

ELECTIONS CODE  
OF THE  
ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF  
ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY  
UNGRADUATE STUDENT GOVERNMENT

ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

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## CHAPTER 1. Offices Under Election

- 1.1. Each year during the Spring Semester, four elections shall be held:
  - 1.1.1. One USG election for each of the four ASU governments, Downtown, Polytechnic, Tempe, AND West Valley.
- 1.2. Each USG election shall consist of races for the following positions:
  - 1.2.1. USG President, USG Vice President of Services, and USG Vice President of Policy, which shall run together on a single USG Executive Ticket.
  - 1.2.2. USG Senator(s) for each college/school, the representation and number of which, including at-large senators, shall be determined by the bylaws of the respective government.
  - 1.2.3. USG Elections Commissioner, to serve in the following year's election.
  - 1.2.4. USG Assistant Elections Commissioner, to serve in the following year's election.

## CHAPTER 2. Election Timeline

- 2.1. Each election shall proceed through the following periods, which are herein collectively known as the "election cycle":
  - 2.1.1. Nomination Period - A period in which an individual formally declares their candidacy via application to the Elections Department. Beginning the first Monday in February and ending the last Friday in February. For the election in Spring 2026, the dates would be February 2nd through February 27th.
  - 2.1.2. Verification Period - A period in which candidates of continued interest undergo preliminary eligibility checks to confirm they meet all requirements for candidacy. Beginning as soon as the Nomination Period ends and ending as soon as the Campaign Period begins. For the election in spring 2026, the dates would be February 27th through March 16th.
  - 2.1.3. Campaign Period - A period in which eligible candidates actively campaign so as to directly influence the outcome of the election through persuasion of votes (See 12.1 for definition of Active campaigning). Beginning the first Monday after the conclusion of the ASU Spring Break and ending as soon as the Election Period begins. For the election in spring 2026, the dates would be March 16th through March 31st.
  - 2.1.4. Election Period - A period in which election ballots are available to all qualified voters. Students shall cast their votes via ranked choice voting,

electing their desired representatives for each office (See Chapter 14 for ranked choice voting definition). Beginning the third Tuesday after the conclusion of the ASU Spring Break and ending 48 hours later. For the election in Spring 2026, the dates would be March 31st at 12:00 AM through April 2nd at 12:00 AM.

- 2.1.5. Certification Period - A period in which the Elections Department tallies the votes for each election to determine the winning candidate for each office. During this time, the Election Department confirms that office-elects won fairly and remain qualified. Beginning as soon as the Election Period ends and ending 7 days later. For the election in Spring 2026, the dates would be April 2nd at 12:00 AM through April 9th at 12:00 AM
- 2.2. If the election period overlaps with a holiday recognized by the US Federal Government, the state of Arizona, or Arizona State University, the election period shall be extended by 24 hours per each holiday it overlaps.

## CHAPTER 3. Voter Qualification

- 3.1. A student is eligible to vote in a USG election if they are enrolled in at least three credit hours as a current undergraduate during the semester of the election and, at the beginning of the election cycle, are enrolled in a major or program housed at the campus where the election is held.
  - 3.1.1. In the case of a student with majors or programs spanning multiple colleges or campuses, the student shall be eligible to vote only in the election of the college or campus with which they have the longest continuous affiliation, determined by the order of declared majors. If the earliest declared major has been discontinued, eligibility shall default to the next longest-held major or program.
- 3.2. Students in Barrett, the Honors College may vote in an additional Barrett the Honors College Senate election.

## CHAPTER 4. Candidate Qualification

- 4.1. To qualify as a candidate for a position outlined in Chapter 1, a person must:
  - 4.1.1. Be a qualified voter in the election for the position, as specified in Chapter 3.
  - 4.1.2. Have a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.6.
  - 4.1.3. Be a student in good disciplinary standing with ASU.

- 4.1.4. Declare their intent to run by submitting the candidate application on time for the given position, and maintain eligibility for that position as specified in the applicable USG bylaws, throughout the entire term of office.
  - 4.1.4.1. Student Body President's eligibility will be reflected in each government's bylaws.
- 4.2. In each election cycle, a person may only run for one position in one election.
- 4.3. A person must both qualify and complete the procedures required by the Election Code to obtain candidate status.

## CHAPTER 5. Elections Department

- 5.1. The ASASU Elections Department, herein referred to as the Elections Department, shall be responsible for conducting the election, addressing election disputes, enforcing this Elections Code, and maintaining all elections records.
- 5.2. The Elections Department shall maintain a public record of all:
  - 5.2.1. All campaign staff for at least one (1) year following the end of the election cycle in which the campaign participated.
  - 5.2.2. Final Campaign Expense Reports, for at least four (4) years following the end of the election cycle in which the campaign was conducted.
  - 5.2.3. Final vote counts for each race must be kept until they are filed with the university office as the official, permanent record.
- 5.3. The Elections Department comprises of the following positions:
  - 5.3.1. One Elections Commissioner for each ASASU member government,
  - 5.3.2. One Assistant Elections Commissioner for each ASASU member government.
  - 5.3.3. Vacancies in the Elections Department shall be filled in accordance with the applicable ASASU member government's vacancy-filling policy.
- 5.4. Each Elections Commissioner is responsible for running the election for which ASASU government they are affiliated.
  - 5.4.1. The Elections Commissioner is responsible for enforcing this Elections Code and may make any determinations necessary to conduct the election, so long as those determinations do not conflict with this code.
  - 5.4.2. The Assistant Elections Commissioner is to take on the duties of the Election Commissioner, if need be.
- 5.5. Elections Department Staff for each ASASU member government shall be appointed by the respective Assistant Elections Commissioners through an application process.

