Favor: 21

Opposed: 0

Abstained: 0

Resolution **PASSES**

Signatures:

Brenna S. Bailey, Speaker of the Senate

Note: The signature of the Speaker serves only as verification of vote count and does not indicate support of a resolution

Eloise Ayotte, Student Body President



Appendix A: Election Oversight Guidelines

Appendix B: Election Oversight

Guidelines **Article I: Overview**

Section 1: Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines shall be to set fair and reasonable rules and regulations for the election of all Student Government Association executive officers and senators.

Section 2: Precedence

The rules and regulations of Butler University and the Student Government Association shall take precedence over these guidelines.

Section 3: Spring Elections

On an annual basis, there shall be elections held in the spring for the offices of President and Vice President, as well as all senatorial offices excluding those stipulated below.

Section 4: Fall Elections

On an annual basis, there shall be elections held in the fall for senatorial offices held by first year students. Senatorial offices up for election in the fall will include first-year class and any vacancies that result from unfilled positions in the spring election.

Article II: Election Oversight Commission

Section 1: Purpose

The Election Oversight Commission (**EOC Election Oversight Commission**) is responsible for the organization and administration of elections for the Student Government Association Presidential Tickets and Senators. The Election



Oversight Commission's responsibilities also include overseeing candidate campaigns, interpreting and enforcing these guidelines, and reviewing special circumstances.

Section 2: Special Circumstances

Special circumstances are defined by the Election Oversight Commission as any circumstance that is not clearly outlined in the election guidelines. In all special

circumstances, the Election Oversight Commission shall have the final authority in determining the appropriate course of action **through a vote of the EOC.**

Section 3: Commission Composition

The Election Oversight Commission shall consist of the Supreme Court Justices. The Chair of the Commission will be appointed by the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice will serve as an ex-officio member of the Election Oversight Commission and only vote on

Election Oversight Commission matters in the event of a tie. **The Election Oversight Commission shall reserve the right to appoint members with the approval of the Chief Justice who are not members of the Court.**

Section 4: Unbiased Representation

Election Oversight Commission members shall serve as unbiased representatives of the Student Government Association and may not be a candidate for any elected position, serve as campaign workers or in any way campaign for candidates. Members of the Election Oversight Commission, if discovered to be colluding in any campaigning matters, **will be subject to discipline as decided by the Executive Branch. impeached and properly removed from their position in the organization.**

Section 5: Provisions

The Election Oversight Commission shall make application materials and election rules available to the potential candidates at least three weeks before the date of the election.

Section 6: Candidates

The Election Oversight Commission shall have the discretion to approve or



deny the application of candidates based on whether the candidates fulfill the criteria presented in these guidelines. The Commission shall also have the discretion to schedule any special election events pertaining to the elections.

Section 7: Enforcement

The Election Oversight Commission is responsible for administering penalties to candidates and campaign workers who violate these guidelines. Penalties shall be imposed according to the severity of the violation and can include disqualification.

Section 8: Promotion

The Election Oversight Commission will promote the election event dates, guidelines, and all candidates through various mediums including, but not limited to, the Student Government Association website, **Twitter**, Instagram, TikTok, and class listservs. The Election Oversight Commission will equally distribute promotions among all candidates for office.

Section 9: Finances

The Election Oversight Commission will operate out of the Student Government Association Judicial Branch's Election Expenditure line item but reserves the right to use the Judicial Branch's Operational Expenditure line item for unplanned expenses.

Article III: Candidate and Voter Eligibility

Section 1: Candidate Eligibility

All candidates must meet and maintain established criteria throughout the tenure of their candidacy and position. Candidates will have their academic and conduct records verified by **the university designated advisor** ~~a designated Student Affairs member~~. **By applying for candidacy, Candidates agree that to their knowledge they will be attending classes on the Butler Sunset Campus for the duration of the academic year that they hold office.** ~~Candidates must intend to be on campus for the duration of the academic year that they hold office.~~ Candidates must be full time undergraduate students in good academic and conduct standing with the University. All Student Government Association candidates are required to have a minimum cumulative GPA of **2.75** ~~2.5~~.



