

Colorado Mesa University
Associated Student Government
ELECTION RULES AND REGULATIONS

Article I. PREAMBLE

These election procedures and rules are written for the purpose of electing Senators, the Student Trustee, the Vice President and President of the Colorado Mesa University Student Government.

These procedures and rules have been established to ensure proper, fair and impartial ASG elections. These election rules allow students the right to vote and the right to be elected into office. All clarification of these procedures should be sought prior to taking any action in a campaign. It should also be noted that no campaigning may begin before a candidate has signed the election code and intent form set out by the Associated Student Government.

All candidates will be held accountable to all sections of this code and are subject to penalties for any violations by the candidates themselves or individuals acting under the direction of the candidate. In addition, it is expected that all candidates and campaigns will conduct their activities in accordance with all applicable Colorado Mesa University policies and procedures.

Article II: Definitions

Altering shall mean modifying a sign or poster from its original state.

ASG Members shall mean any student that serves as a Senator, an Executive or as a Supreme Court Justice and meets all requirements outlined in Article I of the ASG Bylaws.

Ballot shall mean the media on which the vote is recorded, transmitted, or counted.

Campaign Material shall mean any supplies used by a candidate or candidate's staff that have the primary purpose of furthering the candidate's likelihood of being elected.

Campaigning shall mean any activity by a candidate that has a primary purpose of furthering the candidate's likelihood of being elected, or by an individual that has a primary purpose of furthering the defeat of or passage of a referendum, an initiative, or a candidate.

Campaign Tracker Report refers to the form that each candidate must file with the Election Committee Chair weekly to disclose what clubs and organizations each candidate is meeting with.

Campaign Finance Report refers to the form that each candidate must file with the Election Committee Chair weekly in order to demonstrate the candidate is in compliance with the spending restrictions and to disclose the source of campaign funding to the CMU population.

Candidate shall mean one who meets the qualifications as outlined in ASG's Constitution, and who has met the requirements of Candidacy as defined in Associated Student Government Constitution and Bylaws.

Intent Form refers to the form that each candidate must complete and file with the Vice President or Election Committee Chair to officially establish their candidacy.

Defacing shall mean spoiling or marring the appearance or surface of a sign or poster or flyer. Defendant shall mean the person against whom any grievance is filed with the Student Supreme Court. Destroying shall mean completely ruining a sign or poster.

Election Code of Conduct refers to the document that outlines the rules and regulations for that election.

Falsification shall mean the act of making false by alteration.

Flyer shall mean any printed material up to the size of 8.5 inches by 11 inches that is displayed or distributed anywhere on campus.

General Election refers to the annual fall and spring elections.

Initiative refers to a petition signed by a certain minimum number of qualified student voters that can force a student vote on a proposed constitutional amendment.

Plaintiff shall mean the party that institutes an appeal before the Student Supreme Court.

Poll Worker shall mean any person assigned to work at a polling site.

Poster shall mean any printed material greater than the size of 8.5 inches by 11 inches and up to seventy-two inches by ninety-six inches that is displayed anywhere on campus.

Referendum refers to a ballot question and is a direct vote in which the entire student body is asked to either accept or reject a particular proposal.

Sign shall mean the same as a poster.

Special Election refers to those elections provided for in Article X of the Associated Student Government Constitution.

Valid Signature shall mean the signature of an ASG member.

Article III. Eligibility of Candidates and Voters

A. CANDIDATES

1. All candidates shall meet all qualifications set forth in the ASG Constitution and Bylaws.
2. All candidates shall have completed and submitted the ASG Election Code of Conduct as well as an intent form by the end of the filing period or if another deadline is given.
3. All candidates shall have attended the mandatory meeting set up by the Associated Student Government, or met with the body in charge of the elections to review the election code no later than 5 business days from the mandatory meeting in order to retain their name on the ballot.
4. Candidates seeking a senatorial position shall declare a major within a school they seek to represent prior to his/her filing of the Intent form.
5. If the Candidate or the Election Chair decides that the candidate's field of major is not best suited to their representative abilities, then changes may occur as Election Committee sees fit.
6. Candidates seeking the office of president shall have not served more than three years as president.
7. A candidate may only run for one office at a time.

In order to be eligible for the ASG elected positions, all requirements must be met in order to run in accordance with Colorado Mesa University policies and the ASG Constitution, Bylaws and all supporting documents. All candidates' eligibility will be checked with the registrar's office. The names of ineligible candidates may not appear on the ballot.

B. VOTERS

1. For all Student Government Elections, voters are all registered Colorado Mesa University students.
2. Each voter shall only vote once for each ballot during every election.

