



**UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
RIVER FALLS
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION**

*Election Rules
for the
Student Government Association
of the
University Of Wisconsin-River Falls*

Last update of the Student Government Association Election Rules: April 16th, 2024

Table of Contents

Article 1.1: Purpose of the Election Rules.....	3
Article 1.2: General Provisions	3
Article 1.3: Candidate Eligibility	3
Article 1.4: Candidate Declaration	3
Article 1.5: Petitions for Referenda.....	4
Article 1.6: Types of Referenda	4
Article 1.7: Candidate Information Requirement	5
Article 1.8: Campaigning	5
Article 1.9: Campaign Violation Complaints.....	6
Article 1.10: Voting Procedures and Ballot	6
Article 1.11: Obtaining Office and Runoff Elections	6
Article 1.12: Election Results.....	6
Article 1.13: Review of this Document.....	7

Article 1.1: Purpose of the Election Rules

1. These Election Rules are created pursuant to the powers granted to the Student Government Association Student Senate Judicial Branch.

Article 1.2: General Provisions

1. A 'candidate' shall be defined as an eligible currently enrolled student at UW-River Falls who has successfully completed and submitted a Candidate Declaration Form.
2. A 'sponsor' shall be defined as any person or group sponsoring or co-sponsoring any referendum, initiative, or recall measure eligible for placement on the ballot.
3. An 'affiliate' is any other person or group that involves themselves in the election, including, but not limited to, campaigning.
4. Any candidate, sponsor or affiliate who fails to adhere to these Election Rules is subject to any consequences that the Judicial Branch deems appropriate.
5. Election dates and times shall be determined at the discretion of the Judicial Branch, and provided all dates are in accordance with the requirements laid out in the Constitution of the Student Government Association and Bylaws.
6. All Fall Semester Elections must be completed by September 30th of each year.
7. All Spring Semester Elections must be completed by the 3rd Friday of April.
8. Vacancies of the Student Government Association Student Senate will be filled during the Fall Semester Election.

Article 1.3: Candidate Eligibility

1. For General Elections, any member of the student body may be a prospective candidate.
2. 'Member of the student body' shall mean any student enrolled in the University of Wisconsin-River Falls during the term in which the election takes place. Enrollment shall be determined by the Office of the Registrar.
 - a. Enrolled degree seeking student in at least six academic credits at the undergraduate level or three credits at the graduate level at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls, not including the times of winter or summer terms.
3. To be eligible to run for the office of a Senator, Students must have a cumulative GPA greater than 2.5.
4. To be eligible to run for the office of Vice President and President, students must have a cumulative GPA greater than 2.75.
5. The Judicial Branch shall have the discretion to determine whether a prospective candidate is eligible.

Article 1.4: Candidate Declaration

1. All petitions must contain the following clause: By signing and submitting this petition, you signify that you are eligible for the stated position(s) and that you have gathered the necessary number of legitimate individual student signatures. You grant the Judicial Branch of the Student Government Association Student Senate permission to verify your enrollment status, cumulative GPA, and other eligibility requirements.

By signing, you are signifying that the signatures gathered are all completely legitimate, and you give the Judicial Branch of the Student Government Association Student Senate the permission to evaluate the signatures to ensure validity. By signing, you agree to be bound by the Student Government Association Elections Rules and acknowledge that infractions of these rules may result in your removal from the ballot, denial of office, or removal from office.

2. A prospective candidate must complete a Candidate Declaration Form and submit it to the Judicial Branch by the date and time specified by the Judicial Branch to be considered for the ballot.
3. Late Candidate Declaration Forms will not be accepted.
4. The Judicial Branch shall have the discretion to determine the acceptable method(s) by which a prospective candidate may submit the Candidate Declaration Form.
5. Candidates may withdraw their candidacy by notifying the Judicial Branch.
6. A completed Candidate Declaration Form shall include 10 signatures from members of the student body.

Article 1.5: Petitions for Referenda

1. A 'referendum' shall be defined as a petition submitted to be placed on the ballot in accordance with the Student Government Association Constitution and Bylaws, which seeks to express the will of the entire membership of the student body.
2. Petitions for referenda must be submitted to the Judicial Branch at least three (3) weeks before the voting period begins.
3. The Judicial Branch shall put the proposed referendum on the ballot for the next election, provided the proposed referendum, has the signatures of a minimum of 250 student association members, and meets all constitutional requirements, and all requirements of the Student Senate Bylaws, Judicial Branch Bylaws, and Election Rules.
 - a. The Student Government Association has the power to bypass the 250-signature requirement as they represent the voice of all students.
4. Referenda may only be petitioned by members of the student body.
5. Any challenges to referenda must be filed with the Judicial Branch within three (3) calendar days of the ballot being published. Referenda may remain on the ballot while the Judicial Branch review the challenge.
6. Referenda shall be approved by a majority vote.

