



# Virtual TASC OFFICER SCHOOL ELECTION CAMPAIGN RULES AND REGULATIONS

*Revised by Board of Directors August 2020*

TASC expects all candidate schools to be familiar with the rules and regulations and abide by them. Any questions or suggestions prior to the filing deadline should be sent via email to [terry@tassp.org](mailto:terry@tassp.org), the TASC Director. Please request a read receipt. Following the filing deadline, questions should be sent via email to the TASC Vice President School's advisor. Please request a read receipt.

**NOTE: All campaigning (via social media, website, commercial video or any other communication) should reflect the HIGH STANDARDS of Student Council and TASC in a positive manner.**

## I. Goals

- A. To equalize opportunities among schools of different sizes, economic resources, etc. seeking to run for office.
- B. To allow each candidate school an opportunity to present its views.
- C. To ensure an organized and safe campaign for all entities involved."

## II. Statement of Standards

- A. All campaign materials should
  1. Reflect the Campaign platform
  2. Showcase the qualifications of your school/council
  3. Be in good taste
- B. Materials should NOT
  1. Include references to any other candidate school
  2. Reflect violence
  3. Be demeaning or degrading to any gender, sexual orientation, race, and/or religion.
  4. Include any sexual innuendo (such as, but not limited to, cross-dressing, revealing clothing, suggestive language, and/or body language.) This applies to all multimedia materials.
2. Dress Code - Candidate schools must follow the TASC dress code while campaigning unless there is a valid reason that an item is an integral part of a costume. (Ex: a hat, shorts, dance tights, etc.) Campaigning includes commercials, videos, still images, and social media posts. Costumes not meeting TASC dress code must be approved by the Vice President school prior to posting. The Vice President advisor must be notified via email at least one week in advance of digital posting. Request a read receipt and answer via email.
- C. General Rule: If there is any question or doubt about whether something is inappropriate, it probably is, so avoid using it.

## III. Filing for Office

- A. Schools should file for state office as early as possible, but the final application is due no later than **Sixty (60) days prior to the established date of the Annual Conference**, as required by the TASC Constitution. Modifications on early submissions may be made up until the 60-day deadline.
- B. An application and letter of intent signed by the advisor and school principal is required to officially file for office
- C. Each candidate school must fill out the candidate resume form with its intent to run packet. This resume will be posted on the TASC website.
- D. After filing its official candidacy, any candidate school may request a TASC contact list from the state office for campaigning purposes.

- E. Once your intent to run has been posted on the TASC website, you may begin campaigning face to face and on social media; **however**, any financial expenditures (including social media), must be reflected in your campaign budget.

#### IV. Platform and Theme Clearance

- A. A general platform idea should be submitted when the candidate school initially files to seek office, but NO LATER than 60 days prior to the Annual Conference.
- B. Specific and thorough details regarding the final campaign should be submitted as soon as possible to the TASC Director and the current Vice President School advisor. The final deadline to submit **detailed information on your campaign is Three (3) Weeks prior to Virtual State Convention**. Failure to do so is grounds for disqualification. Please see the Guide to Writing Your Platform document on the TASC website.
- C. All campaign platforms and campaign themes must be cleared through the Vice-President School advisor so that duplication among schools can be avoided.
- D. A school submitting a campaign platform or theme that is similar to one previously submitted by another school will be advised of the duplication. It is politically inadvisable to use a similar theme when running for the same office. In the case of exact replication, the second school submitting the campaign theme or platform will be required to make a change to the submission.
- E. Written communication from the Vice President School advisor will indicate clearance of platform and theme.
- F. Campaigning via electronic communication or word of mouth may begin after theme clearance from the Vice President School. See Section VII for specifics regarding electronic campaigning.
- G. Campaign platform proposals which would cost TASC more than \$300 must carry a plan for raising the necessary funds for implementation. Due to the budget and structure of TASC, campaign proposals may or may not be adopted by the TASC Board of Directors.

