

# Student Election Code of the University of Illinois Urbana- Champaign



**Revised: December 5, 2023**  
**Approved 5-0**



### **Student Elections Code Modifications**

The Campus Student Election Commission, hereafter referred to as the CSEC, reserves the right to make corrections and amendments to the Student Election Code as necessary at any time in consultation with our stakeholders. Once such changes are made, the CSEC shall include them in the Student Election Code and notify registered candidates of applicable changes. Changes to the Student Election Code are made by a majority vote of the Illinois Student Council (ISC) Congress.

### **CSEC Charter**

The governing document of the CSEC, known as the Charter, outlines the scope, authority, and regulations of the Commission. It can be found online at <https://studentelections.illinois.edu>. The CSEC reserves the right to make corrections and amendments to the Charter as necessary at any time.

## **Chapter I: Scope and Authority**

- 1.01 These rules, referred to as the Student Election Code, are created by the respective entities for which the CSEC facilitates elections, and are enforced by the CSEC. The CSEC is a non-partisan and impartial body which oversees student elections, ensures their fairness, and is responsible for the execution of all election procedures.
- 1.02 The purpose of the Student Election Code is to ensure a proper, fair, efficient, and standard means of conducting the annual student elections and referendum. These rules derive their authority from the [Senate Election Rules for the Student Electorate](#), the Illinois Student Council Constitution, the SORF Board, and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs. These rules are subject to the superseding authority of University policies and the laws, ordinances, and regulations of the City of Champaign, the City of Urbana, the State of Illinois, and the United States of America.
- 1.03 To facilitate the election process, these rules may be corrected or amended as necessary after their initial release. However, a candidate's past action cannot become a violation solely as the result of a change in the rules. Further, a change in the rules cannot change a past violation into a permitted action.

## **Chapter II: Election Cycle**

- 2.01 Student elections occur in the spring semester of each academic year. The election is conducted for two (2) days no fewer than three (3) weeks prior to the organizational meeting of the University Senate. Prior to the commencement of the election cycle, the CSEC will determine the schedule for the elections which include candidate and referendum deadlines. This schedule will be released on the CSEC's website in December.
- 2.02 If needed or called for, the requirements regarding the election cycle may be waived for special elections or special referenda elections at the CSEC's discretion.
- 2.03 Elections are conducted using an online ballot. As such, no dedicated polling locations or absentee ballots will be utilized. The official election information website is <http://studentelections.illinois.edu>.
- 2.04 All required forms referenced throughout this document including, but not limited to, the Student Election Code, the Student Election Timeline, the

Student Election Endorsement Form, the Student Election Financial Disclosure Form, and the Student Election Candidate Declaration of Candidacy will be available on the CSEC's website (<http://studentelections.illinois.edu>) throughout the duration of the election cycle. The CSEC has the discretion to alter these forms or request a resubmission as necessary, in consultation with stakeholders.

### **Chapter III: Elections Rules, University Policy, Laws, and Regulations**

- 3.01 The rules specific to each elected body for which the CSEC holds elections are incorporated by reference into these rules. When the Student Election Code conflicts with the elected body's rules in matters regarding candidate eligibility and guidelines specific to the elected body, the elected body's rules apply.
- 3.02 All candidates, sponsors, and members of campaign teams must comply with the University policies, including the Student Code (<http://studentcode.illinois.edu>) and Campus Administrative Manual (<http://cam.illinois.edu/>), which are incorporated by reference into these rules.
- 3.03 All candidates, sponsors, and members of campaign teams must comply with all applicable laws, ordinances, and regulations, including but not limited to the ordinances of the [City of Champaign](#) and the [City of Urbana](#). City ordinances apply while on University property unless State or Federal law exempts or supersedes an ordinance.
- 3.04 All candidates, sponsors, and members of campaign teams must comply with this Student Election Code. Failure to do so may result in the application of sanctions as outlined in Chapter X.

### **Chapter IV: Candidate Eligibility**

- 4.01 To be a candidate for any office, a student must meet the following minimum academic and enrollment criteria. Additional or modified criteria may apply to specific offices as detailed in Chapter V. A candidate must:
  - a. Be enrolled at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign making satisfactory progress toward an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree, as defined by the University.

