

MN YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT & MODEL UNITED NATIONS

2022 ELECTION RULES

I. DEFINITIONS

- A. Abstentions: Ballots or votes cast neither for nor against a candidate, which will not be recorded as part of the vote total.
- B. By Lot: A method of making a decision at random (example – flipping a coin, drawing straws, etc.)
- C. Campaign Activities: Any public effort by a candidate, candidates or ticket to support or defeat a candidate, candidates or ticket.
- D. Campaign Materials: Any campaign activity or material that is coordinated, prepared and/or distributed by a candidate/ticket, for a candidate/ticket or against a candidate/ticket, including but not limited to electronic media.
- E. Delegate: A student member of a recognized Minnesota YMCA Youth in Government or Model United Nations delegation.
- F. Delegation: A group of delegates from a YMCA, school or community authorized by the State Office. Groups participating in Youth in Government or Model United Nations will only count as one delegation. Guests from other state programs do not count as delegations.
- G. Electronic Campaigning: The use of e-mail, websites, social media systems or other mass media to promote or defeat a candidate or ticket.
- H. Form: An online or paper submission of materials.
- I. In-Person Campaign: On-site campaign activities that extend beyond casual conversations.
- J. In Writing: Communication submitted via written/printed words on paper during an in-person setting or through the official email account.
- K. Plurality: Receiving the most votes in respective race, election or question.
- L. Program Area Elections: Elections for leadership of program areas of Youth in Government or Model United Nations that are voted exclusively by the members of the specific areas, as published by the State Office.
- M. Secret Ballot: Anonymous written or digital vote by an individual delegate on a paper ballot or via an authorized electronic voting system.
- N. State Steering Committee: The State Steering Committee is made up of all current elected Officers, Officers-Elect and student representatives selected by delegations and charged with oversight of election rules and candidacy process. Each delegation may send any number of representatives to sit on the State Steering Committee, though each delegation has one (1) vote. Officers and Officers-Elect vote as members of their respective delegations.
- O. State Steering Committee Executive Session: Sub-group of the State Steering Committee, comprising of one (1) student from each delegation. Candidates for elected office under review may not be a member of any Executive Session.
- P. Statewide Officers: Candidates who are elected by the entire Youth in Government or Model United Nations session, specifically – Governor/Lt. Governor ticket and Secretary of State for Youth in Government; Conference Resource Center Director for Model United Nations.

- Q. Statewide Officer Elections: Elections for leadership of the overall Youth in Government or Model United Nations session that are voted by the conference at-large. These elections are for Governor/Lt. Governor ticket and Secretary of State for Youth in Government and the Conference Resource Center Director for Model United Nations.
- R. Ticket: A combination of one Governor candidate and one Lt. Governor candidate running for office together.

II. QUALIFICATIONS FOR VOTING DELEGATES

- A. Voters must be in the 7th, 8th, 9th, 10th, 11th, or 12th grade. They must also participate in a recognized Minnesota YMCA Center for Youth Voice YIG or MUN delegation.
- B. Guests from other state programs are not eligible to vote.
- C. All voters must display their current, valid program name tag and sign the roster to receive a ballot and to vote.

III. STATE STEERING COMMITTEE COMPOSITION AND CONDUCT OF ELECTIONS

- A. All elections will be overseen by the State Steering Committee, which will determine all election rules and set qualifications for candidacy.
- B. The Secretary of State will serve as the chief election official for YIG; the CRC Director for MUN. They will each be responsible for the conduct of elections in their respective sessions.
- C. The officers of the State Steering Committee will consist of the Chair and Vice Chair. Each year, the Vice Chair will be elected by the members present at the State Steering Committee Retreat by a plurality vote. In the case of a leading tie, the tied candidates will be voted upon in a special election. Should the tie persist after the special election, the Steering Committee Chair will determine the winner by lot. The Vice Chair must serve a two-year, consecutive term and be a delegate for the entire period. The Vice Chair will become the Chair in the second year of the term.
- D. The Chair and Vice Chair will, by virtue of their offices, be full members of the Center for Youth Voice State Board and classified as Elected Officers at YIG and MUN as leaders of the Steering Committee Executive Office.
- E. The Chair and Vice Chair must participate in YIG and MUN.
- F. Should the Chair be unable or unwilling to serve their full term, the Vice Chair will become the Chair for the remainder of the Chair's term, separate from their own regular term. If the Vice Chair becomes unable or unwilling to serve their full term (including ascendance to the Chair), the State Steering Committee will elect a replacement at its next scheduled meeting or at a special meeting during YIG or MUN.