Section 2: All Candidate Meeting

All candidates must attend their respective mandatory candidate meeting to review election guidelines and University policy. The meetings for senatorial and presidential tickets will be held in unison.

Section 3: Candidate Restrictions

Candidates will not be eligible to run for multiple offices within the same election.

Section 4: Senatorial Candidate Requirements

Class senator candidates must be a member of the respective class that they are campaigning for, which is based on the class with which they began their academic career. Academic college senators must be pursuing a primary major in the respective academic college for which they are campaigning.

Section 5: Special Circumstances for Extended Degree Programs

In the case of an undergraduate degree program that lasts more than four years, a student that pays the Student Activity Fee will be eligible to run for the Senate seat of the class that they are graduating with. Candidates cannot run for the Senate seat of the class they entered with.

Section 6: Voter Eligibility

All full-time undergraduate students of Butler University who pay the Student Activity Fee shall be eligible to vote for the Student Government Association presidential ticket, as well as the Senators representing their constituencies.

Article IV: Election Dates

Section 1: Election Announcement

The Election Oversight Commission shall announce all dates for elections and election related events at the first Student Government Association Senate Meeting in the Spring, and three weeks before Election Day for Fall Semester elections. Details of the application and forms will be released in due time from the announcement of election dates.

Section 2: Campaign Timeline



Candidates may begin campaigning starting seven days prior to the fall Election Day. Candidates may begin campaigning ten days before the spring semester Election Day.

Section 3: Election Dates

The Election Oversight Commission shall have the sole authority to determine the dates of Presidential and Senatorial elections. **Though should be advised by the Speaker of the Senate regarding the first meeting of the Fall Legislative Session when determining these dates.**

Section 4: Date Amendment

The Election Oversight Commission may propose a change to any of the dates in the election timeline, which shall go into effect with majority approval of the Election Oversight Commission. Proposed date changes shall be submitted to the Chair of the Election Oversight Commission in writing and voted on no more than one Election Oversight Commission meeting later. The Election Oversight Commission shall set all specific times for all election related events.

Section 5: Election Related Events

The Election Oversight Commission shall have the power to create additional events that relate to the election, which can include panels, rallies, or other election events, as deemed necessary and may require candidate attendance at such events, provided the candidate is given **due** notice **of at least 10 days**.

Section 6: Debate Requirement

The Election Oversight Commission shall conduct one presidential debate within the candidacy period in the Spring semester. The attendance of the presidential tickets is required. **In the event that there is only one ticket there will be a presidential Question and Answer in place of the debate.**

Article V: Candidate Registration

Section 1: General



To be deemed an official candidate, an eligible student must complete the application available on the Butler University Engage platform. The Election Oversight Commission shall upkeep election information that is posted on the Student Government Association website. This election information shall include the application for candidacy, which shall consist of the following parts:

1. Declaration of candidacy: Each candidate must submit an application to the Butler University Engage Platform. This certifies the candidate's intent to run for election and allows the Election Oversight Commission to verify their academic and conduct eligibility. Academic and conduct eligibility will be verified through the Butler University Student **Affairs Activities** Staff.
2. Platform: Each candidate must submit a statement of goals for office and how these goals will be accomplished. This statement should be **less than no more than** 300 words. In addition, each candidate must submit a picture of themselves that will be posted on the Student Government Association website with their platform.
3. Campaign plan: Each candidate must submit an outlined campaign plan for their campaign. This should include, but is not limited to, logos, slogans, designs, marketing plans, and social media accounts. The initial plan will be approved by the Election Oversight Commission. All changes must be submitted to and approved by the Election Oversight Commission before any action is taken.
4. Campaign workers: Each candidate must submit a list of their official campaign workers. Campaign workers cannot serve on two or more campaigns simultaneously. Candidates cannot serve as a campaign worker on another candidate's campaign. Candidates running for a Senate seat may not exceed **five ten** campaign workers, while a presidential ticket may not exceed **ten twenty** campaign workers. Candidates may add or subtract campaign workers with the permission of the Election Oversight Commission. Campaign workers cannot receive any sort of compensation for their work.
 - a. Campaign worker restrictions: The Executive Cabinet, **Members of The Judicial Branch Election Oversight Commission**, and all Branch Leaders are all barred from being workers on a candidate's campaign.
5. Official meeting: Each candidate must attend an information meeting on the day scheduled by the Election Oversight Commission. If the candidate is unable to make the meeting, they will be required to contact the **Chair of the** Election Oversight Commission at least 48



hours prior to the scheduled meeting.

