



LIBERTY UNIVERSITY

STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION
*STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT
ELECTION RULES AND PROCEDURES*

Part I. Framework and Interpretation of Rules

1. These rules shall constitute the complete set of election rules and policies for the office of Student Body President and Vice President. Any other election rules, procedures, and policies that may have existed in the past are formally and completely repealed and are null and void.
2. Only the acts expressly prohibited in these rules may result in penalties against a candidate.
3. Only the penalties prescribed in these rules may be applied.
4. In interpreting these rules, the Election Board and Student Court must apply the rule of lenity – in the event of multiple reasonable interpretations of a provision, the possible interpretation which is the most permissible and favorable to the accused campaign shall apply.
5. When adjudicating an alleged violation of these rules, the Election Board and Student Court shall consider whether the facts of a rule violation have been proven by clear and convincing evidence and are consistent with all requirements in applicable SGA governing documents.
6. Any violation of the above rules may result in one or more strike(s), as provided in the below table. Three strikes will result in disqualification of the offending campaign and immediate removal from the ballot.
7. Disqualification shall only occur if the rule violations, together, could have materially impacted the fairness and integrity of the election process.

Part II. Election Procedures

1. It is the responsibility of the candidates to properly educate themselves on the Election Rules and Procedures. Candidates are responsible for informing their campaigns, agents, workers, and volunteers of the Elections Procedures and Rules, and all applicable University Policies. The candidate may be found responsible for the actions taken by their campaigns, agents, workers, and volunteers to the extent permitted by the Constitution.
2. Applications must be submitted by the date posted on the SGA website. No late applications will be accepted.
3. The Student Body President and Vice President shall be elected under a plurality voting system in which the ticket that polls the most votes is elected.

4. Only current undergraduate residential and current undergraduate commuter students are permitted to vote in the Student Body Presidential Election. Those who are not permitted to vote include but are not limited to online students, graduate students, doctoral students, medical students, law students, alumni, and faculty.
5. Candidates must meet the following qualifications in order to run:
 - a. Must be at least a Junior residential student by credit (according to DCP) and maintain good academic standing according to the Academic Policy Handbook.
 - b. Must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0.
 - c. Must not have received any single offense of 10 points or more, according to the Student Honor Code, within the past two semesters at the time of their application.
 - d. Must have served two semesters of at least 20 hours in SGA prior to running for Student Body President or Vice President. The second semester served can occur while the candidate is running.
 - e. Must be able to serve a full-year term and not graduate before their term has ended.
 - f. Cannot be a Resident Assistant or Resident Shepherd during their term.
 - g. Student Body Presidential candidates must run with a corresponding Student Body Vice Presidential candidate.
6. Each approved candidate is required to attend the Candidate Orientation in order to finalize/sign their application. The Election Commissioner will inform the approved candidates of the specific time and location of the meeting via email. Failure to attend the Candidate Orientation will result in disqualification unless a reasonable excuse is provided.
7. If a candidate drops out of the election after Candidate Orientation, then the remaining half of the ticket (whether a Presidential or Vice-Presidential candidate) must appoint another qualified candidate to run with him or her as the Vice-Presidential candidate. However, at least one person on the ticket must have been an approved candidate at the conclusion of Candidate Orientation.
8. Official campaigning through social media (including but not limited to Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.), public announcements of campaigns to a group of people, rallies, and promotional materials (including but not limited to t-shirts, flyers, stickers, buttons, posters, etc.) is allowed only from the posted date of the start of the election.
9. Any violation of the above procedures may result in one or more strikes in accordance with the table of "Strike Values" listed in these rules. Three strikes will result in disqualification of the offending campaign and removal from the ballot.

Part III. Election Rules

1. While Election Rules are subject to change on an election-by-election basis, the rules for each election will be final as of the end of Candidate Orientation and will be distributed electronically via the SGA website.
2. Posters may be submitted to the Office of Commuter Life to be displayed in official Community Boards (for more information, see <https://www.liberty.edu/students/student-life/commuter/community-boards/>). All other poster use is unauthorized unless specified elsewhere in these rules or permitted by a University department for posting in their department space.
3. Announcements may be submitted to be displayed on the TVs across campus upon Election Board approval. Further information may be found here: <https://www.liberty.edu/marketing/slides/>.
4. Campaigns may put up posters in the residence halls upon RA approval. The Candidates are required to inform the RAs that if they are approved to hang up posters then RAs must allow the same privilege to every campaign.
5. Campaigns may make announcements at hall meetings, with RA approval. The Candidates are required to inform the RAs that if they are approved to make a hall announcement then RAs must allow the same privilege to every campaign.
6. Campaigns may ask professors if they may give a brief in-class announcement to inform a class of the campaign. Professors may deny any such request.
7. Campaigns are prohibited from going directly to Events to reserve tables and will be required to forfeit any previously reserved tables at the Candidate Orientation. Campaigns will be given tables on a rotating basis until spaces are filled.
8. Each campaign may set up a table in SGA-designated tabling areas beginning the Wednesday before Election Day and ending at the conclusion of the voting period.
9. Campaigns may bring handouts, fliers, poster boards, laptops, speakers for music, and anything to give away, (i.e., candy, stickers, pins, etc.), provided that such items are in accordance with university policy. All tables must be taken down and packed up by 5:00 pm each day. Each campaign that requests a table must provide a time of arrival at that table. If the campaign does not arrive at the requested table by 15 minutes after the time requested, the table will be forfeited and given to the next candidate who wants it.
10. Campaigns should ensure any music that is played is in line with administration's Music Listening Policy.