IV. QUALIFICATIONS FOR CANDIDATES

- A. All candidates for nomination to elected office must fulfill the qualifications as ruled by the State Steering Committee. The Chair and Secretary of State/CRC Director must give final approval to all filings in accordance with the election rules.
- B. Candidates for the Statewide Officer positions need not meet any age or grade requirements but must be qualified for future program participation as a delegate.
- C. Candidate Filing Forms must be RECEIVED at by the State Office/Secretary of State's Hotel Office/CRC Office by the deadline as listed on the official schedule of program deadlines as posted on the program website.

- D. Candidates are solely responsible for management and completion of their forms, signatures, and for adherence to all deadlines. Neither the State Steering Committee nor the State Office will be responsible for errors of timing, failure of electronic transmission, mechanical failure or advisor error.
- E. All filing forms and Candidate Expenditure Forms for YIG or MUN may only be submitted online via the official filing portal.
- F. Delegates may only hold one elected officer position, per conference.
- G. All the information that candidates provide may be used in the official Voter's Guide and/or publicity release and each candidate must affirm that the information contained in the forms is true to the best of the candidate's knowledge.
- H. If a candidate for any office should wish to withdraw, notice must be submitted, in writing, to the Secretary of State/CRC Director. Withdrawal may or may not allow for removal from the ballot, depending on when written notice is received.
- I. Should a candidate withdraw or be dismissed from the program, the student's candidacy will be null and void and the student will be ineligible to serve in the elected office.

V. PROGRAM AREA OFFICER CANDIDATE PRESENTATIONS

- A. YIG Program Area Candidates will address their prospective program areas as the first order of business on Saturday morning. MUN Program Area Candidates will address their prospective program areas as the first order of business immediately following a special World Briefing Session on Friday. One hour will be set aside for these purposes; at the discretion of the Secretary of State/CRC Director, in conjunction with the State Office, more time can be allotted.
- B. Program area candidate presentations will be facilitated by a moderator chosen by the Secretary of State/CRC Director/Chair.
- C. The duties of moderator will include (but are not limited to): presiding over the session, keeping and adjusting time of speeches, filtering the written questions submitted during Question & Answer time, maintaining decorum and enforcing all election rules.
- D. All Program Area Candidates will be allowed an equal amount of time (a suggested maximum of 3-5 minutes) to make a presentation to their prospective program area meeting.
- E. At the end of all candidate speeches, there will be a question and answer session where all eligible voters in the program area may ask candidates questions. Any questions must be submitted, in writing, to the moderator.
- F. All candidates will speak in the order in which profiles are printed in the Voter's Guide.

VI. CAMPAIGN PROCEDURE

- A. Spending limits for Statewide Officer races/tickets will be \$150. No spending will be allowed for any Program Area race. For non-Statewide races, some of the items below may not apply or apply in part.
- B. The Secretary of State's Office/CRC Director's Office will make every effort to publish a picture of equal size for each candidate along with a synopsis of their qualifications and include it as part of the official Voter's Guide.
- C. Electronic campaigning is subject to these election rules at all times (including before and during YIG or MUN events). Neither the Secretary of State/CRC Director nor the State Office will be responsible for monitoring electronic campaigning outside of official program channels.
- D. Candidates must submit any official campaign social media handles on their officer filing.