#### V. Campaign Finance

- A. Campaign expenditures are limited to \$1200.
- B. All items purchased or borrowed to be used specifically for the campaign must be accounted for in the expense report. This includes items distributed at the local, district, and state levels by the candidate school or by any other school or organization on behalf of the candidate school.
  1. **Purchased or rented items:** Items purchased or rented must be claimed at cost (actual amount spent).
  2. **Donated Items:** Schools may accept donated items; however, these donated items must be counted against the \$1200 total. Reasonable market value or rental fee of the donated items must be assigned and noted in the Campaign Financial Statement.
  3. **School items:** Standard school uniforms (i.e., football, cheerleader, or drill team, etc.) or equipment (i.e., flats used in performances, audio visual equipment, etc.) may be used in the campaign and will not be charged against the \$1200. If MOST schools would easily have access to a standard school item, it does not count against the \$1200. HOWEVER, if the school item used is not standard (i.e., special stage sets, specialty costumes, etc.), the item must be accounted for at a

reasonable amount.

4. **Clothing/costumes:** Clothing that is purchased, made, rented, or borrowed to be used specifically in the campaign must be counted (see #1 and #2). If t-shirts or clothing items are something that students would normally have, the cost does not have to be counted. Student Council t-shirts or clothing items that refer to the campaign or election, regardless of when they are purchased and worn, must be counted.
5. **Travel expenses:** Travel for the purpose of campaigning to any activities other than those a school would normally attend shall be computed at a rate of 53.5 cents per mile plus actual room and board and charged against the \$1200. Travel expenses to the conference will not be charged against the \$1200.
6. **Campaign Party:** A party is defined as a gathering of more than four persons that includes people from any schools other than the schools in the candidate's TASC district. Refreshments or items used in a campaign party at or before the conference shall be charged against the \$1200.
7. **General Items:** Any items easily accessible by most schools do not count against your budget. For example, a hammer, screwdriver, power strip, tape measure, drill, computer, or other general items that are available to most schools are considered general items. If you have ANY questions, contact the Vice-President School.

- C. An estimated financial statement showing the budget for the campaign must be submitted to the Vice President advisor along with the platform and theme by **Three (3) Weeks prior to Virtual State Convention.** (No receipts are due at this time.)
- D. A school may spend up to \$1200 on the campaign. An official budget sheet and original receipts must be sent to the Vice President school **10 days prior to the virtual conference.** (See Excel spreadsheet provided for that purpose on TASC website.) The budget sheet should include give-away items, t-shirts, video/commercial expenses, and any miscellaneous expenses related to the campaign. The budget should not include expenses related to convention registration.

A statement to verify expenditures will be emailed to the Vice President school which states:

I certify that \_\_\_\_\_ (Name of school) \_\_\_\_\_ has not had expenditures in excess of \$1200 for materials, outside labor, etc., in seeking the office of TASC \_\_\_\_\_ (Position Running for) \_\_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ (Advisor's signature) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ (Date) \_\_\_\_\_

## VI. Candidate Requirements

- A. Officer school candidates (student representative and advisor) must attend all scheduled formal meetings for candidate schools. Failure to be on time and present at any formal meetings may result in the candidate school's being disqualified from the election.
- B. Officer school candidates must name the student and the advisor who will represent the school (if elected) on the Board of Directors. **It is recommended that the student and advisor selected to represent the school on the Board**

**have substantial experience in Student Council and TASC programs.** Both will be involved in policy discussions and decisions, so the more exposure and experience with TASC activities and programs, the more knowledge he/she will have in order to be an effective officer.

- C. Officer school candidates (student representative and advisor) must send in all commercials, videos for the political rally, and webpage links **Three (3) weeks prior to the virtual conference.** The final budget with receipts is due **Ten (10) days prior to the virtual conference.** Failure to do so on time may result in the candidate school's being disqualified from the election.
- a. Each officer candidate school must participate in and be registered for the virtual conference.
  - 1. Each candidate school must create virtual/digital campaign materials which shall include- A candidate school website (additional requirements may be found in section VII. Technical Guidelines.)
  - 2. Student and Advisor Speeches
  - 3. Nominations
  - 4. A Two minute campaign presentation video
  - 5. Two 30 second commercials to be used on TASC social media platforms