6. Statement of expenses for campaigns: Each candidate must submit a budget plan. The initial plan must be approved by the Election Oversight Commission. All changes must be submitted to and approved by the Election Oversight Commission. All final receipts must be turned in by the conclusion of the election. Candidates may begin spending their allotted money once their application has been approved by the Election Oversight Commission.

Article VI: Vacancies

Section 1: Senate Vacancies

In the event that an elected senatorial office receives no declaration of candidacy, according to the Student Government Association Constitution the Speaker of the Senate may nominate a member of the appropriate constituency and the Senate will confirm the nominee for the unexpired balance of the term.

Section 2: Presidential Vacancies

In the event that there is no declaration of candidacy in the Spring Presidential Election, the Election Oversight Commission will hold a second election during the Fall Semester to fill the vacancy.

Article VII: Campaign Expenses

Section 1: Campaigns

Senatorial campaigns shall receive the stated financial resources from the Election Oversight Commission only in contested races. Expenses for each Senate campaign shall not exceed ~~\$100.00~~ \$50.00 per candidate. Expenses for each presidential campaign shall not exceed \$1,000.00 per ticket. Campaign expenses shall be funded through the Judicial Branch's Campaign Expenses and Promotions line item.

Section 2: Financing

If the cost of total candidate campaign expenses exceed 60% of the total amount



budgeted for the Judicial Branch's Campaign Expenses and Promotions line item for either Senatorial or Presidential candidates over the course of the academic year, costs above that threshold shall be moved to the Legislative Branch or Executive Branch budget, respectively.

Section 3: Budget

In conjunction with the Election Oversight Commission Faculty Advisor, the Election Oversight Commission will track all expenses and reimbursements through Butler University. General office supplies may be used without approval by the Election Oversight Commission. All receipts must be turned into the Department of Student Involvement and Leadership office (AU 101) by the closing of the polls on election day.

Section 4: Non-Student Government Association Budget

Non-Student Government Association budgets may not be used for any campaign efforts. External funding from outside individuals and organizations, including donations of supplies for campaigning, is strictly prohibited.

Section 5: Campaign Budget

Campaign budget money is to be used for campaigning for the election of the candidate and not used for the candidate's personal gain. The Election Oversight Commission has the right to deny items on a candidate's budget plan that have not received prior approval.

Section 6: Financial Transactions

All candidates are responsible for all financial transactions. Campaign workers and external entities may not spend money on behalf of the candidate or campaign. Candidates can take out cash advances or have the Office of Student Activities to make the purchase. This process may not be done by a campaign worker on behalf of the candidate.

Article VIII: Campaigning

Section 1: Preparation

Candidates may discuss and coordinate meetings with relevant student organizations only during the campaign period. Public campaigning prior to the



specified campaigning time is strictly prohibited. Candidates may discreetly identify and connect with individuals that may be willing to serve on their respective campaign team prior to the start of public campaigning. Confidentiality must be explicitly versed.

Section 2: Joint Ticket

The Student Government Association President and Vice President candidates must campaign on a joint ticket and will appear together on the ballot. Candidates for Senate are not to campaign on a joint ticket. Candidates for Senate will not formally appear as a part of a ticket on the ballot.

Section 3: Campaign Worker Regulations

All campaign workers shall represent the campaign of their candidate and shall be held responsible to these rules and regulations. A campaign worker is anyone serving in conjunction with a candidate to further the efforts of the campaign. A campaign worker may only serve on the staff for a single Senate or Presidential campaign each election cycle. This includes, but is not limited to: distributing, designing, creating campaign materials and creating, managing, and maintaining online accounts. Each candidate shall be responsible for their campaign workers. The Election Oversight Commission reserves the right to investigate any member working alongside a candidate that could be deemed an unregistered campaign worker.