Article IV. Referendum and Initiative Qualifications

A. Proposal Procedure for Student Government

1. Proposals for referendums, initiatives as well as amendments to the Student Government Constitution can be made by the Associated Student Government or by any member within it. These proposals can only go to a student body vote:
 1. After a (2/3) majority vote of the Senate and approval of the President.
 2. By petition containing the signatures of a minimum of ten (10) percent of the student body population stating the specific issues to be resolved.
- B. Procedure for proposals sponsored by an individual
 1. Proposals for referendums, initiatives as well as amendments to the Student Government Constitution can be made by any member of the Colorado Mesa University Student body. These proposals can only go to a student body vote:
 1. A petition containing the signatures of a minimum of ten (10) percent of the student body population stating the specific issues to be resolved and:
 2. After the language of the proposal has been approved by the President, Vice President, or Senate Leader of the Associated Student Government.
 3. The proposal consists of a single statement such that a student may vote either “yes” or “no.”
 4. Each line of signatures shall be composed of a student’s full name printed, signature, contact information, and student ID number.
 5. Proposals shall be submitted no later than the deadline of intent forms.
 6. All campaign spending and procedure requirements as set forth in these bylaws must be followed.

Article V. Adoption of Referendum and Initiative Proposals

Referendums, Initiatives and amendments shall be adopted by majority approval of those voting students (50% plus one).

Article VI. Candidate Registration

- A. Candidates shall declare their official candidacy by filing with the Election Committee an Intent Form no later than the deadline given by the Election Committee Chair. Intent forms shall be made available to the student body no less than 10 days prior to the filing deadline. Deadlines for filing shall be reported to all campus news outlets by the Associated Student Government.
- B. Intent forms must be turned in no later than the deadline given by the Election Committee. They shall be turned in to the Election Committee Chair. All candidates also must submit a brief biography and professionally acceptable photograph via email or other acceptable format deemed by the Election Committee Chair no later than two weeks prior to the first Election Day.
- C. All candidates must fill out the intent form and sign the Election Code of Conduct.
- D. No write-in candidates will be eligible to run and will not be recognized by the Election Committee.
- E. All candidates must submit a Campaign Finance Report and Campaign Tracking Report the Friday of every week during the campaign to the Election Committee Chair.

Article VII. Election Code of Conduct

- A. The Election Code of Conduct refers to a document that must be presented to the candidates by the Vice President or the Election Committee Chair. This document must be signed and submitted by the candidates prior to the election that the candidate will be running in.
- B. The Election Committee Chair shall present this document to the candidates during the required candidate meeting.
- C. No campaigning will be allowed until this document has been signed and approved by the Election Committee Chair and Director of Student Life, and an official email from the Election Committee Chair declaring the start of campaigning.

Article VIII. Campaign Spending and Disclosure Requirements

- A. Joint campaigns for the offices of the President and Vice President shall not spend more than \$1,000 in promoting their candidacy during any election.
- B. Campaigns for the office of Student Trustee shall not spend more than \$500 in promoting their candidacy during any election.
- C. Campaigns for the office of Student Senator shall not spend more than \$150 in promoting their candidacy during any election.
- D. All campaigns for proposed initiatives, referendums and amendments cannot spend more than \$350 in promoting their respective proposal.
- E. All non-monetary gifts shall count toward the campaign spending limitations.
- F. All candidates, of personal or initiative, shall file a Campaign Finance Report that includes the following:
 - All sources of campaign finances, detailing the source of the funds (donations, personal contributions), the date of receipt, the name of the source, the monetary value, and the form of the funding (cash, direct deposit, check).
 - All receipts of purchase for campaign spending, whether it was used for physical materials or otherwise, which are required to show the date of purchase, items purchased, and the money spent.
- G. Candidates shall file a Campaign Finance Report with the Elections Committee Chair on the Friday of each campaign week. Failure to file the report in a timely manner may result in a candidate's disqualification. Intentional falsification of any Campaign Finance Reports shall, without exception, result in a candidate's immediate disqualification. Following a review by the Elections Committee Chair, the weekly report will be released to the public and the press within forty-eight (48) hours of Candidate submission.
- H. All cumulative Campaign Finance Reports disqualified or otherwise shall be released to the public and the press no later than 48 hours following the closure of the election polls.

Article IX. Campaign Procedure

The intent of the following posting and campaigning policies, when considered together, are to ensure creative, fair and controlled posting for all candidates. It is to be further understood that these policies are aimed at minimizing litter and achieving the highest combined quality of all candidates' campaigns.

- A. Candidates may have volunteer campaign teams to help build on the candidates campaign. The campaign team must follow all policies put forth by the Associated Student Government and Colorado Mesa University, and may not receive monetary compensation.
- B. Once the Election Code of Conduct has been signed by the candidate, the Election Committee Chair, and the Director of Student Life, candidates may begin campaigning.
- C. All campaign materials must be removed by the candidates no later than 5:00 p.m. the day following Elections.
- D. No Student Fee Funded organization is able to endorse specific candidates during any point of the election. The leaders of the organizations may personally endorse, but cannot do so on any platform that is not personally owned.