- The Elections Commissioner shall assume responsibility for this in the absence of an Assistant Elections Commissioner.
- 5.5.1. Notice about this application process, along with an invitation to apply, must be sent to all qualified voters by the Elections Department.
  - 5.5.2. Applications must remain open for a minimum of five (5) business days.
  - 5.5.3. The Elections Department Staff must be appointed prior to the beginning of the election cycle.
- 5.6. A roster of all members of the Elections Department shall be made publicly accessible to all qualified voters.
- 5.6.1. The Elections Department shall maintain and update this roster following any changes to the members of the Elections Department.
  - 5.6.2. This roster shall remain publicly accessible until the end of the election cycle.
- 5.7. No member of the Elections Department shall be affiliated with or support in any way any candidate's/ticket's campaign, directly or indirectly, except by exercising their individual right to vote. This shall not be construed to prevent members of the Elections Department from providing information about the elections, or about all candidates in a given race equally pursuant to the duties of the Elections Department.
- 5.8. No member of the Elections Department or Supreme Court shall become a candidate for any of the races in any of the elections in the election cycle.
- 5.9. The Elections Commission, as defined in this chapter as the Elections Commissioner and their assistant, is responsible for oversight of any incoming complaints regarding elections and existing violations as determined in chapter 15.

## CHAPTER 6. Campaign Staff

- 6.1. Campaign staff are defined as any individual who is instructed by a candidate, a ticket, or another campaign staff member to perform tasks on behalf of the campaign, or who otherwise participates in campaign activities. Such duties and activities include distributing campaign material or information verbally, physically, or virtually on behalf of a candidate's campaign.
- 6.2. A person who meets any of the following criteria shall not be classified as campaign staff, unless they also engage in activities that otherwise qualify them as campaign staff under this Elections Code.

- 6.2.1. A student shall not be considered a campaign staff or campaign staffer if he/she independently endorses a candidate, without direction from a candidate or campaign staffer-
- 6.3. Campaign staff must be on a public record, herein referred to as a “campaign staff roster”, with the Elections Department as soon as that person meets the criteria to be considered a campaign staffer and prior to engaging in any further campaign activities.
  - 6.3.1. The Elections Department will create a public space on the ASASU website, to post campaign staff rosters, and will ensure that space and all campaign rosters in it are accessible to the public for the full duration of the election cycle.
  - 6.3.2. The Elections Department will provide each candidate/ticket with sufficient access to the public space so that candidate/ticket can post and update their own campaign staff roster.
  - 6.3.3. Candidates/tickets are responsible for keeping their own respective staff rosters updated and compliant with this chapter.
- 6.4. Once an individual meets the criteria to be considered campaign staff, they must complete and pass the same quiz required for candidate qualification before participating in any campaign activities.
- 6.5. Candidates/tickets may delegate any tasks required of them by this Elections Code to campaign staffers unless otherwise prohibited, but will still assume responsibility and liability associated with those tasks regardless of such delegation.
- 6.6. Candidates/tickets are responsible for informing their campaign staff of any provisions in this Elections Code, as well as any applicable provisions from University Policy or ASASU governing documents.
- 6.7. Candidates/tickets are responsible for the conduct of their campaign staff. Any violation of this Elections Code by a member of a candidate’s/ticket’s campaign staff may be considered a violation by that candidate/ticket.
- 6.8. A candidate’s/ticket is generally not responsible for the conduct of any supporters, so long as:
  - 6.8.1. The supporter(s) do not meet the criteria to be considered members of that candidate’s/ticket’s campaign staff.
  - 6.8.2. It is not proven that the supporter acted upon the instruction of the candidate/ticket or a campaign staffer for that candidate/ticket.

- 6.8.3. Supporter(s)' actions cannot reasonably be interpreted as having been directly influenced by the words, actions, or campaign activities of the candidate/ticket or any member of their campaign staff.

## CHAPTER 7. Campaign Materials

- 7.1. Campaign materials refers to any items or services including, but not limited to, posters, signs, leaflets, t-shirts, buttons, handbills, websites, stickers, business cards, tabling materials, social media content, or any other advertising promoting a candidate or ticket that is created with the intention of soliciting votes.
  - 7.1.1. Physical campaign materials refers to any campaign materials used, provided, or posted physically in-person, including, but not limited to, posters, signs, leaflets, t-shirts, buttons, handbills, stickers, business cards, or tabling materials. Projecting imagery, words, logos, etc. onto a physical surface or creating imagery, words, logos, etc. through the arrangement of physical objects such as drones are also considered physical campaign materials.
  - 7.1.2. Virtual campaign materials refers to any campaign materials used, provided, published, or posted digitally including, but not limited to, websites, online chat rooms, group chat messaging, online promotional services, emails, online service subscriptions, and social media posts owned and/or affiliated with a campaign.
- 7.2. The use of ASASU and/or Arizona State University copyrighted images on any campaign materials, is strictly prohibited. Candidates shall make reasonable efforts to avoid using such copyrighted materials. A list of prohibited images can be found at: <https://brandguide.asu.edu>.
  - 7.2.1. ASU logos, texts, or group messaging services that require an ASU login or an ASU email are prohibited.
    - 7.2.1.1. For purposes of inclusivity, this prohibition will not apply to online students regarding group messaging, not ASU logos.
- 7.3. The use of copyrighted material without appropriate permissions, or any material not otherwise legally permissible for use in campaign materials is strictly prohibited. Candidates/tickets are responsible for ensuring that they have the appropriate permissions to use any material in their campaign materials.
- 7.4. The use of AI-generated images or videos in campaign materials is strictly prohibited, unless the candidate/ticket using the image can reasonably demonstrate the generated image is in no way derived from copyrighted work or work the

generating program otherwise did not have legal permission at the time the model was trained on said work.

## CHAPTER 8. Campaign Expenses

- 8.1. A campaign expense is any expenditure, regardless of amount, on campaign materials or activities intended to further a campaign. This includes, but is not limited to: physical materials, printing, graphic design, content creation, design platforms, advertising, and paid social media promotions.
  - 8.1.1. Any such expenses incurred by the campaign staff of a candidate/ticket are still considered campaign expenses.
  - 8.1.2. Expenses incurred by individuals or organizations outside a campaign, but made on behalf of a candidate with the candidate's knowledge and approval, shall be considered campaign expenses. This includes, but is not limited to, candidate-endorsed events.
- 8.2. Any campaign expenses must be on a public record, herein referred to as an "expense report", with the Elections Department.
- 8.3. Within the periods identified by the Elections Department, candidates are responsible for reporting all campaign expenses within 48 business hours of each expense.
- 8.4. These expenses must be reported regardless of whether they occurred before or after the start of the campaign period.
  - 8.4.1. The Elections Department shall maintain and make available to all candidates a Campaign Expense Form.
  - 8.4.2. The Campaign Expense Form must be explicitly provided to each candidate prior to the start of the Campaign Period and shall remain available to all candidates for at least the full duration of the full election cycle.
  - 8.4.3. This form shall be the only way for candidates to report campaign expenses.
- 8.5. Candidates are responsible for accounting for all campaign expenses through receipts or invoices
  - 8.5.1. These receipts must be submitted with the Campaign Expense Form.
  - 8.5.2. Submitted receipts must include, at a minimum, the date of the expense, the amount of the expense, and the person(s) or organization(s) the money was paid to.
  - 8.5.3. Multiple expenses may be accounted for on a single submitted receipt, so long as the receipt is itemized by each expense it is being used to account for.

