



CAMPAIGN RULES DOCUMENT OF THE UNDERGRADUATE ASSOCIATION

ARTICLE I: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Campaign Rules Document is to outline the rules that shall govern election campaigning and to provide the Campaign Rules Board with guidelines for dealing with campaign violations, complaints, sanctions, and appeals. A copy of this document shall be included in election packets distributed to candidates.

ARTICLE II: CAMPAIGN RULES

Section 1: General Guidelines

- A. Rules are meant to ensure fairness, keep order, and preserve the integrity of the election. In general, candidates should try to maintain the “spirit of the campaign” which is an atmosphere of friendly competition with others and respect for the election process.
- B. All candidates are responsible for their campaigns, which includes others whom they know are campaigning for them. It is the responsibility of all candidates to know the campaign rules and to ensure that their campaign helpers follow the rules.
- C. Campaigns may not violate any MIT rule or policy or destructively interfere with:
 - a. The election commission’s job to run the election and preserve its integrity.
 - b. Other candidate’s campaigns.
- D. Campaigning is defined in Article V Section 2 of the election code as “publicly promoting one’s candidacy. This includes but is not limited to poster, email, social media, chalking, speeches, and campaign websites. Additional campaigning activities will be at the discretion of the Campaign Rules Board. The gathering of petition signatures shall be excluded from this definition.”
- E. All candidates must be registered students, per the MIT Registrar's Office, by add date, in order to be eligible to run.
- F. Candidates running for class council positions must be current members of the class for which they wish to represent, according to the Registrar's Office.
- G. If during the term of office the winner becomes an unregistered student or leaves the constituency for which they represent, the Judicial Committee will be consulted.

Section 2: Campaign Rules for Official Candidates

- A. No candidate may begin campaigning (as per the definition in the election code) before:
 - a. The time set on the Elections Calendar as the start of official campaigning.
 - b. The Election Commission approves their petition.
- B. Outside living groups (b also applies to places inside plainly visible from outside):
 - a. Campaigns must follow all Association of Student Activities poster rules (<http://web.mit.edu/asa/www/public-postering.shtml> or <http://web.mit.edu/asa/publicity/public-bulletin-boards.html>). These include:
 - i. Posting only on ASA bulletin boards. Posters may not be placed on trees, poles, walls, lampposts, mailboxes, bridges, scaffolding, etc.
 - ii. Campaigns shall not remove or post over other posters, except for non-MIT posters or out of date posters.
 - iii. Include the sponsoring party and contact information.
 - b. Campaigns may not reserve poster space or put up posters bigger than 187 square inches (ex. 11x17). This rule precludes campaigns from reserving Lobby 7 kiosks or hanging large banners from fraternities.
- C. Within a living group (dorm, frat, etc.), campaigns must follow all rules (poster included) imposed by that living group. This provision will be enforced by the group’s governing body, which may request a Rules Board investigation.
- D. Campaigns must follow Athena Rules of Use and the following additional email rules:



- a. Candidates and campaign helpers may only send campaign email to lists if the contents of the email pertains to the members of the list.
 - b. Blind Carbon Copy may not be used.
 - c. Candidates and campaign helpers responsible for moderated lists must impartially approve or disapprove campaign material sent by list members.
- E. Chalk shall be used in moderation and only on the ground. Campaigns may not chalk or otherwise graffiti bulletin boards, walls, windows, chalkboards, white boards, etc.
- F. Candidates and campaign helpers may not campaign (as per the definition in the election code) in places of voting. This means:
- a. All campaign materials must be removed from Athena clusters or from the immediate vicinity of Athena quickstations during electronic voting days. No campaign materials should be able to be seen from anywhere inside an Athena cluster.
 - b. Campaigns may not create new voting front ends. Links to electronic voting may not point directly to the ballot (you may link to <http://vote.mit.edu/>) and must open an official commission website in a full browser window.
 - c. Campaigning is prohibited on the first floor of Building 10 when paper balloting is taking place. During this time, candidates may only enter Lobby 10 to vote or pass through quickly.
 - d. All other campaigning (posters, email, etc.) may continue during voting.
 - e. Campaigning is prohibited from TEAL rooms.
 - f. No campaign materials may be worn in places of voting. This includes, but is not limited to:
 - ii. T-shirts
 - iii. Face painting
 - iv. Costumes
 - v. Body signs
- G. Campaign material may not be visible in the UA Office (W20-401).
- H. Use of an organization's resources by a campaign shall be governed as the organization sees fit provided that no election rules are violated.
- I. Campaigns may not bribe voters. Bribery is defined as the application of such influences [giving or accepting money or some other payment] in exchange for votes.
- J. Candidates may use personal social media accounts to campaign
Candidates are limited to 1 post each on any MIT page (i.e. class pages or MIT Confessions)
- K. If someone is unsure if a particular activity violates election rules, he or she shall contact the Campaign Rules Board for an official interpretation.

