



Student Bar Association
Georgetown Law

Spring 2010 Campaign Rules

Welcome to the SBA's Spring 2010 Election! These Campaign Rules are designed to ensure a smooth and vibrant election. All candidates must abide by these Rules and act in an ethical manner during the campaign and election periods. Additional provisions governing the electoral process are enumerated in Article VIII of the SBA Constitution and Article I of the SBA Bylaws. These Rules outline the campaign and election process, and all candidates must carefully review these provisions before campaigning.

Running for a position on the SBA is easy! It is also fun and can be a great way to meet people and learn about our community's needs. Following the Rules and procedures below will help ensure that all participants in SBA elections conduct themselves in a respectful manner and that the elections remain fair and unbiased. **Should you have any questions regarding elections procedures, campaigning, the SBA, or anything else, please contact the Elections Committee at sba@law.georgetown.edu.** We strongly encourage you to contact the Elections Committee with questions before any issues arise, as violating Elections rules may result in the termination of your candidacy.

1. Dates and Times: The first-round elections will be held Wednesday, February 24th through Friday, February 26th. Delegates are selected by a plurality vote and Executive Officers of SBA are elected by a majority vote. If no Executive Officer candidate receives a majority during the first round, a run-off election will be held Wednesday, March 3rd through Friday, March 5th. All elections take place through electronic balloting accessible to GULC students by visiting the SBA's website: www.georgetown.sba.com. For both the first-round and run-off elections, the voting website will be open from 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday through 11:59 p.m. on Friday.

2. Positions:

Executive Officers:

- President
- Day Division Vice-President
- Evening Division Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary

House of Delegates:

- One Joint Degree Delegate
- Three 2E Delegates
- Three 3E Delegates
- Three 4E Delegates
- Twelve 2L Delegates
- Twelve 3L Delegates

3. Eligibility: Any duly registered student of Georgetown University Law Center is eligible to run for office. Please review the SBA Constitution for additional information about eligibility and requirements of office.

4. Nominations / Filing for Office: All candidates or persons who wish to nominate a student for office must complete the Candidate Nomination form online via survey monkey: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/XYGMCKN> After completing the online form, candidates will be contacted by the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee will confirm that each student accepts the nomination for office and that they agree to comply with these Rules, the SBA Bylaws, and SBA Constitution. **ALL NOMINATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED ONLINE by 5:00 p.m. EST on February 19, 2009.**

6. Delegates' Statements: Delegate candidates are encouraged to submit a written statement NOT TO EXCEED 250 WORDS to the SBA by Friday, February 19th, at 5:00 p.m., for inclusion in *The Law Weekly* on Tuesday, February 23. Statements will also be available to all students at www.georgetown.sba.com.

7. Elections Committee: Conduct during the election is the full responsibility of the SBA Elections Committee. The Elections Committee will take all necessary action to ensure fair proceedings. Candidates should direct questions to the Elections Committee by e-mailing sba@law.georgetown.edu. Questions of interpretation of these Rules will be determined solely by the Elections Committee.

Campaigning

Timing: Candidates may begin campaigning after receiving e-mail approval from the Elections Committee. The sooner candidates complete the online nomination form and agree to all campaign requirements, the sooner they campaign. Candidates in a run-off election may continue to campaign through March 5th. ***Candidates must clean up all election materials within 48 hours of the close of their respective elections.***

Spending Limits:

Executive Officer Candidates: Each candidate shall be limited to \$100.00 in total campaign expenditures. If a run-off campaign is required, each run-off candidate may spend an additional \$25.00 USD in promoting his or her candidacy in the run-off election.

Delegate Candidates: Each candidate shall be limited to \$50.00 in total campaign expenditures.

If a candidate is running for both a Delegate and Executive Board position, that candidate shall be limited to \$100.00 in total campaign expenditures.

If multiple candidates choose to run as a “ticket,” each ticket shall be limited to the combined amount of expenditures per candidate (candidates running on a ticket for President and Vice President are limited to \$200.00 in total expenditures).

These amounts are inclusive of all goods, services, and gifts that are used to promote a student’s candidacy in any way.