- E. No food or beverages may be used for a campaign.
- F. No stickers or materials of any variety that have either a gummed back or a self-adhesive back may be used. Badges and buttons should be attached with pins. No powder, glitter or confetti may be used. No liquid of any kind (including, but not limited to bubbles and glow sticks) may be used for a campaign at any time. No balloons may be used for any purpose. Ink stamps are not allowed.
- G. No posters may be posted in any area used by YIG, including the hotel public spaces, restrooms, elevators, sleeping room floors, State Capitol Complex, Skyways or buses. Any unattended campaign materials may be discarded at any time.
- H. No materials may be used by any delegate, candidate or advisor which may damage any facility, with particular emphasis on protecting the floors and walls. The Secretary of State/CRC Director reserves the right to take disciplinary action against a candidate distributing any item(s) which violate the Election Rules or Code of Conduct or which could scuff, cut, burn, soil, stain or otherwise damage any facility.
- I. The Secretary of State/CRC Director will establish a 'no campaign activity' zone outside the polling place, to be clearly marked and set at their discretion.
- J. No campaign materials may be displayed in the polling place. The voter will not receive a ballot until they remove and conceal any displayed campaign materials.
- K. Any material or messaging used in campaigns that promotes violation of the Code of Conduct is prohibited. This includes but is not limited to promotion of sex, alcohol, tobacco, and/or controlled substances.
- L. Any violation of Local, State or Federal law is prohibited. This includes and is not limited to copyright and trademark infringements.
- M. Any violation, by a candidate, of the Code of Conduct and/or approved election rules will result in disciplinary action as decided by the Secretary of State/CRC Director, which may include, but is not limited to, the following:
 - required public and/or published apology
 - loss of speaking privileges at Town Hall Session or program area presentation
 - restriction of campaign activities
 - recommendation to State Steering Committee for termination of candidacy
- N. All campaign activities, including those by third parties, are subject to the Code of Conduct and to all election rules.

VII. CAMPAIGN AND ELECTION CONCERNS

- A. Candidates or delegates should bring concerns or complaints regarding campaign Activities or filing status to the Secretary of State/CRC Director, in writing, for evaluation and possible action.
 1. Any delegate who has concerns related to candidate activities or adherence to election rules must notify the Secretary of State's Office/CRC Director's Office of a specific concern, in writing, by 9:00 AM on Saturday.
 2. Any delegate who has concerns about election activities or utilizing election systems, occurring after candidate speeches have begun or until the results are officially released must bring that concern, in writing, to the Secretary of State's Office/CRC Director's Office immediately for review.
 3. The Secretary of State/CRC Director will review the specific concern and take actions they deem necessary and will notify the delegate of the decision in writing.
- B. Any delegate wishing to question a decision by the Secretary of State/CRC Director must notify the State Steering Committee Chair of a specific concern, in writing, no later than

two hours after receiving a decision from the Secretary of State/CRC Director. The Chair will review the specific activities and take any actions they deem necessary, including possible review by an Executive Session of the State Steering Committee. In the event that an Executive Session is convened, its decision will be final.

- C. For YIG: Any delegate wishing to question the outcome of a race must notify the Secretary of State of a specific concern, in writing, by 12:00 Noon on Sunday. The Secretary of State will review the results of the specific race and take any actions they deem necessary.
- D. For MUN: Any delegate wishing to question the outcome of a race must notify the CRC Director of a specific concern, in writing, by 1:30 PM on Saturday. The CRC Director will review the results of the specific race and take any actions they deem necessary.
- E. In the case of a recommended sanction for loss of candidacy, the State Steering Committee will convene in Executive Session to deliberate and determine the matter. Only the Executive Session of the State Steering Committee can impose this particular sanction. In the event that an Executive Session is convened, its decision will be final.

VIII. VOTING

- A. A plurality will rule except when otherwise stated.
- B. The polls for the YIG Election will be open from 12 Noon until 8:00 PM on Saturday of YIG. Voters in line at 8:00 PM will be allowed to vote.
- C. The polls for the MUN Election will be open for two hours on Saturday of MUN, at times to be posted by the CRC Director at the start of the conference. Voters in line at the closing time will be allowed to vote.
- D. Election officials will be drawn from the Executive Branch/Conference Resource Center staff, with the exception of any participant who is a candidate for elected office. No candidate for elected office may be involved with the administration or tabulation of any election. Should additional assistance be required to administer elections, the Secretary of State/CRC Director will appoint members of the State Steering Committee (who are not candidates for elected office) to assist.
- E. Should the Secretary of State/CRC Director be a candidate for elected office, the Deputy SOS for Elections at YIG or Director of Elections at MUN will make all determinations related to the respective race. The Secretary of State/CRC Director will additionally not be involved in the tabulation of any election and the Deputy SOS for Elections/Director of Elections will be responsible for tabulation and certification of all results.
- F. All voting for offices will be accomplished by a secret ballot. All ballots will contain all names of candidates for offices and will be separated by office.
 - 1. The election official will have each voter present their current, valid nametag and sign the roster. As each delegate presents their current, valid nametag, an election ballot will be given to the voter, containing all Statewide Officer candidate names and offices sought as well as the appropriate program area ballot, with candidate names and offices sought.
 - 2. Each delegate will have one vote per Statewide Office/Ticket as well as one vote per applicable Program Area Election.
 - 3. After presenting the current, valid nametag and receiving a ballot the delegate will be directed to a place in the election area to fill out the ballot and when completed, deposit it in the ballot container.
 - 4. The election results will be reviewed by the election officials and the total votes reported to the Secretary of State/CRC Director.

