

Elected/Appointed Leadership Information



78th 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 79th Chief Justice who would like to also apply to be on the 78th 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 26, 2025**. 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 26: ([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 table ([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 23** 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 23** deadline (as verified by the application timestamp) will be granted.*
- ★ Applications must be approved by **Lead Advisors by October 24** 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:

- ★ 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.
 - Chief Justice (for delegations with 49 or fewer delegates)
 - National Assembly Chief Executive,
 - Legislative Houses Presiding Officers (2 positions),
 - Constitutional Convention Presiding Speaker,
 - Presiding Appellate Justice,
 - Attorney General,
 - Presiding Speaker of International Convention,
 - Organizing Director, Special Interest Committees
- ★ *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*



- *Multiple candidates in Category 3 MUST be for different positions*

- ★ 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, elected 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 23 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 23** 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' or a collared/professional shirt. 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.
 - 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.



- ★ Candidates must be approved by Lead Advisors by **Friday, October 24 at 11:59pm** for their candidate to be eligible to run for office.
- ★ **All approved candidates MUST ATTEND THE MANDATORY ELECTED CANDIDATE MEETING** held prior to November Conference, on **Monday, October 27, 2025 at 6:00pm via zoom**. In addition, it is mandatory for the Lead Advisor or Advisor representative of all Big 3 (Youth Gov, Chief Justice, & Sec of State) elected candidates to attend this Oct 27 meeting.
- ★ 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 Training and Elections Position on November 7-10, 2025.
- 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, November 4, 2025 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 10, 2026.
- 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 18x24 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. Posters must follow the maximum sizing and number requirements, or candidates 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 before using.
 - 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.



- Virtual campaigning **may not start** until the candidate gets an approval email officially approved by CalY. Candidates may not share social media accounts prior to notification of application acceptance.
- Delegations are not required to provide candidates from other delegations with meeting time to campaign, 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](#).

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