

Executive Election Rules and Procedures

Last Updated: January 21, 2026

I. Candidate Requirements

- A. Candidates shall be full-time undergraduate students at Abilene Christian University
- B. Candidates must be in good standing with the university and have at least a 2.5 GPA.
- C. Candidates must be entering their final full year at ACU to be eligible to run for President.
- D. Candidates must be entering their second-to-final or final full year at ACU to be eligible to run for Vice President.
- E. Candidates for President and Vice President must have either one year of service on the Executive Team or one term in the Senate. Waivers may be granted by the Dean of Student Engagement and/or the Vice President of Student Life.

II. Approval of Candidacy

- A. Candidates must submit their ticket running mates and officially launch their campaigns by completing a Campaign Petition form before the Campaign Petition Deadline.
- B. Candidates must secure 300 signatures from undergraduate ACU students before the Campaign Petition deadline.
- C. Upon completing the Campaign Petition form, all candidates specified in the form shall belong to a single Campaign Team (hereafter referred to as "Campaign") and be treated as a single entity by the Elections Chair.

III. Methods of Running

A. Individual Candidacy:

1. Candidates may run for an individual position without partners.
2. The campaign spending limit is \$350, which includes the value of any donations or items obtained for free or at a discounted cost.

B. Ticket Structure:

1. This option is for those running as a Presidential and Vice Presidential pair.
2. 300 signatures are required for each individual, totaling 600 signatures for the ticket.
3. Constituents may sign both candidates' sheets if they are collected together.
However, each candidate must personally request signatures for themselves.
4. The campaign spending limit is \$700, which includes the value of donations or discounted/free items.

C. Slate Structure (Banned)

1. **Definition:** A slate is a group of candidates running together for multiple executive positions beyond the President and Vice President, often presenting themselves as a unified team with shared branding, messaging, and coordinated efforts. This could include a President, Vice President, Treasurer, Chief of Staff, and other executive candidates campaigning collectively under a common platform.

2. Examples of Slates:

- a) A Presidential and Vice Presidential candidate campaigning, or suggesting a partnership, alongside individuals running for Treasurer, Chief Financial Officer, or other executive roles.
- b) A campaign where candidates for various positions use identical slogans, posters, or social media posts to suggest they belong to a single campaign team.
- c) Public advertisement of the candidates' choices for the executive cabinet positions.

3. Consequences: Any candidate found forming or participating in a slate will receive an Election Violation and face immediate disqualification from the election.

IV. Campaign Material

- A. All campaign materials, including digital assets, must be submitted for approval by the Elections Chair through the Campaign Material Approval form before distributing the campaign materials.
- B. Approved campaign materials will be displayed at a designated location, and it is not the responsibility of the Elections Chair to disclose these materials to other Campaigns.

V. Campaigning

- A. Campaigning is defined as any coordinated, public promotion of a particular candidacy, as interpreted by the Elections Chair.
- B. Campaigning may begin on dates that are specified by the election chair on a year to year basis.
- C. Campaigns that begin campaigning before the Campaign Start Day will face penalties.
- D. Campaigns should be conducted with professionalism, avoiding negative or defamatory statements.
- E. Campaigns should adhere to the published university policies for on-campus advertising.

VI. Campaign Limitations

- A. Campaigns may not begin before the Campaign Start Day or before their Campaign Petition forms have been processed and approved.
- B. Campaigns may not solicit endorsements from faculty or staff or use active class time to solicit votes/signatures.
- C. Campaigns may not use mass telephone or email solicitation or the SGA office's resources for campaigning.
- D. Campaigns must remove campaign materials by midnight on the last day of regular voting unless involved in a run-off election.

VII. Campaign Expenditures

- A. Each candidate has a limit of \$350 dollars to spend towards their campaign.
- B. If running together on a ticket, this limit can be combined to create a total of \$700 limit.
- C. These values include money received in the form of donations.
- D. Donated or free items should be counted at their full fair market value.
- E. Within 24 hours of the final voting closing, candidates should submit a document with all campaign expenditures and their prices.

- F. Candidates that are found to be intentionally omitting expenses or otherwise trying to circumvent the campaign budget are subject to a violation and therefore disqualification.
- G. The following campaign expenditures are exempt from reporting and do not count towards the spending limit:
 - 1. Chalk
 - 2. Pens
 - 3. Markers
 - 4. Paint
 - 5. Paper
 - 6. Paper printing not from professional services

VIII. Election Violations

- A. The Elections Chair will determine if a rule has been purposely and intentionally broken, resulting in an immediate Violation and disqualification from the election.
- B. The Elections Chair may issue an Election Warning for accidental offenses. Two Warnings will result in a Violation upon the next offense.
- C. Campaigns may appeal a Violation by submitting a Violation Appeal form to the Vice President of Student Life within 24 hours of the Violation issuance.
- D. The Vice President of Student Life shall respond within 24 hours of receiving an Appeal and issue a written ruling.

IX. Campaign Rights

- A. Campaigns have the right to understand the interpretation of the rules, receive a Warning for accidental offenses, appeal Violations, and campaign in any area of campus, excluding the SGA office.

X. Interpretation of Election Rules and Procedures

- A. The interpretation of election rules is at the discretion of the Elections Chair and the Vice President of Student Life.