Student Elections Guidelines

2019

Voting Begins 12:01 a.m. Sunday, April 7, 2019 – 11:59 p.m. Thursday, April 11, 2019
SPRING 2019
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

CALENDAR

February 10  
Party Registration deadline

February 17  
Nominations open; Submission of referenda question(s) for review open

February 22  
Date of Record

March 2  
Nominations close; Last day to submit referenda question(s) for review

March 4-March 8  
Certification of applications.

March 25th  
**Mandatory Orientation** – “Review of Election rules and preparing for the elections debate” Free Hour, Student Union

April 1  
**Mandatory Debate & Candidates’ Forum** Location: Rosenthal 230

April 7  
Voting and *restricted campaigning* opens

(Sunday 12:01 a.m.)

April 11  
Voting closes; Candidate appeals (in writing to KY 12th 5p.m.)

(Thursday 11:59p.m.)

April 18  
Unofficial results announced

*Per CUNY By-laws, a referendum – in the form of a question – proposing changes in the student activity fee shall be initiated by a petition of at least ten (10) percent of the appropriate student body before it is presented to the student body for a vote.*
INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to section 15.2 of the City University of New York Bylaws, each College establishes a Student Elections Review Committee (SERC) to approve election procedures and certify the results of student government elections. Bylaw Section 15.2 (d) reads as follows:

Each College shall establish a student elections review committee in consultation with the various student governments. The student elections review committee shall approve the elections procedures and certify the results of elections for student government and student body referenda.

In order to ensure that the Queens College Student Government Elections are conducted properly and fairly for all students, it is the responsibility of the Student Elections Review Committee to ensure establishment of the following procedures and guidelines.

General Campaign Rules

1. All candidates must attend a mandatory meeting to discuss the election procedures and process.

2. *There shall be a debate between the candidates for Student Government President and a debate between the candidates for Student Government Vice President to take place on the campus to be decided by participants. The debate will be held the week of April 1, 2019.

3. Within the rights outlined in the First Amendment, all campaign literature must comply with the college’s rules and regulations for posters and flyers. (i.e., no glue, permanent markers, nails, paint, duct tape, staples). The only acceptable materials for posting are masking tape and string.

4. Campaigning is governed by standards of ethical conduct as befit leaders seeking elected office. See NY Times v. Sullivan (84 S.C. 710).

5. All campaign literature (cards, flyers, buttons, pamphlets, etc.) must comply with the published rules and the regulations of the Elections Committee, Queens College, the City University of New York and the laws of the City and State of New York and the United States where applicable.

6. There shall be no postering on Campus building walls (inside or outside). Postering is permitted only on kiosks and bulletin boards. It is not permitted on lights, doors, windows, or any structure on campus.
7. All posters, tape and campaign material must be removed by the last day of elections. Election results will not be released until the entire campus has been cleared of campaign material.

8. *Club endorsements should be registered with the Elections Committee to indicate whether they were voted upon by a majority of the club or the club board.

9. The use of amplified sound devices or other audio visual devices must comply with the college’s rules and regulations.

10. Candidates and supporters are not permitted to remove or to post over opposition candidates’ literature.

11. Candidates and their supporters may reserve space within the same rules, regulations and costs that apply to the college’s rules for reserving space.

12. Campaigning is not allowed inside of classrooms (without the permission of the faculty member).

13. Campaigning is not allowed inside of any college computer lab.

14. Campaigning is not allowed inside of the Queens College Libraries

**Finance Rules**

15. *Each party has a recommended spending limit of $4,000. Each party treasurer or independent candidate should inform the Elections Committee of all money and goods received and all money spent and goods used for the election campaign. The total of the goods and money received per party with sources listed as either “students” or specific contributors (if non-QC students) will be listed in an issue of the Campus press; expenses will be itemized as goods or money spent (for supplies, services, etc). Transportation expenses are not included in the limit or disclosure.

16. *Candidates are personally responsible for all campaign expenses. Candidates, including political parties, are not permitted to accept funds from student organizations that receive student activity fees. Evidence of such behavior will result in disqualification.

17. *Student activity fees are not permitted to be used for campaign purposes. This does not prohibit student publications funded by student activity fees from endorsing candidates.

18. *Parties may not require the contribution of mandatory dues for party endorsement.
Balloting / Voting


20. SEEK students can vote in SEEK, Undergraduate and At-Large Senate elections. Undergraduate non-degree students can vote only in At-Large Senate elections.

21. Students may vote by submitting a blank ballot.

22. Complaints of violations of Election Regulations may be made by any student. They must be in writing and given to an Elections Committee official or submitted online using the official complaint form found on the Queens College Elections Page before the close of the balloting on the last day of elections.

PENALTIES

23. Any candidate found guilty of removing or defacing any other candidate’s campaign material posted in a legitimate posting place will be disqualified from the election.

24. Violation of campaign rules may result in suspension of campaign privileges or elections disqualification as determined by the SERC.

Appeals

25. The Student Elections Review Committee shall approve the election procedures and certify the results of elections for student governments, and student body referenda.

26. Decisions of the Student Elections Review Committee may be appealed to the college president, whose decision shall be final.

27. An appeal from the decision of the student elections review committee must be made in writing to the President within ten (10) calendar days of the decision.

28. All appeals must be accompanied by supporting evidence to substantiate the appeal.

29. The President shall consult with the Student Elections Review Committee and render a decision as expeditiously as possible which may affirm, reverse, or modify the decision of the Student Elections Review Committee.

*Adopted by unanimous vote of the Queens College Day Student Senate on March 22, 1984
Queens College Administration

Félix V. Matos Rodríguez  President
Elizabeth Hendrey  Provost
Adam Rockman  Vice President for Student Affairs

Student Elections Review Committee (SERC)

Committee Members

Simone Yearwood (Chair)
Jose Sanchez

Office of Student Affairs

Dwayne Jones  Director, Student Development & Leadership