## VII. Technical Guidelines

- A. Campaign Videos (presentations, speeches and possible nominations and seconds) must be presented in 1920x1080 mp4 format.
- B. All Campaign Materials must be submitted to the designated digital document repository no later than **Three (3) weeks prior to the virtual conference.** Each candidate school will receive an email from the Vice President school containing information pertaining to the digital document repository. Please ensure all materials are uploaded by the corresponding deadlines. Failure to meet deadlines may result in the candidate school's disqualification.
- C. Candidate School Website-
  - 1. Each Candidate school must develop a website (with all videos/technology embedded) that will serve as their virtual campaign booth. Each candidate site should be designed to reflect the qualifications and platform of the candidate school.
  - 2. The website should include-
    - a. The candidate school's resume and intent to run
    - b. A detailed platform
    - c. Student & Advisor campaign speech video
    - d. Student & Advisor Meet the Candidate Page
    - e. Nominations and Seconds
    - f. 30-second Commercials
    - g. Links to candidate school social media accounts
  - 3. Upon completion, website links must be sent to the Vice President school by established deadlines. Failure to meet deadlines may result in candidate school's disqualification.
- D. Campaign Presentation Videos
  - 1. Each Candidate school must produce a two (2) minute campaign presentation video that will be displayed during the political rally of the virtual conference.
  - 2. The Campaign Video should include-

- a. A detailed description of the platform
  - b. The candidate school's logo
  - c. Office they are running for
3. The video shall be included on the candidate school's website.
  4. The campaign presentation video must be submitted by the established deadlines. Failure to meet deadlines may result in the candidate school's disqualification.

- E. Campaign Speech Videos include two separate one (1) minute videos-
1. Student Representative speech
  2. Advisor Speech
  3. Each video must be filmed separate and no longer than 1 minute
  4. Each video should include the school's logo and the office for which they are running.

- F. Nominations and seconds may be written or videos. If video format, each video must be no longer than 30 seconds and follow campaign video guidelines. Schools who are nominating the candidate must be in attendance of the virtual conference.

- G. Student and Advisor Meet the candidate section. This section is meant to introduce the student and advisor with a quick bio, accomplishments, and any other information they deem important for their candidacy.

H. 30 Second Commercials

1. The 30 second commercials will be used to introduce the candidate school's platform and qualifications and will be posted on TASC social media platforms. The commercials should include-
  - a. One commercial should introduce the school's platform
  - b. A second Commercial should show the qualifications of School to serve in the position.
2. Commercials will also be used on the candidate school website.
3. Commercials may not include references to any other candidate school.
4. Failure to remain within the allotted time frame may result in disqualification.
5. The 30 second commercials must be submitted by the established deadlines. Failure to meet deadlines may result in the candidate school's disqualification.

**VIII. Political Rally**

- A. Campaign materials should reflect the candidate school's platform and a call to action for TASC
- B. Campaign materials should not be solely for entertainment.

**IX. Campaign Violations**

- A. Any report of suspected campaign rule violations any time during or prior to the campaigning should be made immediately to the appropriate official. Depending on the severity of the alleged violation, the offending school may be asked to correct the infraction or to report to the Vice-President school through e-mail who will take appropriate action. A candidate school may be disqualified if the violation is intentional or flagrant. Each candidate school should avoid using any questionable materials or procedures that circumvent the intent of campaign rules.
- B. A campaign violation is a breach of the rules. There are two ways that a

campaign violation may be reported. One is that a Vice President School and/or Credentials Committee member observe(s) a violation before or during the State Conference. The second is when another school reports a violation by filing a formal complaint in writing against the school campaigning for the office.

- C. A formal complaint may be filed against a candidate school by another school. All complaints must be filed with the Vice-President school before the conclusion of the virtual conference. If a complaint is filed before the virtual conference, the complaint must be filed via the form found on the TASC website within five days of the observed violation to the Vice President School's advisor. If a complaint is filed during the virtual conference, the school filing the complaint must fill out the appropriate form (found on the TASC website) and **submit via email to the Vice President School advisor, and a text notification must be sent to the Vice-President Advisor and to the Vice-President student officer at the time of email submission.** Complaints will be taken to the Credentials Committee. Complaints will be reviewed, and a decision will be made as quickly as possible; however, due to time restraints, the decision may not be final until after the election results have been announced.
- D. If a violation occurs or is reported, the Vice President School advisor and/or a Credentials Committee member will contact the offending school's advisor in an effort to allow the candidate school to correct the violation. If the offending school refuses to correct the violation, then the school will be disqualified.
- E. A time violation on the 30 second commercials, 2 minute video and/or both the candidate and advisor speech is grounds for disqualification. Any time violations may be grounds for disqualification.
- F. The Campaign Violation Formal Complaint Form is printed at the end of this information and will be available on the TASC website. Appeal forms are provided as well.