- b. Have a cumulative grade point average of 2.5.
  - c. Be physically present on the Urbana campus for both the Fall and Spring Semester of the term of appointment.
  - d. Not be on conduct probation or subject to dismissal held in abeyance.
  - e. Satisfy the requirements of membership in the student electorate as defined by the University Senate and in § 9.01.
  - f. Have their eligibility for candidacy certified.
  - g. Be enrolled full time in an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree program:
    - a. For undergraduate students and professional students, full time is 12 credit hours.
    - b. For graduate students, full time is 12 credit hours or 8-11.9 credit hours with an assistantship of 25%-67% time.
- 4.02 A student candidate must file a Student Election Declaration of Candidacy, which includes: one (1) written nomination statement and all required registration documents. The Student Election Declaration of Candidacy must be submitted according to the instructions provided by the CSEC and by the deadline in the Student Election Timeline.
- 4.03 The CSEC has full discretion to reject the use of inappropriate, offensive, or hateful nicknames or nomination statements submitted with the Student Election Declaration of Candidacy.
- 4.04 Candidates are encouraged to attend a Candidate Information Session that reviews the office of interest, the Student Election Code, the Student Election Timeline, and all relevant procedures. The Candidate Information Session may be delivered virtually or in person and will take place before the submission deadline for the Student Election Declaration of Candidacy, as indicated on the Student Election Timeline.

## **Chapter V: Candidate for Election**

### **Student Trustee**

The CSEC shall administer, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs (VCSA), the annual election of the Student Trustee from the Urbana Campus to the University of Illinois System Board of Trustees.

### **Candidacy**

- 5.01 A candidate for Student Trustee must be a resident of the State of Illinois. To determine residency for Student Trustee, the student must provide evidence of the student's Illinois domicile for at least the previous 6 months with one of the following:
- a. evidence of the student's current, valid Illinois driver's license or Illinois Identification Card; or
  - b. evidence of the student's valid Illinois voter registration.
- 5.02 A student's residency is determined at the time of the submission of the Student Election Declaration of Candidacy. The candidate must be currently domiciled in Illinois, has been domiciled in Illinois for the previous 6 months, and will be domiciled in Illinois through June 30 of the year following the election.
- 5.03 At the time of the submission of the Student Election Declaration of Candidacy, the candidate must meet all provisions in the [University of Illinois Trustees Act \(110 ILCS 310\)](#)

### Campaigning

- 5.04 The limit on campaign finances for candidates for Student Trustee is seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750).

### Voting

- 5.05 In the event of a tie, the CSEC shall hold a run-off election between the top two candidates. The details for the special election shall be determined at a Special Elections Coordination meeting. All candidates will be invited to attend.

## **ISC President & Vice President**

The CSEC shall administer, on behalf of the Illinois Student Council, also known as ISC, the annual election of students to the office of Student Body President and Student Body Vice President in accordance with the election rules in the ISC Constitution and in consultation with the ISC.

### Candidacy

- 5.06 For purposes of registration, candidacy, voting, and all other matters, the Student Body President and Vice President shall be considered a joint ticket. A ticket must include a different candidate for President and Vice President. No individual may run on more than one ticket, nor may any individual run for both offices on a single ticket. The individuals on the ticket shall be jointly liable for each other, and the disqualification, resignation, or removal of one member of the ticket shall void the ticket.

## Campaigning

- 5.07 The limit on campaign finances for candidates for executive tickets is seven hundred fifty dollars (\$750)

## Voting

- 5.08 Candidates for Student Body President and Vice President will be selected through a ranked-choice voting method. The electorate may choose to rank all candidates in order of preference or select a single candidate.

## **U-C Student Senator/ISC Representative**

The CSEC shall administer, on behalf of the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials, the annual election of students to the Senate of the Urbana-Champaign Campus, also known as the University Senate, for all colleges and schools except where the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials has authorized another entity to conduct the election. The CSEC shall also administer, on behalf of the Illinois Student Council, also known as the ISC Congress, the annual election of students to the ISC Congress in accordance with the election rules in the ISC Constitution and in consultation with the ISC.

