

California YMCA Youth & Government
Election Rules for the Model Legislature & Court

Model Legislature & Court Elections Policy

This document contains the complete set of rules governing the running or candidates for office in the Model Legislature & Court program. This list of rules is intended to be inclusive and will supersede any previous rules or guidelines written or unwritten. Any areas not covered by this policy will be decided by the CEO of California YMCA Youth & Government.

Convention Style Election Rules & Procedure

Voting

1. Each delegation may cast one vote for each delegate in attendance.
2. Delegation will cast their votes on a Delegation Ballot.
3. Ballots will be distributed at the Convention, and delegates should not cast their votes until all speakers have given their final Convention Speech/Debate.
4. Once the Delegation Ballot has been submitted, delegates may not change their vote. The count submitted on the ballot will be the official vote, regardless of the vote count announced by delegation representatives during the convention-style proceedings.

Proceedings

1. Candidates will participate in a debate, moderated by the Secretary of State. Questions and debate format will be at the discretion of the moderator and announced to the candidates prior to the debate.
2. Delegation Ballots will be distributed following the debate.
3. Delegations will complete and submit the official vote count to the Secretary of State.
4. Delegations will appoint a representative(s) to announce their votes to the convention.

Secret Ballot Election Rules & Procedure

1. Each delegate in attendance of the conference may cast one vote for each ballot item that they are eligible to vote on.
2. Each delegate will cast their votes on an individual ballot (not a delegation ballot).
3. Delegates voting privilege may not be assigned to anyone else; each delegate must cast their own vote(s).
4. Votes must be cast during normal polling times. Votes outside normal polling times will not be counted.
5. Distracting behavior (including talking) will not be permitted in a polling area. Voters may be asked to leave if they partake in this behavior.
6. Campaigning for any candidate or ballot measure is prohibited within 100 feet of a polling place.
7. Only votes cast via the official ballot, in accordance with rules outlined on the ballot, will be counted.
8. Final vote counts will be tallied and verified by the Office of Secretary of State.
9. Candidates will be listed on the ballot in a random order.

Elections Schedule

Training & Elections I

The following positions are elected by secret ballot at Training & Elections I:

- State Legislative Analyst
- State Superintendent of Public Instruction
- National Issues Commission Presiding Commissioners (vote for four)
- President Pro-Tempore
- Speaker of the Assembly Pro-Tempore
- Forum Chief Clerk of the Assembly*
- Forum Secretary of the Senate*
- Forum Sgt.-At-Arms of Senate and Assembly *

**The Forum runs their own elections.*

The following positions are qualified by a secret ballot primary at Training & Elections I:

- Chief Justice of the Supreme Court is narrowed to two finalists
- Speaker of the Assembly is narrowed to two finalists
- Lieutenant Governor is narrowed to two finalists

The following positions are elected by a convention style election at Training & Elections I:

- Chief Justice (from the finalists)

Training & Elections II

The following positions are elected by secret ballot at Training and Elections II in house:

- Forum Lt. Governor and Speaker of the Assembly
- NIC Administrative Clerk
- Chief Clerk of the Assembly
- Secretary of the Senate
- Sgt.-At-Arms of the Senate and Assembly
- Attorney General
- Presiding Justice
- District Attorney

The following positions are elected by secret ballot at Training and Elections II:

- Speaker of the Assembly (from the finalists)
- Lieutenant Governor (from the finalists)

The following positions are qualified by a secret ballot primary at Training & Elections II:

- Secretary of State is narrowed to two finalists
- Youth Governor is narrowed to five semi-finalists

The following positions qualified by a convention-style primary:

- Youth Governor is narrowed from semi-finalists to three finalists

Sacramento

The following positions are elected by secret ballot at Sacramento:

- Secretary of State
- Youth Governor

Open Races & Line of Succession

Open Positions

In the event that no candidates qualify to run for an elected position, the Youth Governor shall appoint a delegate to the position.

Line of Succession

In the event that the Youth Governor is unable to fulfill their duties, the following line of succession will determine a replacement until the Youth Governor is able to perform their duties again:

1. Lieutenant Governor
2. President Pro-Tempore
3. Speaker of the Assembly
4. Secretary of State
5. Appointment by Youth & Government Core Staff

In the event that an elected officer other than the Youth Governor is unable to fulfill their duties, the Youth Governor shall appoint a replacement until that the officer is able to perform their duties again.

Rules Governing Statewide Campaigns

Dress Code:

- All candidates must be in Sacramento Attire during all Meet the Candidates sessions. At Camp Roberts, dress shoes may be substituted for appropriate shoes for the environment.
- Candidates must attend all mandatory meetings posted in conference schedules.

Attendance and Speeches:

- Candidate must attend and deliver a speech at all applicable Meet the Candidates sessions.
- Training & Elections conference speeches may be up to two minutes. Sacramento speeches may be up to five minutes.
- Speech topics and language must be appropriate to the candidacy and position.

Finance:

- All campaign-related expenses must be recorded on a Campaign Finance Disclosure Form. Disclosure forms must be submitted to the Office of the Secretary of State by end of dinner on the first day of each conference. If the election proceedings span over multiple conferences, a new form must be submitted at each conference with *all* campaign expenses reported from the entire campaign process.
- Receipts for campaign materials may be required to prove the value of an expense.
- Candidates may spend up to \$200 on campaigning, with the exception of the Youth Governor. Youth Governor candidates may spend up to \$400.
- Transportation costs (i.e. gas, fares, fees, etc) do not count as a campaign expense.
- An inter-delegation campaign fee will apply for visiting and campaigning to delegations other than the candidates' own. These fees must be reported on the Campaign Finance Disclosure Form and should be deducted from the allowed campaign funds. The fees are as follows:
 - \$5 fee for visiting a delegation of 1-20 delegates
 - \$10 fee for visiting a delegation of 21-50 delegates
 - \$15 fee for visiting a delegation of 51-80 delegates
 - \$20 fee for visiting a delegation of 80+ delegates
- Candidates may receive up to \$50 of donated goods/services beyond their campaign funds limit. Additional donated goods/services must be recorded as an expense.
- The Office of the Secretary of State will review all campaign finance records and may choose to audit a candidate at their discretion for more information.

Promotional Items

- No sticky-backed/adhesive promotional items.
- No confetti, small pieces of paper, balloons or any items that are likely to result in litter.

- No chewing gum.
- No leaflets or flyers.
- Campaign materials may not be affixed to or hung in undesignated locations.
- A sample of each campaign material must be submitted with the Campaign Finance Disclosure Form.

Qualifications

- Candidates must submit a color, print-quality photo of themselves in Sacramento attire with their application.
- Applications must be signed by an Advisor from the candidate's delegation.
- Candidate applications must be postmarked or submitted by deadline published on the Model Legislature and Court Calendar.
- Candidates must meet all age/grade/experience/etc. qualifications for office outlined in the Advisor Manual.

Delegation Candidate Criteria

- Delegations must run candidates in accordance with the general criteria for candidates as well as any criteria specific to the office which they seek

Enforcement & Changes

- Campaign guidelines will be monitored and enforced by the Office of Secretary of State.
- Change to any elections or campaign rules may be recommended to the Elections Committee.

Elections Committee

The Elections Committee is a sub-committee of the Program Committee. The committee will be chaired by the Youth Secretary of State. The committee will be comprised of the following:

- Four delegates appointed by the Secretary of State
- One Secretary of State Staff member
- At least one Program Committee Member
- Two Advisors (preferably one small and one large delegations)

The elections committee will meet at least once per program year to review the current elections and campaign guidelines.

The Elections Committee may recommend policy changes to the Program Committee.