



Central Michigan University Student Government Association 2026 Spring Election Report

SGA Elections Committee

Introduction

The 2026 SGA Spring Election officially began with the release of the 2026 Elections Packet in late January and wrapped up in late March. A 2-month-long process, candidates met the requirements, gathered their signatures, and campaigned for the opportunity to represent the 2026-27 Student Body in Central Michigan University's Student Government. The SGA Elections Committee worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure a smooth, transparent, and honest election cycle, as it is what the candidates and Student Body deserved. The SGA Elections Committee would now like to present the 2026 SGA Elections Report, where we break down the election results and provide a detailed summary of events.

Vote Breakdown

1. President/Vice President

Candidates	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Zainab Naaz/Fatima Malik	473	55.13%



Aiden Partenio/Jenna Lang	372	43.36%
No Confidence	13	1.51%
Total:	858	100%

2. Treasurer

Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Sophia Laurain	709	82.63%
No Confidence	149	17.37%
Total:	858	100%

3. Associate Justice

Candidate	Vote Total	Vote Percentage
Allison Vander Slik	674	78.55%
No Confidence	184	21.45%
Total:	858	100%



Violations

All violations are public on the Student Government Association's Engage Central page. Any questions about the violations should be referred to the Elections Director, Carson Cooley (coole1co@cmich.edu).

Summary of Events

On January 26th, 2026, the 2026 SGA Spring Elections were announced, both on social media and at that evening's SGA meeting. On the same day, the 2026 SGA Elections Packet was released, which included the election timeline alongside the rules/regulations. This was made public on SGA's Engage Central.

On February 2nd, 2026, the Intent of Candidacy form was released. This form was required for all candidates running for SGA office in the Spring Election. This form was due on February 6th at 11:59:59 pm. In total, 4 Presidential candidates, 3 Vice Presidential candidates, 0 Treasurer candidates, 1 Associate Justice candidate, and 0 Senate candidates filed to run. Due to the lack of Treasurer candidates, the form for Treasurer candidates was extended until the following Wednesday. One of the Presidential/Vice Presidential candidates was disqualified at this stage, as they did not meet all the requirements to run for the position.

On February 16th, all qualified Presidential/Vice Presidential and Associate Justice candidates began collecting signatures. During this stage, 2 Presidential/Vice Presidential tickets met the required 200 signatures: Zainab Naaz/Fatima Malik and Aiden Partenio/Jenna Lang. The



one Associate Justice candidate, Allison Vander Slik, also received the required 50 signatures to be on the ballot. Their candidate orientation was held on February 23rd, 2026.

By the end of the extended filing deadline, 4 candidates filed to run for Treasurer. Their signature collection period ran from February 23rd to February 27th. At the end, one candidate received the required 100 signatures to appear on the ballot: Sophia Laurain. Sophia's orientation took place on March 2nd.

On March 2nd, all candidates took part in "Meet the Candidates Night", where they had the opportunity to present their platform/campaign to the General Board. All candidates were present at this event. By midnight, all candidates' media requests were due to the Office of Student Activities and Involvement.

On March 16th, the SGA Elections Committee held the "SGA Executive Board Debate". Members of the Student Body were able to submit questions at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Zainab Naaz, Fatima Malik, and Aiden Partenio were in attendance for the debate. Jenna Lang and Sophia Laurain could not make it and notified the SGA Elections Committee prior to the event. The SGA Campaign Finance Report was also due the same day by midnight. All candidates properly submitted their Finance Report.

On March 23rd at 8 am, campus-wide voting began. Early that morning, students were experiencing issues voting. This issue was quickly resolved, and all impacted students had the opportunity to cast their vote in the election. Voting ended March 27th at 11:59:59 pm. On March 26th, the SGA Elections Committee was notified of a SGA Judicial case against the committee



on an election related issue, scheduled for the following Tuesday. Given this, the SGA Elections Committee voted to postpone the election results until Tuesday following the case. The SGA Elections Committee was later notified that the case was going to be postponed until April 6th, causing a revote on the postponement of results. The SGA Elections Committee then voted to seek the results immediately if the case was postponed. On Saturday, March 28th, the SGA Elections Committee was notified of the cases postponement. The next day, March 29th, all candidates were notified of the results of the election. On Monday, March 30th, the announcement post was made on the Office of Student Activities and Involvement and CMU SGA's social media.

Recommendations

1. Differentiate between “passive” and “active” campaigning in the Elections Packet.
2. To keep consistency, require “Not Endorsed by Central Michigan University or SGA” on *all* materials, including printed.
3. Make clear regulations on friends (people unofficially associated with the campaign) participating in the campaigning process

Signed,

Carson Cooley

SGA Elections Committee Director