

Elected/Appointed Leadership Information



79th MLC Elected/Appointed Leadership Information CALIFORNIA YMCA YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

Running for an elected office or applying for an appointed office in Youth & Government is arguably one of the most rewarding parts of the program. Not only will candidates make close friends within their own delegation, they will meet delegates from all around the state. When overseeing the elections process, the elections office recognizes the importance of the Spirit of Y&G. Elections can be a stressful and emotional process. Remembering that our four core values (honesty, caring, responsibility, and respect) are foremost will help guide you. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out for clarification, but if you believe what you're asking goes against the "spirit of Y&G," the elections office probably will too.

Reach out with questions to caygelections@gmail.com

General Information:

Delegates may apply for **either** an appointed or an elected position (not both). Delegates may only apply for one position.

***Exceptions will be made for the following roles:*

- *Candidates for 80th Chief Justice who would like to also apply to be on the 79th Supreme Court.*
- *Candidates for Legislative Houses Presiding Officer who would like to also apply to be a Legislative Committee Chair.*

There is one application for all positions which will open on September 18, 2026. To apply/run for a leadership role (those selected/elected within a specific program area vs statewide), delegates must have secured a spot in the program area in which the leadership position exists.

- ★ The application for all elected and appointed leadership positions can be found here on Sept 18: ([APPLICATION LINK](#))
 - The application includes general questions for all applicants/candidates as well as job-specific questions. See the [leadership page](#) for the questions asked of each applicant/candidate.
 - Except for Statewide Leadership (Youth Governor, Governor's Office, Secretary of State, Deputy Secretary of State, and Chief Justice), delegates must secure a spot within the program area in which their desired leadership position exists to apply for or run for the position.
 - Delegates who submit applications for roles in program areas they are not assigned to will be disqualified.
 - Advisors must approve all applicants and candidates by the deadline.
 - Delegations may establish their own rules, limits, or processes for determining eligibility of delegates to submit an application. Delegates should speak to their lead advisor for any local criteria or deadlines.



Job descriptions:

Job descriptions, including qualifications and duties can be found on the leadership page ([here](#)). Delegates can filter by grade and required experience to find the positions for which they may be qualified. Click on a position to learn more about its duties.

Appointed Leadership/Appointed Program Area Position Information:

- ★ See [leadership page](#) for information for individual positions.
- ★ For all in-program leadership positions, applicants must be assigned to the program area in which the leadership position exists. For example, applicants for CIB Deputy Treasurer must be in CIB, applicants for Special Interest Committee Clerk must be in SIC, etc. For program areas that participants must apply to be a part of (Supreme Court and Campaign Strategy Team), applicants must be assigned to a program area in which they will serve if they are not selected for the appointed program area. They can be assigned to ANY program area. Supreme Court applicants do not need to be assigned to a Court program.
- ★ There are NO delegation limits to appointed leadership applications and appointed areas, however lead advisors need to make sure applicants are qualified and ready for the position.
- ★ Delegates who are appointed committee chairs must bring a delegation advisor with them to supervise committee meetings during MLC.
- ★ For all statewide appointed leadership positions (Governor's Office, Deputy Secretary of State), applicants must still be assigned to a program area in which they will serve if they are not selected for the leadership position they are seeking.
- ★ Applicants must meet the minimum qualifications described on the [leadership page](#).
- ★ All applicants must submit the leadership application ([APPLICATION LINK](#)) by **October 15** at 11:59pm to be eligible to apply for office.
 - *Applicants are strongly encouraged **not to wait until the last minute** to submit their applications. Y&G is not responsible for data transmission delays or internet outages. No exceptions to the 11:59pm October 15 deadline (as verified by the application timestamp) will be granted.*
- ★ Applications must be approved by Lead Advisors by October 16 at 11:59pm for the candidate to be eligible to apply for office. Applications not approved by the deadline will be disqualified. Advisors will receive an email notification when an application is submitted and will approve or disapprove candidates and applicants via the Approval Form provided to them.
 - Advisors can view received applications on the Y&G Website (link will be shared in advisor bulletin).
- ★ Applicants will receive a scheduled interview time from their program leads that will take place at the Training & Elections conference (unless noted differently in the position description and application). **Exception - SOS Deputies will be interviewed and selected prior to Nov Training.**
- ★ *Applications will only reopen if less applications are received than open spots.*
 - *Supreme Court will reopen applications if less than 45 applications are received*