- 8.5.4. Failing to account for an expense with submitted receipts will require a written justification, and may be considered a violation of this Elections Code.
- 8.5.5. Expenses should be accounted for and reported within forty-eight (48) hours of incurring the expense. Failure to meet this deadline may be considered a violation of this Elections Code.
  - 8.5.5.1. Expenses for refunded items shall not count against the candidate's spending limit, so long as the candidate provides proof of refund, and the expenses must be approved by the Elections commissioner through the Campaign Expense Form.
- 8.6. The Elections Department will create a public space to post campaign expenses, and will ensure that space and all reports in it are accessible to the public for at least the full duration of the election cycle.
  - 8.6.1. Upon receipt of any reports of campaign expenses, the Elections Department will update the corresponding Elections report, if such updates are not automated.
- 8.7. Materials or services purchased or provided by a person to the campaign free of charge are considered donations, and are counted toward the campaign's overall spending limit. These donations are still subject to all the same rules, regulations, limitations, and reporting requirements as campaign expenses in this Elections Code.
  - 8.7.1. Any donation must be reported in the same way campaign expenses are, and must include what would have been the market value of the donation, should the campaign have paid for it, and the person(s) or organization(s) providing the donation.
  - 8.7.2. If the material or service is provided at a discounted price to the campaign, then the full, non-discounted price shall be used as the amount of the expense for counting towards the campaign spending limit, unless that discounted price is made available to all campaigns in which case the discounted price shall be used.
- 8.8. Election spending limits shall be as follows:
  - 8.8.1. \$1250 for each Executive Ticket in the ASASU election.
  - 8.8.2. \$300 for each senator candidate in any USG election
- 8.9. The Elections Department shall maintain a permanent record of all final expense reports.

## CHAPTER 9. Election Preparation

- 9.1. The election cycle dates and process shall be publicized on all relevant ASASU social media and websites at least thirty (30) days prior to the beginning of the election cycle.
- 9.2. Thirty days prior to the beginning of the election cycle, a general announcement about the election will be made to the entire ASU student body. This announcement must contain (or link to a web page or document accessible to the entire student body that contains):
  - 9.2.1. The dates for each period in the current election cycle.
  - 9.2.2. The estimated date election results will be announced on.
  - 9.2.3. Links to the job description/duties for each position in the election.
  - 9.2.4. A link to the complaint form, instructions on how to submit a complaint, and the expected response time on any submitted complaints.
  - 9.2.5. A link to the current version of this Elections Code.
  - 9.2.6. Contact information for the Elections Department and a link to the Elections Department roster.

## CHAPTER 10. Nomination Period Procedures

- 10.1. The Elections Department shall make the application for candidacy available to all students no later than the beginning of the Nomination Period.
- 10.2. The application for candidacy shall include, at a minimum:
  - 10.2.1. The dates for each period in the current election cycle.
  - 10.2.2. The estimated date election results will be announced on.
  - 10.2.3. The job description/duties or a link to the job description/duties for each position in the election.
  - 10.2.4. A way for the applicant to indicate which position in which race and election they intend to become a candidate for.
  - 10.2.5. Fields include qualifications of a candidate listed in Chapter 4.
  - 10.2.6. A link to the current version of this Elections Code.
  - 10.2.7. Contact information for the Elections Department.
- 10.3. To become a candidate for a position outlined in Chapter 1, a person must:
  - 10.3.1. Qualify as a candidate as outlined in Chapter 4 AND
  - 10.3.2. Submit an application for candidacy to the Elections Commissioner overseeing the election for the campus that position is held.

- 10.3.3. Complete a candidate info session.
- 10.3.4. Pass the Candidate Information Quiz on the current Elections Code provided by the Elections Department.
- 10.4. Each candidate must independently qualify for the position sought, regardless of participation in a ticket.
- 10.5. Once the Elections Commissioner receives an application for candidacy, they will:
  - 10.5.1. Verify the applicant is qualified as a candidate as outlined in Chapter 4.
  - 10.5.2. Notify the applicant of their status and, if qualified, provide details regarding Candidate Info Sessions.
- 10.6. USG will offer a minimum of two online informational sessions, known herein as “Candidate Info Sessions”.
  - 10.6.1. Each applicant must attend or view the recording of at least one of the candidate info sessions.
  - 10.6.2. These sessions will both be recorded, and the recording will be provided to any applicants unable to attend.
  - 10.6.3. Applicants who view a recording must notify the Elections Commissioner to confirm completion.
- 10.7. The content of the Candidate Info Session will contain, at a minimum:
  - 10.7.1. All rules, restrictions, and procedures on campaigning outlined in this code, including any determinations made by the Elections Department as required by such rules, restrictions, and procedures.
- 10.8. Upon completion of the candidate info session, the applicant must take and earn a passing score on the candidate information quiz. Upon passing the candidate information quiz, the applicant becomes an official candidate for their chosen position.
- 10.9. Any applicant who fails to meet the requirements for the position they are running for by the end of the Nomination Period will be disqualified. If the applicant is part of a ticket, the entire ticket will be disqualified.

## CHAPTER 11. Verification Period Procedures

- 11.1. The Elections Department shall confirm that each candidate meets all eligibility requirements for the position they are seeking, as outlined in this Elections Code.
- 11.2. The Elections Department shall notify all applicants of their status as either qualified candidates or ineligible applicants.