Article 1.6: Types of Referenda

1. **Binding Referendum:** An election in which the members of the student body vote to either approve or disapprove a particular action. If a binding referendum is approved by the Student Government Association, its committees and subcommittees are required to take the specified action.

2. **Non-Binding Referendum:** An election in which the members of the student body vote to either approve or disapprove a particular action. The results of the non-binding referendum are considered advisory to the University, its committees and subcommittees and no specific action is required.

Article 1.7: Candidate Information Requirement

1. All candidates are required to read the Election Rules Document, and by running, they agree to have read the document.

Article 1.8: Campaigning

1. 'Campaigning' shall be defined as actions in support of, or against any candidate or item on the ballot.
2. Rules regarding campaigning are as follows:
 - a. Campaign rules are in effect during the election period, which shall begin upon the availability of Candidate Declaration Forms and shall end at the announcement of the election results.
 - b. All state, city, and university laws and rules regarding campaigning and advertising shall apply to any campaigning done relating to the election.
 - c. No candidate, sponsor, or affiliate may deceive or harass the voting public.
 - d. No candidate, sponsor, or affiliate may establish a polling place, including, but not limited to, operating, or providing a computer terminal to eligible voter for voting.
 - e. No candidate, sponsor, or affiliate may use campus resources without prior approval from the Judicial Branch, including but not limited to campus funds and/or campus office supplies.
 - f. Chalking
 - i. May only be done with water-based, non-aerosol, non-spray chalk.
 - ii. May only be done in outdoor areas of campus that are readily exposed to the elements (i.e., where rain may reach it).
 - iii. May not be done in places that are covered and or protected by any man-made structures.
 - iv. May not be done on any vertical surfaces, including, but not limited to building walls, bridges, posts, columns, or pillars.
 - g. Posters
 - i. May only be posted on bulletin boards not marked for specific purpose.
 - ii. May not be posted on the ground.
 - iii. Must be posed in accordance with any and all university policies.
3. Any candidate, sponsor, or affiliate campaigning shall not alter the postings and/or chalking's of any other candidate, sponsor, or affiliate involved in the elections, including, but not limited to defacing, covering, and/or restricting the viewing of them in any way.
4. Campaigning that permanently and/or seriously damages university property, including, but not limited to affixing campaign materials to surfaces, is strictly prohibited.
5. Any candidate, sponsor, or affiliate who wishes to use the name of a Registered Student Organization (hereafter RSO) for campaigning purposes, must obtain written permission

from the appropriate governing board and/or membership of that RSO.

Article 1.9: Campaign Violation Complaints

1. Any candidate, sponsor, or affiliate may file a complaint alleging a violation of the rules regarding the campaigning.
2. A petitioner must submit a complaint to the Judicial Branch prior to the close of the voting period.

Article 1.10: Voting Procedures and Ballot

1. Eligible voters may only cast votes for candidates running for college senator seats within their own college.
2. There shall be no option to write in candidates.
3. Eligible voters may only cast one ballot.
4. Votes will be cast through electronic ballots found on the UWRF Student Government Association page on the FalconsConnect website.

Article 1.11: Obtaining Office and Runoff Elections

1. Obtaining Office for positions with one available seat.
 - a. All candidates must receive a minimum of 40% of the vote to obtain office.
 - b. If no candidate receives 40% of the vote, the candidates who received the top two vote totals shall be forwarded to a runoff election.
2. Obtaining Office for positions with more than one available seat.
 - a. The candidates that receive the highest vote totals shall obtain office.
3. Runoff Elections
 - a. All runoff elections shall be conducted within one week of the official election results.
 - b. There shall be no option to write in a candidate in a runoff election.

Article 1.12: Election Results

1. Ballots will not be tabulated until the voting period has ended.
2. The Judicial Branch will release a preliminary certified result within one school day of the close of the voting period.

3. The official results shall be verified by the Judicial Branch within two (2) school days of the close of the voting period.
 - a. The Judicial Branch may postpone the publishing of the final certified election results if there is an election complaint.
 - b. The Judicial Branch shall publish the final certified election results within one (1) day of the resolution of all election complaints and/or appeals.
4. Candidates-elect may only take office after the final election results are released.

Article 1.13: Review of this Document

1. Review of this document is in the responsibility of the Student Government Association Student Senate and the Judicial Branch of the Student Senate. Amendments to this document require approval by the Student Senate.
2. Judicial Branch Election Duties
 - a. To oversee the operation of the Student Government Association elections.
 - b. To verify the election results.
 - c. To create the Candidate Declaration Form.
 - d. To monitor the polls.