Section 4: Campaigning Activities

Candidates may engage in activities including, but not limited to, tabling, hosting candidate outreach events, distributing candidate materials, and other events. If necessary, candidates may begin reserving rooms for campaign activities once their application has been approved by the Election Oversight Commission. Candidates must notify the Election Oversight Commission of any events, outside of campaign worker meetings, prior to the start of the event. There is to be no door-to-door solicitation.

Section 5: Public Posting Regulations

All campaign materials must follow the Office of Student Activities' Sign Posting Guidelines, which stipulates that all signs, flyers, banners, etc. must be pre-approved and stamped by the Office of Student Activities. The Election Oversight Commission will provide these regulations to candidates. There shall



be no more than one posting per candidate on each public bulletin board. This posting may not exceed 11" x 17". Candidates may not post inside any classroom. This includes notes left on chalk and dry erase boards. Candidates may not post on doors, windows, and other outward facing surfaces other than their own. Chalking may only occur on surfaces able to be walked on and in areas reasonably believed to be exposed to rainwater. Liquid chalk and/or any type of paint are strictly forbidden. Candidates are responsible for removing any materials that are improperly placed during the campaign period. All campaign materials should be removed in a timely manner following Election Day.

Section 6: Campaign Endorsements

Candidates may receive endorsements from other candidates, campaign workers, or members of the student body. However, no organization, department, class, or academic college can support, endorse, or aid a candidate. Members of the Executive Cabinet, Election Oversight Commission, and Branch Leaders may not endorse candidates. Candidates from separate campaigns may appear with one another at campaign events, but will campaign as separate tickets, with the exception of Presidential and Vice Presidential candidates. Endorsements need to be approved and validated by the Election Oversight Commission, prior to the endorsement being advertised by the campaign or candidate. Information on how to achieve this approval will be discussed and given to candidates at the Candidate meeting.

Section 7: Online Endorsement Regulations and Communications

No official Butler account, student organization, department, class or academic college can use public channels (e.g. public Facebook, Twitter, Instagram page) to support, endorse or aid a candidate. Candidates may not be featured on these accounts, even for non-campaigning purposes, during the campaigning period. Private channels (e.g. an organization GroupMe or private Facebook page where students must opt-in or be specially added) can be used to support, endorse or aid a candidate. If a candidate learns that an official Butler account, student organization, department, class or academic college is using public channels to support them, the candidate must notify the Election Oversight Commission and contact that organization and request that the organization take down their post.

1. Examples of opt-in and opt-out text services: Class, Housing, Residential Assistant, and any other text streams that are being used



to send top-down, streamlined information specific to that organization is forbidden. Casual, unofficial , opt-in text streams are permissible for a campaign space. Final decision on the status of a text service lies at the sole discretion of the Election Oversight Commission.

Section 8: Candidate Communication Regulations

Candidates may not use their personal channels (e.g @JoeSmith) but may create public channels directly affiliated to their campaign (e.g. Joe Smith for President) to market their platform. Candidates must delete any prior social media accounts associated with their Student Government Association campaigns. It is highly recommended that candidates request permission to tag another account on social media. All social media posts must originate from the candidate's newly-created campaign account. Candidates may repost campaign content on their personal social media accounts. If a candidate uses social media to market their platform, they must follow any accounts dictated by the Election Oversight Commission the appropriate Butler Student Government Association media accounts. This includes the individual accounts that the Election Oversight Commission dictates.

Section 9: Conduct

Candidates and campaign workers must adhere to all Butler University rules and regulations regarding conduct and any other actions. Failure to do so will result in the Election Oversight Commission making a conduct referral to the Office of the Dean of Students, as well as organizational repercussions, as determined by the Judicial Branch.

Section 10: Personal Gains

No candidate is allowed to use resources that are not accessible to all students. This includes, but is not limited to, the Student Government Association official communications channels, Student Government Association offices, the Student Involvement and Leadership office, class listservs, Resident Assistant resources, or other communication methods and resources that could provide an unfair advantage to the campaign.