## Candidacy

- 5.09 Candidates for the Senate are elected from each college at-large.  
A candidate's voting college shall be determined by the degree program code in the student's record within the Banner ERP system at the time of application, or if verification is not possible, as on record in the registration. census data used to compile the [Division of Management Information Final Statistical Abstract](#). No other method of assignment to voting units shall apply or may be used.
- 5.10 A candidate enrolled in a second-degree program may choose which degree program to apply to their candidacy.
- 5.11 A candidate who changes degree programs while the election is ongoing remains a candidate of the original degree program. The candidate may choose to withdraw from the election in the original voting college and reapply under the new voting college, if approved by the CSEC. A new Student Election Declaration of Candidacy may be necessary.
- 5.12 Unless prohibited by the Senate Committee on Elections and Credentials, a student's certification of satisfactory progress towards a degree by the student's academic dean may be fulfilled by evidence of good academic standing in the Banner system following the completion of the college-level reviews of academic standing.

## Campaigning

- 5.13 The limit on campaign finances for candidates seeking election to the ISC Senate or University Senate is two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225).
- 5.14 The following are additional Campaign-Free Zones for candidates seeking election to the University Senate, in addition to those outlined in § 7.19.
  - a. The first floor of the Illini Union.

#### Voting

- 5.15 Each voter shall be permitted to vote for representatives within the college of the student's degree program, up to the number of seats allocated to each college. If a voter has a second major in a different college, they may choose to vote in that college instead.
- 5.16 In the event of a tie, the CSEC shall hold a runoff election between the top two candidates of any given seat in accordance with § 9.14. Ties shall be resolved by a drawing of lots by the CSEC.

#### **SORF Board Member**

The CSEC shall administer, on behalf of the Student Organization Resource Fee (SORF) Board, the annual election of the voting student membership of the SORF Board.

#### Candidacy

- 5.17 A candidate for the SORF Board must run as an Undergraduate candidate or graduate/professional candidate. No candidate may be a candidate for the SORF Board "at-large."
- 5.18 A candidate's classification shall be determined by the degree program code in the student's record within the Banner ERP system at the time of application, or if verification is not possible, as on record in the registration census data used to compile the [Division of Management Information Final Statistical Abstract](#).
- 5.19 A candidate who changes classification while the election is ongoing remains a candidate of their original classification. The candidate may choose to withdraw from the election and reapply under their new classification, if approved by the CSEC. A new application may be necessary.
- 5.20 A candidate must agree to the SORF Board policies, including viewpoint neutrality, on an electronic form.

#### Campaigning

- 5.21 The limit on campaign finances for SORF Board candidates is two hundred twenty-five dollars (\$225).
- 5.22 Students may vote for any combination of undergraduate and graduate/professional candidates.

#### Voting

- 5.23 In the event of a tie, the CSEC shall hold a runoff election between the top two candidates of any given seat in accordance with § 9.14. Ties shall be resolved by a drawing of lots by the CSEC.



## **Chapter VI: Campus Referendum Guidelines**

- 6.01 The CSEC administers, on behalf of the Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs, all referenda submitted to a vote of the students of the Urbana campus.
- 6.02 A referendum is defined as a question or questions seeking the electorate's opinion on an issue which may cause formation of policy or a change to an existing policy, may recommend to University authorities a specific action, or may propose a new student-initiated fee. Referendum questions are not considered binding.
- 6.03 All questions must be registered with the CSEC. Registration and approval must be done before collecting any signatures. The electronic submission form for the current academic year is at <http://studentelections.illinois.edu/>. If the electronic submission form is not available, questions may be e-mailed to the CSEC to initiate the process.