## CHAPTER 12. Campaign Period Procedures

- 12.1. Campaigning is defined as any public action initiated by either a candidate or a member of that candidate's campaign staff, to persuade members of the student body to vote for, against, or encourage specific rank choice voting selections of a candidate(s), initiatives, or referendums. Examples of campaigning include:
  - 12.1.1. Posting, displaying, or distributing campaign materials, scheduling of speaking engagements or events, and soliciting donations or endorsements.
  - 12.1.2. Posting or sending or otherwise distributing messages, chats, or any content with the intent to persuade members of the student body to vote for or against a candidate(s), initiatives, or referendums shall be considered campaigning.
  - 12.1.3. Soliciting person(s) to join, like, follow, subscribe, or otherwise engage with a group chat, messaging platform, server, page, social media account, or other similar app or platform shall be considered campaigning.
  - 12.1.4. Asking for permission to campaign, as required by the Elections Code, may itself count as campaigning.
    - 12.1.4.1. Candidates are required to collect and maintain records of any permissions they obtain pursuant to campaigning requirements in this Elections Code, and to be able to produce those records within one (1) business day of being requested.
  - 12.1.5. Any other actions not listed above are not considered campaigning, but may be subject to additional review at the discretion of the Elections Commissioner.
- 12.2. Campaigning may only take place during the campaign period and the election period. The following are the only exceptions to this and may take place prior to the campaign period beginning:
  - 12.2.1. Hiring or recruiting campaign staff
  - 12.2.2. Ordering, picking up, or crafting campaign materials
  - 12.2.3. Partaking in any other activities that can reasonably be viewed as planning for the campaign so long as neither the candidate(s) nor campaign staff are soliciting votes in any way.
- 12.3. All candidates, campaign staff, and campaign activities are subject to the relevant University Policies and Procedures and the Arizona Board of Regents policies.
- 12.4. On-campus campaigning is generally permitted, with the following restrictions:
  - 12.4.1. Campaigning is not permitted in any Arizona State University library or computer lab. Speaking to clubs and organizations that meet in libraries or

- computer labs shall not be considered a violation, nor shall use approved by building administration of public signage space and boards.
- 12.4.2. Campaigning is prohibited in classrooms while a class is in session. The only exception is during the first or last ten (10) minutes of the class period, provided the candidate has obtained prior written approval from the instructor. Candidates must collect and retain records of all permissions obtained under the campaigning requirements of this Elections Code. These records must be produced within one (1) business day upon request by the Elections Department.
- 12.4.3. Neither campaigning nor the presence of campaign materials is permitted within forty-two (42) feet of the USG offices.
- 12.4.3.1. In the event a candidate is wanting to meet with an organization or coalition permanently housed in the same building as an ASASU office. Said candidate must receive written approval from said organization or coalition to meet with them in their office a minimum of twelve (12) hours before the start of the scheduled meeting.
- 12.4.4. Campaigning is not permitted within forty-two (42) feet of on-campus housing, including but not limited to dorms, apartments, Barrett Honors Village, and the Greek Leadership Village.
- 12.4.4.1. The following circumstances shall be considered exceptions to this provision:
- 12.4.4.1.1. A person wearing or carrying campaign materials so long as the person is not actively campaigning.
- 12.4.4.1.2. A campaign staff member individually working on campaign materials, such as producing, editing, reviewing, but not distributing said materials.
- 12.4.4.1.3. Campaigning for a ticket at the ASU Downtown MCOE space.
- 12.4.5. The use of amplification equipment on campus is prohibited without approval from the appropriate parties.
- 12.4.6. Posting any physical and online campaign materials must be in accordance with all applicable University policies. Candidates/tickets are responsible for removing any posted physical campaign materials within the forty-eight (48) hours after the end of the election cycle.

- 12.4.6.1. Online campaign materials, once posted, may remain publicly accessible for the duration of the election cycle and after. Candidates are not required to remove previously published online content, provided it complies with all other requirements of this Elections Code.
- 12.4.7. Chalking on any university-owned property is strictly prohibited.
- 12.5. Off-campus campaigning is permitted in private off-campus residential locations provided the candidate or person(s) campaigning have written permission of the owner, operator, manager, or resident of the location, depending on who has jurisdiction.
  - 12.5.1. Door-to-door solicitation, or otherwise approaching people in or around their place of residence for the purpose of campaigning or soliciting votes for or against a specific candidate is strictly prohibited. Campaigning in common areas or facilities is acceptable as long as appropriate permissions are secured as required in this section.
  - 12.5.2. A person(s) inviting candidate(s)/ticket(s) or campaign staff into that person(s) private residence for the purpose of hosting or facilitating campaign activities shall not be considered a violation of this section.
- 12.6. Campaigning online is generally permitted, with the following restrictions:
  - 12.6.1. All restrictions that apply to in-person class sessions and physical classrooms also apply to virtual class sessions and classrooms.
  - 12.6.2. Campaigning through the use of visual and audio elements, including but not limited to, custom names, custom avatars icons or emojis, software chat features, and video conferencing backgrounds are considered campaigning whether passively or actively used and thus the same restrictions specified in this chapter apply.
- 12.7. Campaigning through group chats, messaging platforms, servers, pages, social media accounts, and other similar apps, herein referred to as “channels”, is generally permitted, with the following restrictions:
  - 12.7.1. Any such channels created for the purpose of campaigning must be clearly marked as such in a way clearly visible to any potential member or follower of that channel. Intentionally misrepresenting a channel created for this purpose is strictly prohibited.
  - 12.7.2. Candidates or their supporters may campaign through a channel originally created for purposes other than campaigning, provided they have prior

written permission from the channel's owner(s) or administrator(s). This requirement does not apply to passive changes, such as updating the name, avatar, or profile image of an account that is owned and controlled solely by the candidate or campaigner. Such accounts may not represent or impersonate anyone other than their owner.