Elected Officer Leadership Information:

- ★ Groups that meet at the same time and location must be considered one delegation and may not exceed 150 delegates.
- ★ Delegations with 50 or more delegates may run up to 3 total elected candidates.
- ★ Delegations with 49 or fewer delegates may run up to 4 total elected candidates.
- ★ A delegation may only run 1 candidate in Category 1 and 1 candidate in Category 2, and may run no more than 1 delegate for any single elected office.
 - **Category 1:** Delegations may run only 1 candidate for a Category 1 Office
 - Youth Governor
 - Secretary of State
 - Chief Justice (for delegations of 50 or more)
 - **Category 2:** Delegations may run only 1 candidate for a Category 2 Office
 - Forum Presiding Officers (2 positions)
 - Forum Chief Clerks (2 positions)
 - Forum Sergeants at Arms (2 positions)
 - **Category 3:** Delegations may run candidates in multiple Category 3 Offices, up to the total cap for delegations based on their size. Multiple candidates in Category 3 MUST be for different positions.
 - Chief Justice (for delegations with 49 or fewer delegates)
 - Speaker of the Assembly
 - Lieutenant Governor
 - Legislative Chief Whip
 - Constitutional Convention Presiding Speaker
 - Presiding Appellate Justice
 - Presiding Speaker of International Convention
 - Organizing Director, Special Interest Committees
 - State Legislative Analyst
- ★ *For example a delegation of 50 total delegates may run the following options:*
 - *1 candidate in Category 1, 1 candidate in Category 2, and 1 candidate in Category 3 OR*
 - *1 candidate in Category 1 and 2 candidates in Category 3 OR*
 - *1 candidate in Category 2 and 2 candidates in Category 3 OR*
 - *3 candidates in Category 3*
- ★ For all in-program leadership positions, Candidates must be assigned to the program area in which the leadership position exists.
- ★ For all statewide leadership positions, Candidates must still be assigned to a program area in which they will serve if they are not selected for the leadership position. (If they are running for Youth Gov, Chief Justice, or Secretary of State, they still need to be assigned to a program area.)



- Final Youth Governor finalists, selected at the end of T&E 1, will be moved from their assigned program area and reassigned to the Campaign Strategy Teams program.
- ★ Candidates must meet the minimum qualifications described on the [leadership page](#).
- ★ Candidates must submit the leadership application ([APPLICATION LINK](#)) by **October 15 at 11:59pm** to be eligible to run for office.
 - *Candidates are strongly encouraged **not to wait until the last minute** to submit their applications. Y&G is not responsible for data transmission delays or internet outages. No exceptions to the **11:59pm October 15** deadline (as verified by the application timestamp) will be granted.*
 - Candidates will be asked to upload a clear headshot (photo of your face and shoulders), against a PLAIN, white background. Candidates should wear 'Sac Attire'. No sunglasses or hats permitted. No photo filters. Please upload an image file (jpg, png, etc).
 - Candidates are required to submit a short **candidate statement** that is a max of 125 words. Statements exceeding 125 words will be cut at the 125th word. Statements must be Y appropriate. No defamatory, offensive, or profane language will be permitted. Statements will be reviewed by program staff. The statements will be posted to the Y&G Website where all delegates can review them.
 - Make sure that your statement is **relevant to the position you are running for**. Statements could mention priorities if elected, both as a leader and/or as part of your officer position. Candidates should be familiar with what their potential leadership roles look like. If needed, spend time researching the position and what you can influence within that role.
 - For example, in real life state government, candidates for Superintendent of Public Instruction are going to talk about education policy and not necessarily increasing the number of polling places or revising the lobbyist spending disclosure process. Those are areas under the control of the Secretary of State.
 - Statements may contain **only** text and basic formatting options available in word processing programs (ie: standard fonts, bullet points, boldface type, italics, etc).
 - **Graphics, logos, or photographs are not permitted.**
 - Candidates for Youth Governor, Chief Justice, and Secretary of State must get the Candidate Expectations signed and must adhere to everything in the document. You can review the language at the bottom of this document. Signatures will be submitted electronically.
 - Candidates for Youth Governor will also submit their Platform on the application. [Review what goes into a platform here](#).
- ★ Lead Advisors must approve all leadership applicants by **Friday, October 16 at 11:59pm**. Applicants not approved by the deadline will not be permitted to run/interview for their desired position.