### Referendum Sponsorship, Submission and Approval

- 6.04 Any individual student, Registered Student Organization (RSO), or the Illinois Student Council may sponsor a referendum, submit that referendum to the CSEC, and subsequently petition that the referendum be placed on the ballot. Questions can be submitted within the duration specified in the Student Election Timeline. The CSEC reserves the right to alter referendum deadlines.
- 6.05 Sponsors will be accountable for the referendum throughout the electoral process.
- 6.06 To be an individual sponsor of a referendum question a student must meet the following minimum academic and enrollment criteria:
  - a. Be enrolled at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign making progress toward an undergraduate, graduate, or professional degree.
  - b. Be physically present on the Urbana campus for the semester(s) in which the question is submitted, petitioning is conducted, and voting is conducted.
- 6.07 To be an organizational sponsor of a referendum, a student organization must:
  - a. Be in good standing and able to verify registration with the Office of Registered Student Organizations for the current academic year.
  - b. Submit a referendum through the president of the organization.
- 6.08 The sponsor of a referendum question must submit the text of the question to the CSEC via email for approval. The approval of the referendum question must take place before gathering any signatures. The referendum must meet the following criteria:

- a. Referendum questions must not be a survey question, must be stated in the affirmative, if possible, must be answerable with single and unmodified “yes” or “no” choice, and shall address one subject matter.
  - b. Include a title, not exceeding fifteen (15) words, by which the measure will be commonly referred to or spoken of;
  - c. Include the text of the proposal, not to exceed forty (40) words; and
  - d. Include a summary, an explanatory statement, not exceeding seventy-five (75) words in length, of the chief purpose of the measure.
  - e. Include any hyperlinks anywhere in the referendum text will be counted towards the word length of that specific section.
- 6.09 The CSEC will review all referendum questions. This review process involves a mandatory in-person meeting or workshop with referendum sponsors to clarify and amend language and intent. The process may also include questions to the sponsoring party that address compliance with laws, ordinances, regulations, University policy, or the election rules.
- 6.10 Failure to meet with or respond to the CSEC may result in the rejection of the submitted question.

#### Referendum Placement

- 6.11 Referendum questions pertaining to the renewal of student-initiated fees under [§ 3-505 of the Student Code](#) are subject to automatic placement on the ballot. Any other referendum question is subject to the rules herein.
- 6.12 Placement of a question on the ballot requires one of the following:
- a. An Act of the Illinois Student Council adopted by vote of a majority of the entire membership of the ISC Congress; OR
  - b. A petition containing signatures of five (5) percent of the total number of students eligible for nomination and election to the U-C Senate, which may be estimated from data reported on [the Division of Management Information Final Statistical Abstract](#).
- 6.13 Petitions must be completed using a web form administered by the CSEC. Hardship exceptions may be granted in extenuating circumstances. The solicitation of petitions is not permitted prior to the approval of the referendum question by the CSEC.
- 6.14 Validation of signatures will be done using enrollment data from the Banner ERP system.

- 6.15 A signatory to a referendum petition has the right to revoke his/her signature by furnishing notice to the CSEC or to a sponsor of the referendum question, who must forward the notice to the CSEC in a timely manner.
- 6.16 The CSEC shall enforce the right of the Illinois Student Council to reconsider or to rescind sponsorship of a referendum question, except in cases where such action is taken after the ballot is finalized.
- 6.17 All referendum questions sponsored by the Illinois Student Council must be submitted to the CSEC no later than ten (10) business days before the election.
- 6.18 In general, the entire process of bringing a question to the ballot, which includes petitioning, must be completed in the same semester in which the question is submitted, and this period is independent of the semester in which the question may appear on the ballot. Sponsors are entitled to the time advantage provided by early initiation of the referendum process. The CSEC may impose deadlines prior to the end of a semester to accommodate the question review and petition validation processes.
- 6.19 A question that has fulfilled all requirements for placement on the ballot shall automatically be set for placement on the next available Spring semester ballot and cannot be voluntarily deferred to a later ballot.

#### Voting

- 6.20 A referendum may be held only once every Spring semester. No referendum will be held during the summer sessions.
- 6.21 The Illinois Student Council may request that the CSEC hold a fall referendum to adopt constitutional amendments.
- 6.22 All referenda will require a simple majority of those voting to pass, except for questions to reorganize the Illinois Student Council which requires a two-thirds majority of those voting to pass.
- 6.23 The implementation of any passed referendum is the responsibility of the student government, other relevant campus groups, and administrators. The CSEC shall hold no responsibility regarding referendum other than the administration of the vote.