- G. If a candidate or ticket prevails by less than 1% of the votes or if the margin of victory is 5 votes or fewer, a recount by hand will automatically be conducted.
- H. In the case of a leading tie, the tied candidates will be voted upon in a special election. Should the tie persist after the special election, the Secretary of State/CRC Director will determine the winner by lot.
- I. Election results, including vote totals, will be officially announced by the Secretary of State/CRC Director upon certification. They will be available at the Hotel Secretary of State's Office/CRC Office for public review.
- J. Election officials are not to reveal the results of any election until it is officially announced. Any person in the above capacity violating this requirement will be expelled from their leadership position and will be barred from holding a position as an election official.

IX. PROVISIONS FOR YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS

- A. To be considered for election, all program area candidates must submit their Candidate Filing Form to the online portal by 12:00 Noon on Friday of the YIG Session.
- B. All candidates who expend funds or use media points pursuant to these rules must submit a Candidate Expenditure Report to the Hotel Office of the Secretary of State by 12:00 Noon on Friday of the YIG Session.
 - Candidates who are required to submit Candidate Expenditure reports (those who expend funds and/or use media points) but do not do so will be disqualified from candidacy.
 - Candidates who do not expend any funds or use any media points will not be required to submit the report.
- C. Candidates for Legislative, Judicial, National Issues Forum, Lobbyist and Media offices must, upon assuming office, meet the grade requirements of the program area they wish to lead.

| <u>OFFICE</u> | <u>GRADE AT FILING</u> |
|---|---|
| - Upper House or Senate | 10 th or 11 th Grades |
| - Lower House or Senate | 8 th or 9 th Grades |
| - Supreme Court Chief Justice | 10 th or 11 th Grades |
| - Court of Appeals Chief Judge | 8 th or 9 th Grades |
| - Trial Court Chief Judge | 8 th or 9 th Grades |
| - District Court Chief Judge | 10 th or 11 th Grades |
| - National Issues Forum Presiding Officer | 9 th , 10 th or 11 th Grades |
| - Lobbyist Executive Director | 9 th , 10 th or 11 th Grades |
| - Media Director | 9 th , 10 th or 11 th Grades |

- D. Candidates for the offices of Secretary of State and Governor/Lt. Governor ticket need not meet any age or grade requirements but must be qualified for future program participation as a delegate.
- E. Nomination of Program Area Offices: Program leaders will be elected by the members of the respective program areas.
 - Upper Houses and Senates and Lower Houses and Senates will each elect a House Speaker and Senate President.
 - The Steering Committee Chair, Vice Chair and the State Office has the authority to make any necessary changes to Legislative elections for the 2021 season, as dictated by program enrollments.

- The Supreme Court will elect a Chief Justice; all other courts will each elect a Chief Judge.
 - The National Issues Forum will elect a Presiding Officer.
 - The Lobbyists will elect a Lobbyist Executive Director. (All Lobbyists will meet together at the Hotel on Saturday morning to hear candidate presentations by Director Candidates.)
 - The Media will jointly elect a Media Director.
- F. Each Program Area candidate may use up to 100 media points to promote their campaign. Each Statewide Officer candidate/ticket may use up to 150 media points to promote their campaign.
- G. All advertisements at YIG must be coordinated through the Secretary of State's Hotel Office. All media materials must be submitted to the online system by 12:00 Noon on Friday. The Secretary of State's Office will transmit campaign materials to the media. The media is required to publish all approved advertisements prior to opening of the polls.
- H. Media points may be expended on the following schedule. All media materials must be produced and supplied by the candidate or ticket and submitted according to standards of each media program area. (Note – TV and Radio ads must be completed by the candidate before arrival at YIG. Rebroadcasts, reprints or forwards in media outlets do not count against media points.)
- 100 points full-page Newspaper ad – approximately (8"x 10")
 - 50 points up to 60 second TV ad
 - 50 points ½ page Newspaper ad – approximately (8" x 5" or 3 ¾" x 10")
 - 25 points 30 second Radio ad
 - 25 points 1 tweet from Digital Media (limit two per day)
 - 10 points 15 second Radio ad