Article IX: Elections Staff

Section 1: Staff



The Election Oversight Commission may ~~appoint students or~~ utilize the Student Government Association Public Relations Board to assist them in carrying out the election as needed. These students will be official election staff members. Election staff members cannot be campaign workers or running for office themselves.

Article X: Voting Procedures

Section 1: Information Technology

All elections shall be administered electronically through the Butler University Engage platform.

Section 2: Determination of Winners

The candidates who receive the most votes from full time undergraduate students shall be elected to their respective positions to serve in the upcoming leadership year. In the event that no candidate receives more than 15 percent of the total vote, a runoff election shall be scheduled no later than five school days following the conclusion and verification of the General Election Results. This is after election violation calculations.

Section 3 Election Verification

The Election Oversight Commission shall verify all election results no later than five ~~business school~~ days following the election.

Section 4: Benedict Election Results Clause

At the conclusion of each election, the Election Oversight Commission shall release the vote counts for each Presidential ticket contending for office. Senate results shall be made available to a respective candidate at their request, or released at the discretion of the Election Oversight Commission.

Section 5: Announcements

Overall winners of elections shall be announced following the verification of the election by the Election Oversight Commission, unless an appeal process has been initiated.

Article XI: Violations



Section 1: Submission

Any student of Butler University or campaign staff member may report violations made by candidates or Election Oversight Commission members. Violation reports shall be submitted to the Election Violation Submission Form located on the Butler Engage Platform. Violation reports shall be submitted no later than 12 hours after the closing of polls on Election Day.

Section 2: Violation Levels

Violations shall be divided into three categories: Minor, Major, and Severe. 1.

Minor violations: minor violations shall include, but will not be limited to, organizational, departmental, or faculty and staff endorsement of a candidate (including but not limited to organization bulletin boards and monetary support), violating flier posting rules, violating online posting rules, failing to delete prior social media campaign accounts, working with unregistered campaign workers, and amending election registration materials including budget and campaign plan without the permission of the Election Oversight Commission. The candidate shall receive a minor violation if any of these rules are broken.

2. Major violations: major violations shall include, but will not be limited to, violating University solicitation rules and violating campus rules and regulations not previously defined as a violation. Both the ticket and candidate will receive a major violation if any of these rules are broken.

3. Severe violations: severe violations shall include, but will not be limited to, personal attacks, harassment, or intimidation on individuals or groups having a negative impact on one's physical, mental, or emotional well-being. Severe violations also include candidates that have exceeded their allotted budget. Both the ticket and candidate will receive a severe violation if any of these rules are broken.

Section 3: Applying Violations to the Ticket

Any violations committed by the candidates for the offices of the presidential ticket individually will reflect upon the ticket, versus the individual, and the ticket will receive the respective violation and consequence.

Section 4: Violations by Campaign Workers

Any violations committed by a campaign worker will be investigated by the Election Oversight Commission, which may include a review of the candidate's relation to the violation. If the Election Oversight Commission finds that there



is a valid violation committed by a campaign worker, the Election Oversight Commission will award a violation to the campaign according to the severity of the action. Campaign workers will be held to the same standards as their respective candidates.

Section 5: Special Circumstances

Other concerns or violations reported to the Election Oversight Commission that do not fall within the above stated violations will be reviewed by the Commission, and appropriate consequences will be determined by a majority vote of the Commission no later than 24 business hours following the complaint.

Section 6: Election Oversight Commission Violations

All violation reports regarding Election Oversight Commission members shall go to the Student Government Association Executive Cabinet. Any member of the Executive Cabinet that is a candidate or campaign worker in the election in question must recuse themselves from discussing and voting on the violation. After review, the Student Government Association Executive Cabinet shall make a recommendation to the Student Government Association Chief Justice to censure the member in question, impeach the member in question, or to disregard the report.

Section 7: Materials

Any material that is deemed in violation of the Election Oversight Guidelines and is reported through the Butler Engage Election Violation Submission Form needs to be turned into the Commission within 24 business hours of the Election Oversight Commission's final decision.