## Campaigning

- 6.24 Sponsors of referendum questions are restricted to seven hundred and fifty dollars (\$750) for the acquisition of campaign assets or the use of money for goods and services for campaigning.
- 6.25 Sponsors of referendum questions must adhere to all additional campaign regulations and expectations outlined in Chapter VII.

## **Chapter VII: Election Campaigning**

- 7.1 Campaigning shall be defined as any action by a person or group in a non-private manner that deliberately or inadvertently promotes a candidate or referendum question OR conveys information or opinion about a candidate or referendum question.
- 7.2 Campaigning is further defined as any action conducted with the intent to influence a voter or student election, including distributing or posting campaign literature and materials; soliciting votes verbally, through the mail, by telephone, electronically by text, media, or any web-based form of communication; wearing campaign buttons; sponsoring campaign meetings, press conferences, or rallies; and other activities as determined by and subject to the discretion of the CSEC.
- 7.3 The display or presence of anything that accomplishes the above definition of campaigning is considered campaigning and not solely the placement or transmission of the tangible or intangible item.

## Regulations

- 7.4 No candidate, no member of a “Ticket”, or any campaign staff member may disseminate campaign materials or postings containing false or misleading information about a candidate, “Ticket”, slate, or campaign staff member.
- 7.5 Candidates and their agents shall not make defamatory remarks in the public or on social media (*e.g.*, Facebook, Twitter, Snapchat, Reddit, etc.) about another campaign/candidate or encourage others to make such remarks.

- 7.6 Candidates and their agents shall not foster prejudice against another candidate because of membership in a protected class; or remove, destroy, or mutilate another candidate's campaign materials or encourage others to perform such acts.
- 7.7 Campaign materials include, but are not limited to:
- a. An electoral advertisement
  - b. A printed or digital document containing an electoral matter (a how-to-vote card, a candidate or party platform, etc.)
  - c. Any posting on any social media or traditional media platform intended to promote a candidate, Ticket, or other electoral matter. These platforms include, but are not limited to privately acquired websites, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, GroupMe, etc.
  - d. "Postings" include, but are not limited to Facebook status updates, tweets, Instagram posts or stories, Snapchat stories, GroupMe messages, etc.
- 7.1 Candidates may use University branding and copyrighted materials if the candidate's activities do not present the candidate as a representative or agent of the University. Use of University branding and copyrighted materials is subject to university policy (see [III-16 of the Campus Administrative Manual](#)).
- 7.2 Campaigns may wear T-shirts, stickers, buttons, or other forms of electoral advertisement inside campus dining areas, residence halls, and/or other university buildings.
- 7.3 Campaigning by means of chalking is permitted when in compliance with [§ 2-407 of the Student Code](#). The use of "Spray Chalk" and similar paints, chinks, inks, etc. that do not wash away with rain is strictly prohibited. Regular (i.e., washable) sidewalk chalk may be used only on surfaces approved by the University. Chalk is strictly prohibited on all vertical surfaces, buildings, walls, planters, doors, trash receptacles, steps, fountains, benches, tables, signs, poles, columns, bus stops, light posts, and trees.