Submission standards for media ads are as follows:

| | |
|--------------|---------------|
| .jpg or .pdf | Newspaper ads |
| .mp3 or .wav | Radio ads |
| .mp4 | TV ads |
| no specifics | Digital ads |

Candidates may provide files via physical media – thumb drive, zip drive, etc. (drives may not be returned. Files may also be submitted via email to the officially identified email account.

- I. Each Statewide Officer candidate must raise their own funds for campaigns and activities, including electronic campaigning. YMCA, school or delegation funds may be used toward the campaign of a candidate or ticket, but must be figured into the overall spending limits total. Non-monetary, in-kind contributions may not be accepted by any candidate. Non-monetary, in-kind contributions are supplies or services rendered to the candidate/ticket at no cost or at a discount not available to the general public. This includes items already owned by the candidate or their family. Candidate Expenditure forms must be fully completed, with all receipts attached.
- J. Statewide Officer Candidates will make presentations to the electorate at the Town Hall Debate session for YIG.
- K. Each debate session will be moderated by a Resource Advisor.

L. **Statewide Candidate Presentation Overview**

1. Debate Sessions will generally consist of:
 - Introductions and process overview
 - Candidate opening statements 2 minute each
 - Questions by moderator & audience as long as time allows
 - Candidate Closing Statements 1 minute each
 - Wrap-up by moderator
2. Delegates will be able to submit questions for use in Statewide Candidate Presentations. The moderator will review questions and determine which will be used.
3. Statewide Officer candidates will speak in random, rotating order by a method to be determined by the moderator.

X. **PROVISIONS FOR MODEL UNITED NATIONS ELECTIONS**

- A. To be considered for election, all candidates must submit their candidate filing form and any other required forms via the online portal by 9:00 AM on Friday of MUN.
- B. Nomination of Program Area Offices: Program leaders will be elected by the members of the respective program areas.
 - The Mondale and Anderson General Assemblies (GA) will each elect a President
 - The Sr. Economic and Social Council and Jr. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) will each elect a President
 - The International Court of Justice (ICJ) will elect a President
 - The Human Rights Council (HRC) will elect a President
 - The Security Council will elect a President
 - The Global Forum will elect a President
 - The Conference Media will elect a Director

XI. **OTHER**

- A. The Secretary of State/CRC Director will make determinations on election activities as they apply to these rules.
- B. The group of officers announced at the closing session will be the official officers of the respective programs for the following session.
- C. In the event that an officer or officer-elect (with the exception of the Chair, Vice Chair, Governor and Lt. Governor) is unable or unwilling to fulfill their leadership role at the respective program, the candidate receiving the next-highest number of votes will fill the role.
- D. Should the Governor be unable or unwilling to serve their full term, the Lt. Governor from that ticket will assume the office of Governor. Should the Lt. Governor be unable or unwilling to serve their full term or should the office become otherwise vacant, the Governor will appoint a replacement. In the event that Governor/Lt. Governor ticket is unable or unwilling to fulfill their leadership roles, the ticket receiving the next-highest number of votes will fill the roles.
- E. An officer or officer-elect will be deemed unwilling to serve if they have two or more unexcused absences from program training events or otherwise fails to meet the basic duties of the position in a timely manner. The Chair, Vice Chair and State Program Executive will jointly determine what constitutes an unexcused absence or failure to complete basic duties.

- F. Should there be no remaining candidates or should no candidates stand for election in a particular race, the rising Governor (YIG) or Conference Resource Center Director (MUN) will discuss potential candidates, with the advice of the current, outgoing Officer in the particular program area and will appoint a replacement Officer. In the event of no rising Governor, the Steering Committee will meet in special session to fill the vacant office.

The State Steering Committee has authorized the Chair, Vice Chair and State Office to make necessary, limited changes to these rules for the 2021-2022 program year related to COVID-19 and any potential Virtual Conference considerations, provided that the changes are published ahead of time for conference participants.

**Approved by the State Steering Committee – 10/16/21
9 delegations in favor, 0 delegations opposed**