Article XII: Rules of Enforcement

Section 1: General

The Election Oversight Commission shall initially assess what level of violation has been breached and shall call hearings as they see fit. The Election Oversight Commission will communicate all final decisions regarding violations to the affected candidate by email. Candidates, or tickets, have the right to hold a



meeting with the Commission to discuss the decision made by the Commission concerning campaign violations. Any violation decisions made by the Election Oversight Commission must be overruled by a two-thirds vote of the Election Oversight Commission at a hearing. Each infringement is individual; as such, similar punishments may be imposed on more than one occasion.

Section 2: Enforcement

In the case of minor violations, in both Senate and Presidential elections, one percent of the total vote count for that office shall be deducted. Major violations will result in a three percent deduction from the total vote count for that office. These deductions are cumulative and will be applied to the vote tally once polls close. The accumulation of two minor violations equals one major violation. Tickets and candidates who accumulate more than two major violations will be disqualified from the election. For severe violations, tickets and candidates will be disqualified from the election, even in cases where they have won their office.

Section 3: Decisions

All decisions of the Election Oversight Commission shall be made no sooner than 24 hours after the submission of the issue. Minor violations shall be decided by a majority vote of the Election Oversight Commission Chairs. Major and severe violations shall be decided by a majority vote of the Election Oversight Commission. The remainder of the Election Oversight Commission may appeal any minor violation decision made by the Election Oversight Commission Chairs and Vice-Chairs. All candidates will be considered innocent until proven otherwise. There must be sufficient evidence to administer a violation. 

Article XIII: Amendments

Section 1: Amendment

Amendments to these guidelines, once approved by a simple majority of the Senate, shall be submitted to the Election Oversight Commission Chair in writing. Amendments are subject to a simple majority affirmation vote by the Election Oversight Commission and shall take effect immediately upon adoption. This amendment process is an addition to the amendment process already outlined in the Constitution.



Section 2: Suspension

An article or section of these guidelines may be suspended by a two-thirds vote of the Election Oversight Commission, provided that the suspension of the article or section does not cause conflict with the rules and regulations of Butler University or the Student Government Association Constitution. Suspension of the Elections Guidelines shall otherwise be considered as a motion to suspend the rules. Any suspension of the rules may be reversed by a simple majority vote of the Student Body Senate, provided that a member of the Election Oversight Commission be invited before the body to explain the reasoning behind the suspension.

Section 3: Commission Revision

The Election Guidelines shall be reviewed by the Election Oversight Commission each year. The Commission may make recommendations to the Senate but is not obligated to.

Article XIV: Appeals

Section 1: Appeals Process

If any party wishes to submit an appeal regarding a decision made by the Election Oversight Commission, including but not limited to decisions regarding any level of violation, they have the right to appeal to the Student Government Association Election Oversight Commission Chair. A recommendation will be ratified if confirmed by a majority vote of the Election Oversight Commission.

Section 2: Secondary Appeal

If the ticket or candidate is unsatisfied with the second decision of the Election Oversight Commission, the Student Government Association Executive Cabinet will then gather evidence and testimonies from all parties involved and make their decision absent from influence of the Court. Any member of the Executive Cabinet that is a candidate or campaign worker in the election in question must recuse themselves from the discussion and voting on the appeal. The Executive Cabinet is required to inform the Election Oversight Commission of their decision immediately. Upon presentation of

 substantial new evidence, the party will be allowed back before the Executive Cabinet.



Section 3: Appeals Timeline

The candidate(s) has 24 hours to submit an appeal after the original decision made by the Election Oversight Commission to the ruling body that is reviewing the violation in question.

Section 4: Opposing Party Process

If applicable, the opposing party may have the opportunity to also present to the Election Oversight Commission or Student Government Association Executive Cabinet pertaining to the appeal submitted.

Section 5: Dismissal

All violations of Election Guidelines are subject to the opinion of the Election Oversight Commission and can be dismissed with due process and cause once a sufficient investigation has taken place.