- 7.4 Campaigning within residence halls is strictly prohibited with the exception of bulletin boards and the door to an individual's own room, unless the individual wishing to campaign has obtained a canvassing permit in the [Office of the Dean of Students \(300 Turner Student Services Building\)](#) and the [Office of Residential Life, \(300 Clark Hall\)](#). See [§ 2- 407 of the Student Code](#) for more information. Students need to go to the Office of the Dean of Students first and then will be directed to the Office of Residential Life. Approved canvass permits must be submitted to the CSEC prior to any campaigning in the residence halls.
- 7.5 Campaign materials may only be affixed to general University bulletin boards, other general use / “free will” spaces, or digital signage. **They should NOT be placed on doors, walls, windows, trees, sidewalks, or trash cans, nor may they be affixed to the ground.** Improperly posted materials will be removed at the violator's expense and may result in university disciplinary action for violation of [§ 2-407 of the Student Code](#). Posting in any location controlled by University Housing requires completion of a [Posting/Flyer Authorization Form](#).
- 7.6 [§ 2-407 of the Student Code](#) allows for the distribution of materials inside university buildings within common areas, other than residence halls, provided that such distribution does not impede traffic flow or disrupt University business such as classes, laboratories, meetings, or office work. Distribution means that individuals physically hand/offer materials to other individuals who may accept them or refrain from receiving them. Leaving a stack of materials to be picked up, or placing materials on vacant seats, empty spaces, etc., is considered littering, not distribution. Distribution by means of manual placement of materials in mailboxes is not permitted, but this does not prohibit the use of paid bulk mailings through the U.S. Postal Service.
- 7.7 Offices and areas throughout the University of any kind may be designated as Campaign-Free Zones. It shall be a violation to engage in campaigning in such a zone, which shall be treated as if the zone were a classroom with a class in session. The following are campaign-free zones, in which all campaign activities are prohibited:
- Non-public areas of otherwise public buildings (e.g., Illini Union Hotel).

- The Illinois Student Council Suite on the Second Floor of Illini Union South.
- The Second Floor of Illini Union South.
- Turner Student Services Building (610 E. John St).
- Swanlund Administration Building (601 E. John St).
- The Office of the Campus Senate (228/232 English).
- McKinley Health Center.
- Any area in which an approved Campaign-Free Zone sign is posted.

Additional campaign-free zones may apply to specific elections as detailed in Chapter V.

7.8 Candidates may not disrupt normal print media circulation; candidates may not remove newspapers, magazines or similar media from distribution racks and distribute these items instead of permitting persons to independently acquire them from the distribution racks.

7.9 Candidates may not participate in co-campaigning. Co-campaigning shall be defined as a group of candidates who collaborate with one another on a platform, campaign events, or campaign materials. Any activity to this end is defined as co-campaigning and is prohibited.

#### Use of Information Technology

7.10 Any campaigning using electronic means must follow the campus electronic distribution policy.

7.11 Any bulk-messaging of any kind must comply with anti-spam laws and regulations.

7.12 Campaign materials may not be sent to a listserve not owned or operated by the campaign.

7.13 The Policy on Appropriate Use of Computers and Network Systems at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign applies to student elections and the referendum and will be enforced ([see VIII-1.1 of the Campus Administrative Manual](#)).

7.14 Candidates are reminded that correspondence with the CSEC is considered University business and may be subject to public disclosure under the [Illinois Freedom of Information Act \(FOIA\)](#).

#### Activities of Organizations

- 7.15 Candidates can campaign with the endorsement of Registered Student Organizations.
- 7.16 Candidates or their agents may not exchange anything of value for the endorsement of any group or organization.
- 7.17 Registered Student Organizations can endorse as many candidates as approved by the members of the organization. Candidate endorsements should be submitted to the CSEC by the president of the organization with a guarantee of member approval using the Student Election Endorsement Form. Advertisements or materials produced by the RSO and reposted by candidates can feature multiple candidates and cannot be considering a co-campaigning violation against candidates.
- 7.18 Candidates may receive endorsements from any organization of a type listed items (a) through (e) in the Classification of Organizations ([§ 2-301 of the Student Code](#)), which includes Registered Student Organizations. Candidates may not present endorsements without possession of a signed Student Election Endorsement Form, signed by the president of the organization, for which a copy must be provided to the CSEC. If the candidate is the president of the organization, then the next executive shall substitute for the president.
- 7.19 Candidates may neither 1) permit an organization to campaign on a candidate's behalf without receiving a formal endorsement nor 2) use an organization's resources in support of campaigning without receiving a formal endorsement. A signed Student Election Endorsement Form must be submitted to and approved by the CSEC by the deadline provided by the Student Election Timeline.
- 7.20 If an organization engages in campaigning (e.g., e-mailing, social media posting) and violates the election rules, the violation is enforceable against the candidate or ticket for whom campaigning is done.