- ★ All delegates interested in running for Youth Governor, Secretary of State, or Chief Justice, along with their lead advisor, must attend a zoom on September 28, 2026 at 5pm to review all leadership rules and answer any questions. This meeting is open and encouraged for all delegates interested in running for any position and for all interested advisors.
- ★ After the close of the application period, **all approved candidates (statewide or within program areas) must attend the mandatory elected candidate meeting** on Sunday, October 18, 2026 at 5:00pm via zoom
- ★ Candidates must prepare a 2 minute speech that focuses on an issue facing the State of California, that is **also relevant to the position they are running for**, that they will deliver during the conference at a Meet the Candidates session.
 - Candidates must wear professional '[Sac Attire](#)' when giving their speech at the conference. They are encouraged to wear professional 'Sac Attire' during most of the conference so that they can stand out and be recognized. If they win their election, they are expected to wear professional 'Sac Attire' when in all program area sessions at Camp Roberts.
 - Candidates may need to arrive to conferences wearing Sac attire, as they may not have time to go to their rooms and change before they need to speak at a joint session.
 - Candidates are encouraged to develop a 1-2 minute introductory speech to use virtually at delegation meetings to introduce themselves to their peers and about their qualifications and platform.

Elected/Appointed Leadership Application Information:

On the application, delegates will be asked to agree to the following:

- I have read and understand the description for the position I seek to hold. I understand that part of my responsibility this year will include helping to define this leadership position for future delegates.
- I understand that I am expected to attend the full Training and Elections event at Camp Roberts
- I understand that I am responsible for regularly checking my email, or other communication methods provided by the program, for updates on tasks and expectations throughout the program year, and I have provided a working email address that I regularly check.
- I understand that I cannot edit my responses once they are provided. If I want to change any application content, I must submit a new application by the due date. If I submit duplicate applications for the same position, the latest one that I submit (based on the timestamp) will be the only one reviewed by program staff.

Application Questions:



- 1) In which position are you interested (select from appointed and elected options). Each individual can apply for 1 appointed OR 1 elected position.
- 2) Please explain any prior Y&G experience that would be relevant to the position you wish to hold.
- 3) Please list any leadership roles within your delegation, school, or community that are relevant to the position you wish to hold.
- 4) There may be an additional specific question or 2 for some appointed roles which appear on the [leadership page](#).
- 5) Elected office candidates must submit a candidate statement that is a max of 125 words and a candidate photo (image file format).