Article X. Posting Campaign Materials

- A. Candidates must follow all posting and solicitation policies and procedures of each Colorado Mesa University Building.
- B. Campaign materials may only be posted during the Active Campaigning period.
- C. There shall be no campaign materials placed in any university designated computer lab.
- D. The use of the Colorado Mesa University email system and MAVzone may not be abused by any candidate or campaign.
- E. Campaign materials may be placed on college posting locations and other places specifically designated for announcements and public notices with the proper consent.
- F. All chalking must:
 - 1. Be made in water-soluble chalk.
 - 2. Not be on any walls or upright structures.

3. Follow all other Campus chalking guidelines.
- G. In the event that the Associated Student Government finds that any campaign material is improperly placed the material must be removed the same day that the candidate is asked to remove it.
- H. There are no restrictions on person to person distribution of literature and/or campaign materials (except restrictions as specified in the college's official solicitation policy).
- I. No campaign materials shall be distributed within official polling locations designated by the Election Committee.
- J. All campaign material shall be taken down the day before voting starts, in which Active Campaigning will only be designated at the Colorado Mesa University Plaza.

Article XI. Election Procedure

- A. Appeals
 1. In the event that a candidate feels that an election or campaign has not been run properly, an appeal may be made to the Student Supreme Court.
- C. Investigations
 1. The Student Supreme Court shall investigate all reports of election code violation.

Article XII. Electronic voting and use of College Technology

The purpose of this section is to ensure that the online voting process is conducted in a fair and impartial manner along with the other campaigning policies.

- A. General Guidelines
 1. All elections of the Student Government shall only be conducted by electronic voting.
 2. There shall be no paper balloting for any election.
 3. The Associated Student Government is required to ensure all votes are correctly counted and correctly tabulated.
- B. Official Polling Stations
 1. The officially recognized ASG polling stations are all Colorado Mesa University computer laboratories.
 2. As the voting technology is electronic and web based, any student can vote from any computer whether on campus, at home, in the library or elsewhere around the country.
 3. Valid voting can only take place where people are not invited to come together for the purpose of voting, except when hosted as an ASG voting awareness event.
 4. In the event where people who live together share a computer, it can be considered a valid polling station since the people accessing it are known and no one outside this group is being invited to cast a vote.
 5. In the event it is a public accessible computer, such as in a library or coffee house, it again is considered a valid polling station so long as a group of people are not brought together for the purposes of casting their votes.
 6. Should the Associated Student Government provide a polling station, there shall be no active campaigning of any kind within 50 feet.

Article XIII. Violations

- A. Violations of the Election Rules and Regulations will result in automatic disqualification from running for offices as well as any other penalties that the Associated Student Government deems necessary.

Article XIV. Campaign Timeline

- A. Upon receipt of the Intent to Run, and signed Election Code of Conduct, the Election Committee Chair will have one week to review all qualifications of candidates.
- B. After review of qualifications, the Election Committee Chair will send an Official email to all qualified candidates to start Campaigning.
- C. The email will be sent four (4) weeks prior to the last day of voting in the upcoming election.
- D. Campaigning ends at 5:00pm on the last day of voting.

- E. The Election Committee Chair shall disclose the final campaign timeline to all candidates and media before any campaigning may start.

Article XIV. Amendments

- A. Any amendment to this document or the subsequent Election Code shall require a two thirds (2/3) majority vote of all voting members of the Senate following each of the three consecutive readings at regular meetings of the Student Senate.
 - 1. Amendments to this document are subject to approval or veto by the president.
- B. All changes should favor a fair and honest election process and serve the wishes of the student body.
- C. This document shall not be re-written or amended in its entirety in the form of one amendment. The intention is for this document to be changed as needed and not nullified in one decision of student government or any other governing body.

Article XV. Interpretation of the Code

- A. Interpretation of this document is the responsibility of the Student Supreme Court. All questions or matters of uncertainty should be directed to the Election Committee and/or the Student Supreme Court.
- B. Candidates are solely responsible for their actions in the ASG Elections. It is the candidate's responsibility to know and remain within the terms laid out by this document.
- C. The Student Supreme Court shall be the final say in matters regarding the Associated Student Government Elections.

Approved: March 7, 2018

The complete Election Rules and Regulations contain:

- Attachment A: Election Code of Conduct
- Attachment B: Online Election Intent Form

These original Election Rules and Regulations were written in the fall of 2008 by Ryan Hendershot, Vice President and Nick Lopez, Senate Leader.

Updated on February 18, 2015 by Alex Forsett, Vice President (updated ASG 12-13, ASG 12-14)

Updated on March 31, 2015 by Alex Forsett, Vice President (ASG 14-59, 60, 61, 62, 63, 64)

Updated on March 8, 2017 by Alec Williams, Chief of Staff (ASG 16-37, 16-38, 16-39)

Updated on March 7, 2018 by Ben Linzey, President (ASG Executive Order 17-03, 17-04)

Updated on March 22, 2019 by Jeffrey T. Vela, Vice President (ASG 18-26)

Updated Spring 2021 by Haley Weideman, ASG Senate Leader (ASG Bill 20-39)

Updated Spring 2023 by Cy Shimamura, ASG President (Executive Order 22-06)