## **Chapter VIII: Campaign Finances**

- 8.01 Candidates and sponsors of referenda questions are required to account for all of the following campaign assets:



- a. All goods and services acquired in exchange for consideration (money, goods or services, equipment, technology).
  - b. Any other tangible or intangible, including right of use, assignable to a candidate which can be separated from the candidate and assessed a monetary value.
- 8.02 Declarations of monies and campaign assets shall be made on the Student Election Financial Disclosure Form. The disclosure form must include all assets including donated services, professional services personally rendered, and tangible goods personally created or owned. The statement must also include the total monies sourced from natural persons and the individual amounts of money sourced from non- natural persons.
- 8.03 Individual candidates, and referendum sponsors are required to submit a Student Election Financial Disclosure Form, even if no money was spent on campaigning.
- 8.04 The CSEC may establish specific instructions for completing the Student Election Financial Disclosure Form which may include instructions on how to value or aggregate campaign items.
- 8.05 Candidates shall account for the sources of money used to acquire campaign assets. Disclosure of names of individuals is not necessary, excluding the candidate themselves. Disclosure of the names of businesses may be required.
- 8.06 The value of a campaign asset shall be the price paid for the asset at the current market rate.
- 8.07 The total value of all campaign assets should not exceed limits set in the Student Election Code for specific offices, as outlined in Chapter V.
- 8.08 Contributions from foreign entities not associated with the University are prohibited.
- 8.09 Candidates may not receive more than 50% of their allowed campaign funds from a singular non-profit, corporation, or RSO.
- 8.10 If a student is a candidate for more than one office, then each value limit applies separately. The value of any campaign material for any office may be countable in whole or in part, against the limits of all offices for which the student is a candidate.

## **Chapter IX: Voting**

- 9.01 The electorate shall consist of all persons who are undergraduate, graduate, or professional students at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign enrolled for:
- a. At least one (1) credit OR
  - b. Zero (0) credits with documentation of intent to take or completion of a graduate college examination in the current semester or participation in an academic activity considered by the Graduate College to contribute towards full-time status. Persons in this status must submit a request for a ballot from the CSEC.
- 9.02 If the rules for the election of an office modify the electorate from § 9.01, those specific rules shall supersede § 9.01.
- 9.03 The voting system may be configured to screen eligible voters in an efficient manner, such as registration for the current term. When the voting system excludes an individual, that individual may request a provisional ballot from the CSEC if the student believes he or she was improperly excluded. With respect to the voting system improperly recording the vote of an ineligible person, such as a full-time employee taking classes, it may be presumed that this occurs with a sufficiently low frequency that such votes are immaterial to the results. This shall not preclude any voter's right to contest the results.
- 9.04 The ballot shall be administered on an electronic system. The voting system shall accept votes from Noon on the first voting day until 11:59:59 a.m. on the second voting day.
- 9.05 Voters may vote on any computer with internet access.
- 9.06 The ballot shall contain the following information:
- a. The name of the candidate, candidate nomination statement or the text of the referendum question.
  - b. Additional ballot requirements may apply to specific elections or to the referendum.
- 9.07 A candidate's name as on file with the University will be used on the ballot unless the candidate requests the use of a shortened first name or nickname.
- 9.08 The CSEC has full discretion to reject content from being placed on the ballot based on the standards set in § 4.03.

- 9.09 The elections homepage ([studentelections.illinois.edu](http://studentelections.illinois.edu)) and printed media from the CSEC shall list candidates in alphabetical order. The ballot shall list candidates in random or quasi-random order.
- 9.10 A write-in vote is only permitted for candidates seeking election to the Illinois Student Council.
- 9.11 If a voter chooses fewer candidates than the number of available positions, then these unused choices are forfeited.
- 9.12 Voters shall not be able to cast more than one ballot. Voters found to have cast more than one ballot shall have none of their ballots counted.
- 9.13 The candidate(s) receiving the highest numbers of votes will be declared the winner(s) of the election, unless specific election rules call for election by a method other than a plurality.
- 9.14 In the event of a tie for SORF Board, ISC Student Representative, or University Senate, the CSEC will break the tie through a runoff election.
- 9.15 Upon completion of tabulation, including all write-in votes, the CSEC shall announce the election results and publish the results on the CSEC website. The CSEC will certify the election no later than 2 weeks after the results have been announced.
- 9.16 Polling Places (common use computers) may not be established at bars or restaurants.
- 9.17 Individuals and organizations other than the CSEC may not set up computers for voting unless authorized to administer a Public Polling Place by the CSEC.