Campaign Rules for all Candidates:

- Candidates running for statewide office can spend up to \$200 on materials to assist in their campaign for the conference. This money can be donated or raised, delegation-sponsored, provided through in-kind donations of materials (poster boards, etc), or their own, but it is not provided by Cal Y&G. Individuals running for Youth Governor, Secretary of State, or Chief Justice who make it from the primary to the general election may spend an additional \$150 for the Sacramento conference. Unused funds from the initial \$200 do **NOT** carry over between primary and general elections.
- Candidates are encouraged to get materials donated, however the market value of the material(s) must be kept track of for the financial disclosure form, and amounts will be deducted from their spending limit.
 - Candidates may not mail out any promotional materials/flyers.
- The candidate financial disclosure form will be due online by Tuesday, October 27 by 11:59pm ([LINK](#)). Candidates who do not submit their financial disclosure form on time will be disqualified. Photos of all election material must be included in the online form. Candidates are encouraged to turn in forms early.
 - *Applicants are strongly encouraged **not to wait until the last minute** to submit their applications. Y&G is not responsible for data transmission delays or internet outages. No exceptions to the deadline (as verified by the application timestamp) will be granted.*
 - Governor, Secretary of State, and Chief Justice finalists shall submit a second disclosure form to cover the period between Bob and MLC by 11:59pm on February 9, 2027.
- Candidates are NOT permitted to use any of the following as promotional/campaigning items:
 - No sticky-backed/adhesive promotional items.



- No confetti, small pieces of paper, badge inserts, balloons or any items that are likely to result in litter.
- No noise makers or items that would make noise/disrupt a session.
- No chewing gum.
- No leaflets or flyers.
- Campaign materials may not be affixed to or hung in undesignated locations.
- Candidates are allowed to make 3 hand held posters (max size of each is 22x28 inches) to use at the conference. Posters must be taken home at the end of the conference. Posters must not block the view of other delegates once session begins. Candidates violating the poster rules may be disqualified.
- In-person campaigning may only take place at the Training & Elections Conference (Bob) and the Model Legislature & Court (Sac Conference)
- In-person campaign visits to other delegations are prohibited. Candidates may attend social events at other delegations but must not campaign or post anything regarding the event that mentions their campaign.
 - When campaigning during conferences, candidates may not campaign during scheduled delegation time, including but not limited to delegation meeting time and delegation dinner, as candidates should be with their own delegations during that time.
 - Campaigning is not permitted within 100 feet of the conference polling locations, as well as with any voter in line to vote at a polling location.
- Virtual campaigning is permitted.
 - Virtual campaign visits to other delegations are permitted (and encouraged!).
 - Interactive social media platform events are permitted IF they are 1) free and 2) open to all delegates.
 - Candidates may **not** use existing personal or private social media platforms to campaign. To use social media, a candidate must establish a campaign social media account(s), it must be public, and the address or handle must be submitted to program staff via the leadership application form.
 - Candidates may operate dedicated free social media accounts (Instagram accounts, Tik Tok, etc), but may not pay for hosted websites and may not pay to promote any posts.
- *New this year: Virtual campaigning may start once the candidate is approved internally by their delegation (many delegations have internal runoffs to decide who will be able to apply). Social Media accounts (free and public) can also be started at the same time. *Note that if a candidate starts to campaign virtually before they are officially approved by CalY and then does not get approved by CalY, they must take down all versions of their candidate social media. Make sure to get your application in and approved by your advisor on time.
- Delegations are not required to provide candidates from other delegations with meeting time for virtual campaign visits, however, if a delegation provides meeting time to one candidate for a particular office, they must provide equal time to any candidate for the same office who requests to appear. Remember: all



visits must be virtual. Candidates should request delegation meeting time with at least a minimum of 3 days notice before the meeting.

- Should candidates have questions about any of the above rules they can email elections staff at CAygElections@gmail.com.