Section 3: Campaign Rules for Unofficial Write-in Candidates

- A. Candidates who are not official (as per the definition in the Election Code) must follow the same rules as official candidates unless otherwise indicated in this section. This section does not apply to official candidates who have been removed from the ballot.
- B. Write-in candidates may begin campaigning at the time set on the Elections Calendar as the start of official campaigning. They do not need to have a petition approved.
- C. There is no poster size limit or ban on reserving postering space for write-in campaigns. They may use posters up the ASA limit of 22x17 on ASA boards.
- D. Write-in campaigns may have campaign material in Athena clusters and within sight of Athena quickstations during electronic voting days.
- E. Write-in campaigning is prohibited only in Lobby 10 when paper balloting is taking place. During this time, write-in candidates may only enter the lobby to vote or pass through quickly.
- F. If a candidate begins to campaign before being officially approved by the Election Commission they may either:
 - i. Choose to run as a write-in.
 - ii. Be subjected to sanctions decided by the Election Commission per Article IV.



ARTICLE III: PROCEDURE FOR COMPLAINTS

(Sections A-D are copied from Article V, Section 4 of the Election Code)

- A. Complaints shall be directed to the Campaign Rules Board. The Campaign Rules Board shall send an acknowledgement of receiving such complaint within two days of its receipt to the rest of the Election Commission and all parties involved.
- B. The Campaign Rules Board shall conduct an investigation to determine the merit of the complaint and impose any necessary sanctions. This shall be completed in a timely manner.
- C. An official statement of any Campaign Rules Board decisions shall be sent within a day of the decision.
- D. Appeals of the Campaign Rules Board decision must be lodged to the Judicial Board within three school days of the decision.
- E. A list of substantiated complaints filed against official candidates shall be available both on the Election Commission's web site and at the paper balloting booth.

ARTICLE IV: SANCTIONING GUIDELINES

Section I: General Guidelines

- A. This article contains guidelines for sanctions based on the level of severity of the campaign violation. These are written only as a suggestion for the Campaign Rules Board; the board is in no way handicapped or restricted by these guidelines.
- B. In general, the Campaign Rules Board should evaluate violations based on two main concerns: "Does the violation violate the 'spirit of the campaign'?" and "Does the violation give the candidate who committed it an unfair advantage in the campaign?"
- C. Sanctions shall be imposed in such a way that "the punishment fits the crime." The purpose of imposing sanctions is to eliminate any unfair advantage the candidate may have gained by committing the violation.

Section 2: Three Levels of Violations

- A. Level I: Minor Infraction
 - a. Violations at this level do not violate the "spirit of the campaign" and give the candidate little if any unfair advantage.
 - b. Examples include minor postering violations such as a poster partially covering part of another poster or accidentally placing two posters on one bulletin board.
 - c. Possible sanctions include an official warning or slightly restricting the candidate's campaigning rights.
- B. Level II: Moderate Violation
 - a. Violations at this level somewhat violate the "spirit of the campaign" and/or give the candidate an unfair advantage.
 - b. Examples include:
 - i. Campaigning before getting the petition approved.
 - ii. Using a drop poster.
 - iii. Sending a campaign email to a list of which the candidate is not a member.
 - iv. Chalking on walls.
 - a. Possible Sanctions:
 - i. Partial revocation of specific campaign rights relevant to the violation—no postering in the Infinite Corridor, no more email, etc.
 - ii. Not allowing the candidate to campaign for a day or more.
 - iii. If the candidate has previously committed another moderate violation, or the moderate violation committed is on the severe side, the Campaign Rules Board might want to consider placing the phrase "violated election rules" next to the candidate's name on the ballot.



- C. Level III: Severe Violation
 - a. Violations at this level blatantly violate the “spirit of the campaign” and give the candidate a considerable, unfair advantage.
 - b. Examples include:
 - i. Campaigning by the paper balloting booth in Lobby 10 or in Athena clusters on election day
 - i. Tampering with voting or ballots
 - ii. Intentionally sabotaging another candidate’s campaign
 - c. Possible Sanctions:
 - i. Place the phrase “violated election rules” next to the candidate’s name on the ballot.
 - i. Revoke all campaigning rights.
 - ii. Remove the candidate from the ballot.

Section 3: Disqualification

- A. Candidates who commit severe violations that undermine the integrity of the election and/or the democratic process void their right to be elected to office during the election in which the violation was committed.
- B. It is recommended that disqualification only be used as a last resort for candidates who cannot be sanctioned by any other means.
- C. Disqualified candidates shall be the first ones to have their votes redistributed in preferential voting.

Section 4: Funding Limits

- A. All winning candidates must submit a funding form- even if no money was spent- by the appointed deadline. Candidates who do not do so will no longer be considered official candidates and runner ups will be contacted and appointed to the open position.
- B. Complaints over funding expenses shall be directed to the Campaign Rules Board. The Campaign Rules Board shall send an acknowledgement of receiving such complaint within two days of its receipt to the rest of the Election Commission and all parties involved. Sanctions will be determined by Campaign Rules Board.
- C. Candidates who surpass the designated Campaign Expenses limit will be fined the amount they went over the limit and will be referred to the Judicial Board and Election Commission Campaign Rules Board for further sanctions from either committee. Funds procured from the candidates will go into the UA Invested Reserve.

ARTICLE V: AMENDMENTS

As specified in Article III, Section 4 of the election code, the election commission shall make revisions to this document between election cycles. Any changes must be approved by a majority vote of Council.