## X. Elections

- A. The election shall be by secret ballot and shall be held at the virtual conference.
- B. Position on the ballot is determined by a drawing.
- C. Electronic ballot codes will be sent to advisors to be distributed to voting delegates.
- D. Elections are decided by a majority vote (50% + 1 of the popular votes to make a winner). In the event no school receives 50% + 1 of the votes, the two schools receiving the highest number of votes enter a run-off election.
- E. Run-off Election Guidelines
  - 1. If a run-off is required, candidate schools involved in the run-off will be notified.
  - 2. In the case of a run-off, the same procedures as used for the original elections will be utilized.
- F. In the event of a tie vote in a run-off election, the school with the greatest number of votes in the general election will win the election. In the event that two schools have a tie vote in both the general election and in the run-off election, the current TASC board members will convene and select a school to fill the office.
- G. In the event a school running unopposed for an office is disqualified, the current TASC Board members will convene at the earliest time possible to select a

replacement from the remaining qualified candidate schools. The replacement school will be notified at the time of selection.

H. Election results will be announced at the conclusion of the virtual conference.

## **XI. Appeal Process**

- A. Candidate schools have the right to appeal a Credentials Committee decision following proper appeal procedures. Candidate schools may appeal by submitting an appeal form via email within one hour of being notified of a formal complaint or being disqualified. Forms are on the TASC website. Appeals must be submitted to the Vice-president advisor.
- B. Appeals will be voted on by an appeals committee consisting of the following board members: Past President Advisor, Elected Advisors to the Board who are on-site, and students and advisors from elected officer schools. Decisions made by the appeals committee are final and may not be appealed.

## **XII. Obligations and Duties of Elected Schools**

Consult officer duties listed on the TASC website for specifics.

**TENTATIVE CAMPAIGN SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR CANDIDATE SCHOOLS**

SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. DATE WILL BE FINALIZED IN ADEQUATE TIME.

COVID Considerations- During this time of uncertainty all items as present are subject to change in accordance with County, State, and Federal rulings concerning COVID and Social Distancing.

MISSING A MANDATORY MEETING IS GROUNDS FOR DISQUALIFICATION. NOTIFY THE VICE PRESIDENT ADVSIOR IF THERE IS A CONFLICT.

**February 17, 2021** Deadline to file for state office and submit a general campaign platform. (60 days prior to Conference)

**March 28, 2021** Deadline for submitting specific and thorough details regarding campaign platforms, themes, preliminary financial statements, and detailed digital campaign descriptions

**NEEDS A STATEMENT ABOUT WHEN CAMPAIGNING CAN BEGIN.**

**April 8, 2020** Deadline for submitting final budget sheet, and receipts.



## Campaign Violation Complaint Form

A campaign violation is a break of the rules. A formal campaign violation complaint must be completed in full in a timely manner and e-mailed to the Vice President advisor if the offense is prior to the state convention. This form must be emailed to the TASC Vice President school before the conclusion of the virtual conference. The advisor will take the complaint to the Credentials Committee who will determine appropriate action.

Name of advisor filing the complaint: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of advisor's school: \_\_\_\_\_

TASC District # \_\_\_\_\_ Number where advisor may be reached: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of offending school: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of violation (please be specific):

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Date of violation: \_\_\_\_\_ Time of violation: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please attach any documentation to support your violation report.**

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I have received this formal campaign violation report. I will take it to the Credentials Committee.

Signature of Vice President or President School Advisor:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Time: \_\_\_\_\_

*Revised by the Board of Directors March 2020 due to COVID-19*

## Appeal of Disqualification from the TASC State Board Election

Reason for Disqualification:

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Time of Notification: \_\_\_\_\_

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## Appeal of Disqualification from the TASC State Board Election

From the time a school is disqualified from the election, the school will be allotted 30 minutes to write and file an appeal by presenting it to the State Vice President School's advisor. The TASC Board will vote to determine if the appeal will be accepted or denied. The decision of the TASC Board is final.

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisors Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Representative Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Office Filed For: \_\_\_\_\_

Reason for the appeal: \_\_\_\_\_

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Candidate Advisor Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Candidate Student Rep Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Board decision: (circle one) Accepted Denied

Signature of TASC VP Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of TASC President Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

*Revised by the Board of Directors March 2020 due to COVID-19*

Signature of VP Student Rep \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of President Student Rep \_\_\_\_\_