- 12.7.2.1. If campaigning is prohibited in a specific public space under this Code, then the corresponding public chat or online channel associated with that space is also not a permissible location for campaigning. For example, if campaigning is not allowed in residence halls, it is also not allowed in residence hall group chats or channels.
- 12.8. Leafleting of any vehicles, on or off campus, is strictly prohibited.
- 12.9. Destroying, removing, stealing, defacing, damaging, or otherwise tampering with any campaign materials is strictly prohibited. A candidate/ticket or campaign staffer for that candidate/ticket removing campaign materials that obstruct their own campaign materials shall not be considered a violation of this clause, so long as the person(s) doing the removing document the obstruction and removal and notify the Elections Department.
- 12.10. No ASASU resources may be used by anyone for the purpose of any campaign.
  - 12.10.1. This includes, but is not limited to, the use of computers, printers, paper, phones, or copy machines that are available to only members of ASASU, as doing so would provide an unfair advantage.
  - 12.10.2. This does not include university email, nor does this include use of services provided by USG to all students their respective governments preside.
  - 12.10.3. This shall in no way prevent members of the Elections Department from utilizing the necessary ASASU resources to carry out the duties of the Elections Department.
- 12.11. Endorsements from student organizations and/or ASU affiliated organizations are generally allowed, with the following restrictions:
  - 12.11.1. Soliciting endorsements is considered campaigning, and thus is subject to the timeline restrictions on campaigning in this chapter and elsewhere in this code.
  - 12.11.2. The executive board of the organization must make the determination on whether to endorse any candidate(s) or ticket(s). If the student organization is considering endorsing the campaign of a ticket and any member of that ticket

- is also a member of the student organization, the ticket members must abstain from all action, discussion and decision by the organization concerning endorsement.
- 12.11.3. Student organizations, regardless of endorsement, may not require members to vote for any candidate(s) or ticket(s), nor require members to wear or otherwise display any campaign materials for any candidate(s) or ticket(s).
  - 12.11.4. No provisions of this Elections Code shall be construed to exempt a student organization and/or ASU affiliated organization from complying with all applicable bylaws, constitutions, charters, rules and regulations and/or local or national provisions from other organizations they may be affiliated with regarding endorsements or statements of support.
  - 12.11.5. Neither ASASU as an organization, nor any of its member governments shall endorse any candidate or ticket in any race in any election-
  - 12.11.6. No current executive office holders in any ASASU student government shall endorse any candidate or ticket in any race in any election during the current election cycle, in an official capacity.
  - 12.11.7. No current member of the Elections Department shall endorse any candidate or ticket in any race in any election during the current election cycle, even in their personal capacity.
- 12.12. The use of university staff-maintained listservs (electronic mailing list software) for campaigning is strictly prohibited.
- 12.12.1. Student organizations using Sun Devil Central, or their own, independently maintained listservs shall not be considered a violation of this provision.
  - 12.12.2. Candidates or campaign staffers collecting, compiling, and otherwise using their own email lists shall not be considered a violation of this provision, so long as those emails were not gathered from a university staff-maintained listserv the candidate or campaign staffer has privileged access to.
  - 12.12.3. This provision shall not be construed to prevent members of the Elections Department from using university-staff maintained listservs for providing information about the Elections, or about all candidates in a given race equally pursuant to the duties of the Elections Department.
- 12.13. The Elections Department shall hold and manage at least one official debate for Student Body Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates in each election during the campaign period.
- 12.13.1. If there is a ticket running unopposed, an interview should occur.

- 12.13.2. These debates will be organized by the respective Elections Commissioners.
- 12.13.3. Participating in these debates shall be mandatory for all candidates for any executive position. Failing to participate will result in disqualification, unless specifically excused by the Elections Commissioners.
- 12.13.4. All Student Body Presidential and Vice-Presidential Debates are required to be available for public viewing through both in-person attendance and live streaming.
- 12.14. Additional debates may be held during the campaign period.
  - 12.14.1. Debates for Undergraduate Student Government Senate candidates may be hosted by either a college's college council or by a majority of ASU-affiliated clubs and organizations within a particular college, specifically for their respective senate candidates.
    - 12.14.1.1. If a Senator does not attend a debate called by their college, they will be cited with a level one violation (3 points).
  - 12.14.2. The group hosting the debate shall notify the Elections Department of the scheduled time, location, a list of invited candidates, topics to be covered, and other relevant details of the debate at least four business days in advance of the scheduled time.
  - 12.14.3. The Elections Department shall determine a standard means for notification pursuant to this section.
  - 12.14.4. The Elections Department reserves the right to invite all relevant candidates to participate in the debate held by the student organization.
- 12.15. Bribing voters with monetary, material, or social incentives of substantial value to affect their voting choices or voting behavior is strictly prohibited. The Elections Department shall determine what constitutes "substantial value" pursuant to this clause.

## CHAPTER 13. Election Period Procedures

- 13.1. Ballots for each election shall include:
  - 13.1.1. A list of each position in the election and that position's duties as outlined in the relevant USG bylaws.
  - 13.1.2. The name of each qualified candidate for each race in that election and the biography statement submitted by that candidate for that race.
  - 13.1.3. The ability, for each race, to rank each qualified candidate for that race in order of the voter's preference.

- 13.1.4. Contact information for the Elections Commissioner overseeing the election.
- 13.2. Ballots shall be made accessible online for the full duration of the Election Period to all qualified voters for the election(s) in which the voter is qualified to vote.
- 13.3. All races in all elections shall use the Ranked Choice Voting system as described in Chapter 14.
- 13.4. Proxy voting of any kind shall not be permitted, with the exception of differently-abled students requiring assistance.

## CHAPTER 14. Certification Period Procedures

- 14.1. All races in all elections shall be tallied according to the Ranked Choice Voting system:
  - 14.1.1. Voters rank the candidates/tickets by preference on their ballots.
  - 14.1.2. The Elections Commissioner tallies the ballots for each race they oversee.
  - 14.1.3. If a candidate wins an outright majority of first-preference votes (i.e., 50 percent plus one), they will be declared the winner.
  - 14.1.4. If, no candidates/tickets win an outright majority of first-preference votes, the candidate/ticket with the fewest first-preference votes is eliminated.
  - 14.1.5. The elimination of a candidate/ticket causes all their initial first-preference votes to be nullified, thereby transferring the second-preference selections on those ballots to be counted as first-preference votes.
  - 14.1.6. The Elections Commissioner conducts a new tally to determine whether any candidate has won an outright majority of the adjusted voters.
  - 14.1.7. This process of eliminating the candidate/ticket with the fewest votes and recounting all ballots shall continue until one ticket receives a majority of the valid votes in a round.
  - 14.1.8. If a tie occurs, after proceeding through the above process, the Elections Commissioner calls a run-off election.
  - 14.1.9. Any preference votes for a disqualified or otherwise ineligible candidate/ticket shall be ignored, and any lower-ranked choices shall be promoted as necessary as if the ignored preference ranking was not present.
- 14.2. In the event a candidate is disqualified or otherwise becomes ineligible for the position for which that candidate ran, the disqualified recount procedure shall be:
  - 14.2.1. The Elections Commissioner shall eliminate the disqualified candidate from the race, or, if the candidate is a member of a ticket, eliminate the entire ticket from the race.