11. Candidates with pre-existing positions in SGA must continue to fulfill the obligations of those positions during the Election. However, candidates should not abuse those positions to gain election support.
12. Campaigns are prohibited from using resources owned and supplied by departments of the university without prior approval from the Election Commissioner. The Election Commissioner may ask to review a list of such resources in deciding whether to grant approval. This provision applies to resources offered by the school to campaigns as well as resources requested by campaigns.
13. Physical campaigning¹ (not including campaigning through social media) is not permitted during Convocation or within 100 feet of the Vines Center thirty minutes before or after Convocation.
14. Physical campaigning such as handing out flyers and other campaign material is not permitted in the Jerry Falwell Library but is allowed in Tinney Food Court and the JFL airlock.
15. Defamation is prohibited. Defamation is defined as a false statement of fact, communicated intentionally or with reckless disregard to the truth, which causes harm to a person's or campaign's reputation.
16. Campaigns are strictly prohibited from having direct communication with the members of the Election Committee regarding elections. If a candidate wants to ask questions to a committee member, then they must do so through the Election Commissioner. The Election commissioner will be the communication link between the Election Committee and the candidates.
17. Any form of bribery is strictly prohibited. Bribery is herein defined as offering, giving, soliciting, or receiving of any item of value as a means of influencing the actions of an individual with respect to voting or the adjudication of any dispute regarding elections. Giveaways are permitted, but campaigns are not allowed to use any language that communicates to an individual that their chances to win are dependent on their decision to vote one way or another.
18. Social media campaign accounts may not be publicized by any campaign prior to Candidate Orientation. No campaign shall offer any consideration, monetary or otherwise, for obtaining followers, accounts, or endorsements over social media, and any such activity shall be considered bribery.
19. All campaigns must adhere to the Liberty Way.
20. Candidates are prohibited from using SGA funds and resources during their campaign. Scheduling an event through University Events as an SGA Event Request is not a use of

¹ Campaigning includes, but is not limited to, passing out flyers, advertising your campaign, tabling, etc.

SGA funds or resources. Any request for an event space must be given to the Election Commissioner at least two weeks prior to the event.

21. Candidates are prohibited from explicitly or implicitly threatening students, other candidates, University personnel, or any other person. Threatening is defined as a statement of an intention to inflict pain, injury, damage, or other hostile action to cause fear of harm.
22. All election promotion by SGA will be handled by the SGA Director of Communications, and the Election Commissioner shall issue final approval for all such promotional material.
23. All physical marketing material must be approved by the Election Board for compliance with administrative marketing policies and uniqueness.
24. Campaigns should keep an accounting of all contributions and expenditures. An audit of each campaign shall be conducted by the Election Board the day before the Election Period begins to ensure compliance with the following financial regulations.
 - a. Total campaign expenditures should not exceed \$1,500.
 - b. All campaign donations must be used for a campaign purpose and may not be kept for personal use.
25. Concerns of rule violations must be submitted through a form provided to the candidates. This form must be filled out in its entirety and will be monitored by the Election Commissioner and Election Board. Concerns must not be made through email, phone call, or text unless in the case of an emergency, where the Election Commissioner is needed to resolve direct confrontation between campaigns. If a rule violation is reported, there must be evidence of the rule violation. Immediately after a report of a rule violation, the Election Commissioner will provide a copy of the report to the other party.

Strike Values²

Offense	Strikes
Not attending Candidate Orientation	Disqualification
Announcing campaign or campaigning before Candidate Orientation	Rejection of application
Bribery or threats	Disqualification
Poster or announcement violations	1 strike
Tabling violations	1 strike
Financial violations	1 strike
Misuse of university resources or SGA position	1 strikes
Defamation	2 strikes
Physical campaigning during wrong times or in wrong locations	2 strikes

² Depending on the seriousness of the offense, the values may be more or less than what is listed.

Student Body Election Dates and Times – Spring 2024

❖ Application Opens:	Wednesday, January 18 th , 12 AM
❖ Candidate Interest Meeting:	Thursday, February 8 th
❖ Application Deadline:	Friday, March 1 st
❖ Candidate Orientation:	Friday, March 1 st
❖ Election Period Begins:	Monday, March 4 th
❖ Start of Tabling:	Wednesday, March 20 th
❖ Debate:	Friday, March 22 nd
❖ Voting Days:	Wednesday, March 27 th – Thursday, March 28 th
❖ Announcement of Results:	Thursday, March 28 th , 5 PM
❖ Inauguration:	Thursday, April 25 th