Best Practices for Supporting Candidates:

- ★ Please keep in mind that it is the candidate running for office, not the advisor or the delegation.
- ★ Come up with a timeline for the campaign (i.e. when posters should be finished, when delegations should be visited, when speeches should be completed).
- ★ Be honest and realistic with your candidates and delegations to manage expectations: **most candidates do not win**. However there are many additional benefits from running for office aside from winning. Encourage the candidate to come up with 2 goals for their campaign aside from winning.
- ★ Come up with a catchy (Y-appropriate) slogan.
- ★ Strategize ways for the delegation to support the candidate(s).
- ★ Posters, websites, and social media don't vote, delegates do. Encourage candidates to (virtually) visit as many delegations as possible and meet as many delegates as possible and *specifically ask people to vote for them*.
- ★ Candidates ignore small delegations at their peril: virtual campaign visits mean candidates can connect with nearly every delegation across the state. Every vote counts, whether it comes from a delegation of 100 or a delegation of 10.
 - Lead Advisor contact information and delegation meeting days and times can be found on the [Y&G website](#).

Big 3 Statewide Candidate Expectations

Candidates for Youth Governor Youth Governor, Youth Secretary of State, and Youth Chief Justice, their parent/guardian, their delegation lead advisor, and their YMCA executive director or school administrator, must each sign and submit acknowledgement that they have reviewed the Statewide candidate expectations. This form will be signed by the candidate on their application form, and emailed to their parent/guardian and YMCA executive upon submission of their application. Parent/Guardian and YMCA executive/school administrator forms must be submitted no later than Monday, October 19 at 11:59pm.

Lead Advisors will sign as part of the application approval process which is due by 11:59p on Friday, October 16.

Throughout their candidacy, and once serving as an Officer, delegates seeking and serving as Youth Governor, Secretary of State, or Chief Justice must adhere to the following criteria:

1. Attend all California YMCA Youth and Government MLC Conferences for the program



years in which they are candidates and in which they will serve. Arrive early to conferences if required.

2. Uphold the Code of Conduct at all times.
3. Adhere to the Dress Code at all times.
4. Serve as a servant leader, consistently modeling the YMCA core values of **Caring, Honesty, Respect** and **Responsibility** as they participate in all Y&G activities and functions, as well as on social media and online platforms.
5. Officers must understand the importance of their position as a role model. They are expected to professionally represent the program and the goals of the program at all times. They are expected to communicate positively and work in cooperation with others to benefit the program over individual preferences.
6. Be an active leader in the Cal Y Y&G Future Leaders/Teams Fundraising Campaign. Follow provided best practices to recruit team members, support training, and contribute to a successful campaign.
7. Recognize that their position is a year-round position and will require additional time commitments. Throughout the year, Officers may be asked to speak at fundraisers, Board meetings, meetings with elected officials, or other special events. Some of these events may require Officers to miss school.
8. Officers will attend orientation meetings with Cal Y Y&G staff and lead volunteers to ensure full knowledge of MLC programming and positions. These orientations must be completed before designating cabinet positions and finalizing role priorities.
9. Work closely with Cal Y Y&G staff and designated volunteers through the spring and summer to prepare for the upcoming program year. Officers are expected to work collaboratively, and within provided guidelines to incorporate their platforms and visions into established programming.
10. Communicate effectively with Cal Y Y&G staff, volunteers, and delegates. Officers are expected to return emails, texts, calls, within two business days.
11. California YMCA Youth & Government waives the MLC program fee for these officers, however, costs may be incurred at their delegation level.
12. The elected Youth Secretary of State will work closely with Cal Y Y&G staff and lead volunteers, as well as the California Secretary of State's office year-round to increase voter engagement and youth civic engagement opportunities for all.
13. The elected Youth Governor will represent California YMCA Youth and Government at the National Youth Governor's Conference in June 2026, and the Conference on National Affairs in June/July 2026. *Prior to the CONA conference, CONA delegates are required to attend multiple trainings, write proposals and provide feedback to other delegates through the spring and early summer.* Costs for these trips may be covered in part by Cal Y Y&G.
14. The elected Youth Chief Justice will represent California YMCA Youth and Government at the National Judicial Competition in July 2026. *Prior to the NJC conference, NJC delegates are required to attend training, and prepare for court arguments through the spring and early summer.* Costs for this trip may be covered in part by Cal Y Y&G.

Reach out with questions to caygelections@gmail.com