- 14.2.2. On each ballot, any choices ranked below the disqualified candidate/ticket are promoted in rank such that each such choice is ranked one rank higher and the choices are all still ranked in the same order.
- 14.2.3. If any part of an individual voter's ballot, including the entire ballot, is cast fraudulently, that voter's entire ballot shall be discarded and none of the votes or preference rankings on that voter's ballot shall be counted.
- 14.2.4. The Elections Commissioner then re-conducts the tally as described in this chapter as if the disqualified candidate/ticket was not part of the race.
- 14.3. The Elections Commissioner shall retain a record of the ballots and tallies through at least the time the winners of the races are to be inaugurated, for reference in the event an otherwise winning candidate/ticket fails to take office for any reason (for example, voluntarily backing out, losing eligibility, or being disqualified).
- 14.4. The Elections Commissioner shall report the results of the election to the Election Commissioners's advisers.
  - 14.4.1. The Elections Commissioners and their advisers will perform a final verification that the winning candidates are each eligible for the positions they have won.
  - 14.4.2. If a candidate is found to be ineligible, that candidate will be disqualified.
- 14.5. The results of the election are confidential and shall only be known by the Elections Commissioners, Assistant Elections Commissioners, and the Elections Commissioners' Advisors prior to the final announcement.

## CHAPTER 15. Violations

- 15.1. Violations of this election code are classified into three levels, with each successive level representing a more serious infraction and carrying a more serious penalty.
- 15.2. The accumulation of nine (9) points by any candidate will result in the disqualification of the candidate. If the candidate is a member of a ticket, the entire ticket shall be disqualified.
- 15.3. Any offense not enumerated in this chapter shall be subject to the discretion of the elections commissioners.
- 15.4. Level one (1) infractions shall result in three (3) points per infraction, and shall include:
  - 15.4.1. Failure to abide by provisions in the Campaign Expenses (see Chapter 8).
  - 15.4.2. Failing to report a person who qualifies as a campaign staffer on the campaign staff roster (see Chapter 6).

- 15.4.3. Failure to abide by provisions in Campaign Expenses regarding spending limits (see Chapter 8).
- 15.4.4. Failure to abide by endorsement provisions.
- 15.5. Level Two (2) infractions shall result in six (6) points per infraction, and shall include:
  - 15.5.1. Campaigning in ASU libraries or computer labs (see Chapter 12).
  - 15.5.2. Defacing or obstructing campaign materials from other campaigns (see Chapter 12).
  - 15.5.3. Obstructing the Elections Department or any member of the Elections Department in the discharge of their departmental duties.
  - 15.5.4. Intentionally misrepresenting campaign material or a channel created for the primary purpose of campaigning as not being affiliated with a campaign (see Chapter 12).
  - 15.5.5. Failure to abide by neutrality provisions, including using any ASASU resources to aid a candidate's campaign, or endorsing or otherwise affiliating with any candidate's campaign.
- 15.6. Level Three (3) infractions shall result in nine (9) points per infraction, and shall include:
  - 15.6.1. Failure to remain qualified as a candidate through the duration of the election cycle (see Chapter 4).
  - 15.6.2. Failure to abide by anti-bribery rules or engaging in similar coercive behavior (see Chapter 12).
  - 15.6.3. Campaigning outside of the Campaign Period (see Chapter 2 and Chapter 12).
  - 15.6.4. Falsification of any reports, complaints, submissions, public records, or other information required by the Elections Code.
  - 15.6.5. Aiding any person in fraudulent voting.
  - 15.6.6. Destruction of other candidate's ~~any~~ campaign/non-campaign materials (see Chapter 12).
  - 15.6.7. Falsely claiming an endorsement.
  - 15.6.8. Retaliating against another candidate or campaign for submitting an elections complaint. Retaliation is defined as any adverse action taken against a candidate, campaign staff member, voter, or other individual for reporting an alleged election violation, filing a complaint, participating in the election review process, or otherwise exercising their rights under the Elections Code. Retaliation may include, but is not limited to, threats, intimidation,

harassment, exclusion from campaign activities, or any conduct intended to discourage or punish participation in the elections process.

- 15.6.9. Violations of the Student Code of Conduct.

## CHAPTER 16. Disputes and Conflict Resolution

- 16.1. Any qualified voter, excluding sitting members of the USG Supreme Court, may submit a complaint to the Elections Department alleging violation(s) of this Elections code for any of the Elections taking place during the election cycle at any time during the election cycle.
- 16.1.1. The person submitting the complaint is herein referred to as the “petitioner”.
- 16.1.2. The person(s) whom the complaint alleges committed the violation(s) are herein referred to as the “defendant”.
- 16.1.3. The Elections Department shall maintain and make available to all qualified voters an Election Complaint Form.
- 16.1.4. The Election Complaint Form must be explicitly provided to all qualified voters prior to the start of the election cycle and shall remain available to all qualified voters for at least the full duration of the Elections cycle.
- 16.1.5. This form shall be the only way to submit complaints.
- 16.2. The complaint shall only allege violation(s) of noncompliance of this Elections Code, including its references to the Student Code of Conduct and other related governing documents.
- 16.2.1. Complaints involving violations of the Student Code of Conduct, other misconduct, or actions not directly related to noncompliance with this Elections Code—even if the accused is a candidate or member of the Elections Department and such actions could affect their eligibility—must be submitted to the appropriate university authorities.
- 16.2.2. Complaints related to Student Code of Conduct violations will be handled entirely through the university’s processes. The Elections Department will not be notified of the outcomes of Student Code of Conduct proceedings.
- 16.2.3. If the Elections Department receives such complaints, the Elections Department shall immediately pass those complaints onto the appropriate authorities.
- 16.3. Complaints must be submitted no later than one (1) business day following the petitioner’s discovery of the violation.