## **Chapter X: Campaign Ethics, Complaints and Enforcement**

- 10.01 All persons affiliated with the University shall be permitted to seek action against a candidate for a violation, but no individual other than a member of the CSEC may enforce these rules. The CSEC has the discretion to assess potential complaints for the determination of a violation of the Student Election Code, ethical conduct, or university policies and standards.
- 10.02 Any complaint, grievance or contest must be filed by the deadline named in the Election Timeline. All submissions should follow the directions provided

- on the Student Election Violation Form provided by the CSEC. Email may be used when a form is not available. Failure to file a matter formally with the required information or failure to appeal within the prescribed time will void any claim and/or challenge.
- 10.03 The CSEC shall have the power to enact enforcement irrespective of the filing of a complaint by a third party. The CSEC shall have the power to exercise discretion in enforcement and may dismiss complaints without right of appeal.
  - 10.04 Only violations of these rules by candidates, agents, and slates thereof shall be considered permissible for actions against candidates.
  - 10.05 Any infraction of laws, ordinances, regulations, or University policy arising out of conduct related to elections may be referred to the Office of Student Conflict Resolution (OSCR) as appropriate.
  - 10.06 Upon receipt of a complaint, the CSEC shall notify the candidate in question within 48 hours.
  - 10.07 The candidate will be required to submit a statement indicating whether they accept the complaint within 48 hours.
  - 10.08 If the candidate accepts the complaint, penalties will be applied, and the candidate is expected to remedy the issues in the complaint. The extent of how the issues are remedied will be considered in the application of penalties.
  - 10.10 If a candidate does not accept the complaint, the complaint will be investigated by the CSEC. At the conclusion of the investigation, penalties may be applied. The candidate is expected to remedy any issues in the complaint found to be valid.
  - 10.11 The CSEC will review all complaints submitted before the deadline set forth in the Student Election Timeline and shall decide on those claims in a timely manner.
  - 10.12 Credibility of the supporting information and of the persons who provide the information related to a complaint may be incorporated in decisions.
  - 10.13 Enforcement actions require a simple majority vote of the CSEC.
  - 10.14 Correspondence and documents related to complaints may constitute public records under the law and are subject to Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests.
  - 10.15 Decisions made by the CSEC may be appealed to the VCSA in accordance with the Student Election Appeal Procedures.

### Violations and Sanctions

10.16 Violations and their appropriate sanction will be determined according to these tiered guidelines; however, the CSEC retains the final determination of appropriate sanctions.

- Tier 1 - Sanction: Written Warning

A tier one offense is a violation that may have been inadvertent or can be easily remedied, such as campaigning in Campaign-Free Zones, etc.

- Tier 2 - Sanction: Censure

A tier two offense is a violation that was intentional or repeated that caused some extent of harm to another campaign, such as disrupting normal print media circulation, posting defamatory material, misusing information technology, repeated tier one violations, etc.

- Tier 3 - Sanction: Financial Penalty and Censure

A tier three offense is a violation made to intentionally disrupt the election process but can be remedied or a violation that can be remedied through financial compensation to another organization (business, university, etc.), such as spray-chalking university property, or financial disclosures by the deadline and after a reminder from the CSEC, causing minor damage to a property, etc.

- Tier 4 - Sanction: Immediate Disqualification or Removal from the Ballot

A tier four offense is a violation made to intentionally disrupt the election process that cannot be remedied which is reserved for the most severe offenses, such as breaking local laws or the Student Code of Conduct, tampering with the impartiality of elections, election fraud, preventing others from voting, etc.