- 16.3.1. The petitioner shall provide evidence of the day of discovery if the violation is not of a continuing nature.
- 16.3.2. If the violation is of a continuing nature, is ongoing, and is actively harming a candidate or the integrity of the elections, a complaint may be submitted at any time during the election cycle.
- 16.4. Upon receiving a complaint, the Elections Department shall, within 48 hours. :
  - 16.4.1. Assign at least two members of the Elections Department Staff, each of whom must not be from the same ASASU student government as the election the complaint is alleging a violation occurred within and each of whom must not be listed as defendants in the complaint, to the complaint. These assigned members are herein referred to as the “review committee”.
  - 16.4.2. Notify all defendant(s) named in the complaint that the Elections Department is reviewing the alleged violation(s). If any defendant is a member of a ticket, notify every member of that ticket.
  - 16.4.3. All complaints must include the name(s) of the individual(s) submitting them, not visible to candidates and constituents. Anonymous complaints will not be accepted.
- 16.5. Complaints listing Assistant Elections Commissioner(s), Elections Commissioner(s), or the entire Elections Department among the defendant(s) shall be reviewed by the Supreme Court in place of the Elections Department.
  - 16.5.1. Any such complaints received by the Elections Department must be immediately forwarded to the applicable Supreme Court.
  - 16.5.2. The Supreme Court shall act as the review committee for the purposes of this chapter, and must carry out the duties of the review committee listed in this chapter with regards to timeline and notices.
  - 16.5.3. The Supreme Court shall review the complaint, conduct hearings as necessary, and issue a ruling according to the policies of the court and applicable bylaws and constitution.
  - 16.5.4. If the decision of the Supreme Court is appealed, the appeal shall be heard and ruled on by the Supreme Court that did not issue the original decision.
- 16.6. Within forty-eight (48) hours of being assigned to the complaint, the members of the review committee shall:
  - 16.6.1. Review the complaint to determine the validity of the complaint.
  - 16.6.2. If the complaint is valid, issue a decision on the complaint, either referring the complaint to the relevant Supreme Court or including what, if any, violations occurred and what the recourse for those violations shall be.

- 16.6.3. If the complaint is not valid, dismiss the complaint.
- 16.6.4. Announce any decision(s) on the complaint to both the petitioner and the defendant(s) on behalf of the Elections Department. If any defendant is a member of a ticket, all members of that ticket must be notified.
- 16.7. Both the petitioner and the defendant(s) have two (2) business days following the announcement of the Elections Department's decision to appeal to the relevant Supreme Court, should they choose to do so.
  - 16.7.1. Upon receiving an appeal, the appealed-to Supreme Court shall notify the Elections Department, the original petitioner, and the original defendant(s) listed in the complaint.
  - 16.7.2. The appealed-to Supreme Court shall issue an appeals decision within five (5) business days of the receiving the appeal.
  - 16.7.3. The appealed-to Supreme Court shall announce any decision, in writing (online), to the Elections Department, the original petitioner, and the original defendant(s) listed in the complaint.
  - 16.7.4. The decisions of the Supreme Court are final and binding.
  - 16.7.5. A public record of these decisions shall be maintained by the relevant student government and made available to all students at ASU.
- 16.8. The information contained in a filed complaint is privileged to the petitioner, the Elections Department, the defendant(s), and the relevant Supreme Court until the end of the appeals process if the decision is appealed, or until the end of the appeals period if the decision is not appealed.

## CHAPTER 17. Candidate and Ticket Disqualification

- 17.1. In the event a candidate/ticket is disqualified, or otherwise found to no longer be eligible for the race they were a candidate/ticket for, herein referred to as the "affected race":
  - 17.1.1. The Elections Commissioner shall be notified of the disqualified candidate/ticket and affected race(s).
  - 17.1.2. The Elections Commissioner shall notify all qualified voters for the election the affected race is in of the candidate(s)/ticket(s) disqualification.
- 17.2. If a disqualification occurs before the Campaign Period ends, campaigning shall be suspended for two (2) business days. If an appeal is filed, the suspension shall remain in effect until the appeal is decided or the Campaign Period ends, whichever comes first.

- 17.2.1. If the disqualified candidate(s)/ticket(s) do not appeal the disqualification, or the disqualification is affirmed by the Supreme Court, the Elections Commissioner shall remove the disqualified candidate(s)/ticket(s) from the ballots and from all applicable election materials published by the Elections Department or university, if it is possible to do so.
- 17.2.2. If the disqualification is reaffirmed by the Supreme Court, the Elections Commissioner shall direct all candidates/tickets to resume campaigning for the remainder of the Campaign Period, if any time remains.
- 17.3. If the Campaign Period has already ended when a candidate is disqualified, the Elections Commissioner shall follow the disqualify recount procedure.
  - 17.3.1. If the disqualification is overturned by the Supreme Court after the Campaign Period has ended, the affected race shall be considered compromised.
  - 17.3.2. All other races shall proceed as they otherwise would.
- 17.4. If the disqualified candidate(s)/ticket(s) appeal the disqualification, the Elections Commissioner shall notify all qualified voters for the election the affected race is in of the outcome of the candidate(s)/ticket(s) appeal.

## CHAPTER 18. Compromised Elections

- 18.1. A compromised election shall be defined as an election where there is a reasonable belief the outcome was altered as either an intentional or unintentional consequence of actions wrongfully taken during that election such that the only reasonable recourse for the wrongful actions is re-conducting the election.
- 18.2. Individual races, or an entire election may be declared compromised.
- 18.3. A race/election shall be declared compromised if any of the following criteria are met:
  - 18.3.1. The ballots should be available by the first day of the Election Period and shall remain open for the entire Election Period.
  - 18.3.2. A candidate is wrongfully disqualified and then that disqualification is overturned by appeal after the end of the campaign period.
  - 18.3.3. A decision on a complaint listing the Elections Commissioner, Assistant Elections Commissioner, or Elections Department as a whole as defendant(s) determined the aforementioned defendant(s) acted negligently or otherwise engaged in misconduct, intentionally or not, that resulted in a candidate(s) having an unfair advantage in the race/election.
  - 18.3.4. Voters have cast fraudulent votes, such as unqualified voters casting votes, or a single voter casting multiple votes under the names of other people, and

- the number of fraudulent votes is significant enough to alter the outcome of the election.
- 18.4. In the event the Elections Department or USG Supreme Court, herein referred to as the “determining authority”, determines a race in an election or an election was compromised, the existing results, if any, for that race/election shall be thrown out and that race/election shall be reconducted and the results of all other race(s)/election(s) shall stand.
  - 18.5. All qualified candidates in the compromised race/election shall be automatically considered requalified for the reconducted race/election.
    - 18.5.1. This includes any candidates that were previously disqualified prior to the disqualification period being overturned.
    - 18.5.2. All campaign staff in the compromised race/election shall be automatically considered campaign staff in the reconducted race/election.
  - 18.6. The determining authority shall further determine whether a new Campaign Period is required.
    - 18.6.1. If a new Campaign Period is required, all provisions in this code pertaining to Campaigning, Campaign Staff, Campaign Materials, Campaign Funding, and Campaign Period Procedures shall still apply, with the timelines and dates adjusted as necessary for the reconducted election’s time period.
    - 18.6.2. Campaign spending limits are not reset, nor are previous expenses removed from counting towards the total expenses.
  - 18.7. The Elections Department shall set the dates for the reconducted race/election.
    - 18.7.1. All provisions in this code pertaining to the Elections Period shall still apply.
    - 18.7.2. The length of the Elections Period shall remain the same as otherwise specified in this Elections Code.
  - 18.8. The reconducted race/election shall be followed by a Certification Period which shall be otherwise the same as described in this Elections Code.
  - 18.9. Any and all provisions in this code referring to the Elections cycle as a determination of time shall be considered extended to cover the full duration of the reconducted race/election, through the conclusion of the reconducted Certification Period.

## CHAPTER 19. Reporting Election Results

- 19.1. The announcement of the final election results shall be posted on the respective ASASU government websites and shall be sent by the Elections Department in a notice to all qualified voters in all elections.

- 19.2. If any complaints have been filed with the Elections Department or either Supreme Court have yet to be decided upon, including appeals, then the announcement of the final election results shall wait until all such complaints and appeals are resolved.
- 19.3. The Elections Department shall record final vote tallies for each race in each election in the election cycle and file them with the appropriate university office as the official and permanent record of the vote for said Elections, prior to the winning candidates taking office.
- 19.4. Campuses will report election results as soon as they are available, by campus, even if that means results are released separately rather than all at once.

## CHAPTER 20. Amendments

- 1.1. Amendments to this code must be ratified by a simple majority vote of **the legislatures of each ASASU member government that has adopted this code.**

## CHAPTER 21. Authority

- 21.1. **(Each ASASU member government shall adopt this election code by a simple majority of the respective legislative bodies in separate sessions.)** This Election Code shall supersede any existing election codes in the bylaws of the respective ASASU student governments at the time of adoption.
  - 21.1.1. **If any language in this Election Code is contingent upon the adoption of this Elections Code by any given member government of ASASU, and that member government fails to adopt this Elections Code, or otherwise votes to suspend their adoption of this Elections Code, those provisions shall remain in force for all other member governments that have adopted this Code.**
- 21.2. **Any** individual ASASU student governments **that have adopted this Elections Code** may not adopt bylaws that conflict with this Elections Code, but may adopt bylaws that extend or further clarify procedures in this Elections Code specific to their respective student governments. This Elections Code takes precedence over any conflicting bylaws.
- 21.3. Applicable University Policy **and the Constitution of ASASU member governments that have voted to adopt this code** shall take precedence over this Elections Code.

## Appendix 1 Definitions: ASASU Resource

**ASASU:** Associated Student of Arizona State University comprising of USG and other branches which are not pertinent hereto

**USG:** Undergraduate Student Government comprising of USG-Downtown, USG-Polytechnic, USG-Tempe, and USG-West Valley constituting a portion of ASASU

**Spring Semester:** the semester in which ASASU Elections are held beginning after the conclusion of winter break and ending after session C courses

**USG President:** a position open for ASASU USG Elections, for the definition of this role please refer to the respective government's ByLaws

**USG Vice President of Services:** a position open for ASASU USG Elections, for the definition and qualifications of this role please refer to the respective government's ByLaws

**USG Vice President of Policy:** a position open for ASASU USG Elections, for the definition and qualifications of this role please refer to the respective government's ByLaws

**USG Executive Ticket:** consisting of a USG President, USG Vice President of Services, and a USG Vice President of Policy

**USG Senator(s):** a position open for ASASU USG Elections, for the definition and qualifications of this role please refer to the respective government's ByLaws

**USG Supreme Court Justice:** a position open for ASASU USG Elections, for the definition and qualifications of this role please refer to the respective government's ByLaws

**USG Elections Commissioner:** a position open for ASASU USG Elections, for the definition and qualifications of this role please refer to the respective government's ByLaws

**USG Assistant Elections Commissioner:** a position open for ASASU USG Elections, for the definition and qualifications of this role please refer to the respective government's ByLaws

**University Policy:** referring to any and all formal expectations of ASU students imposed by the Arizona Board of Regents and Arizona State University

**ASASU Governing Documents:** referring to the ASASU Constitution, all USG ByLaws, Supreme Court Rules (USG) and ASASU Elections Code

**Supporters:** individuals who are not campaign staff and are not held accountable to the Elections Code

**All relevant ASASU social media and websites:** including but not limited to all active USG Instagram accounts and websites. If one of the aforementioned organizations have a social media account but do not regularly post on it to communicate with constituents, they are not considered relevant to advertising ASASU elections.

**Passing score:** referring to the candidate information quiz in section 10 a passing score is up to the discretion of the Elections Department.

**Statements of support:** messaging affiliated with endorsing candidates