Candidates must keep all receipts related to campaign expenditures and submit those receipts along with the Campaign Expense Report to the SBA Office (McD 208J) by 5:00 p.m. EST on February 26th. If you did not spend any money, please indicate that by emailing mrh75@law.georgetown.edu . For run-off elections candidates must submit their Campaign Expense Report and all receipts by 5:00 p.m. EST on March 5th.

Content of Campaign Materials:

Students may campaign in any way not restricted by these rules. The content of campaign materials should be tactful: attacks on candidates, inappropriate materials and vulgarity are prohibited. Creativity is encouraged, but here are common examples of campaign media:

- Flyers/Quarter sheets
- Posters
- Buttons
- Stickers
- Candy
- T-Shirts

Online Campaigning: If students wish to use the internet (i.e. web pages or emails) to help with their campaign they are free to do so, provided that their campaign materials do not suggest any representation of SBA or Georgetown Law. Specifically, ***Georgetown’s name and/or logo may not appear anywhere on the website or in the message.*** Phrases like “Vote Sam for SBA President” are completely acceptable.

Students may collect email addresses from friends and classmates, but they may not use any school-distributed email list for campaigning. All candidate e-mails must include an opt-out statement which instructs the recipients to e-mail the sender if they wish to stop receiving e-mails. Candidates must honor any such opt-out requests; **spamming is strictly prohibited, and the Elections Committee will take seriously any violations of this e-mail policy.**

In-Class Announcements: Students may make announcements in class, but only with the professor's permission. Anything written on chalkboards is subject to be erased at the discretion of the professor.

Social Events: Candidates may hold social events on or off campus to promote their campaigns, subject to the campaign budget policies outlined above. If candidates hold social events on campus, the Elections Committee will hold candidates responsible for clean-up immediately following their events.

Printed Materials: If students make flyers to post around the school, the Office of Student Affairs must approve every flyer they post *prior* to posting. **Each advertisement regardless of form must contain the words "SBA ELECTIONS" followed by the election date and contact information for the candidate. Each advertisement must abide by Office of Student Life guidelines and posted materials on campus must be approved by the Office of Student Life before posting.**

Gewirz Campaign Rules: **When campaigning in Gewirz Residence Hall, each candidate must also abide by the Department of Residence Life guidelines. This includes no door-to-door solicitations of Gewirz residents. To request permission to post on Gewirz, consult the Gewirz Hall management.**

Conduct During the Voting Period: During the voting periods (Feb. 24-26 and March 3-5), candidates **may not attempt to influence any student while they are voting.** Candidates may not set up their own computer station dedicated to voting. This includes setting up personal computers, as well as commandeering public computer terminals for the purposes of procuring votes.

COMPLAINTS & RECOUNTS

Any contestant may demand a recount of their position within 24 hours of certification. The Elections Committee handles all recounts. The results of the elections are suspended until a recount has taken place. Any contestant may demand a meeting with the election chair within 48 hours of the election if the candidate has a problem with how the election was conducted.

All complaints must be submitted in writing to the Elections Committee by e-mailing sba@law.georgetown.edu. Any member of the Georgetown community may file a complaint during elections.

The Elections Committee retains sole authority to resolve disputes concerning any campaign violations prior to certification of the election results. If candidates wish to register a complaint for any reason prior to certification, candidates must submit their complaint in writing to the Elections Committee. The Elections Committee will respond to complaints at its discretion, with responses including the following (listed in order of severity):

1. Warning letter;
2. Suspension of candidate's campaign privileges;
3. Removal of candidate from ballot.

These remedial actions are within the sole discretion of the Elections Committee and may not be appealed to the SBA Judiciary Committee until the Elections Committee has rendered a final decision. A candidate may immediately appeal any sanction to the SBA Judiciary Committee. Unless the Judiciary Committee issues a stay of the Elections Committee's decision, the candidate may not campaign pending the Judiciary Committee's review of the appeal.

If the Elections Committee receives written notice of a complaint regarding the election following the certification of election results, the Elections Committee shall immediately refer the matter to the Judiciary Committee. The Judiciary Committee shall, within 48 hours, gather all evidence regarding the complaint, give fair hearing to persons requesting an audience, and issue a written majority vote opinion. The Judiciary Committee may either uphold the result of the election as certified by the Elections Committee or require that a new election be held immediately. Candidates may only contest their respective election results.

The Elections Committee and the Judiciary Committee are guided by a single overarching theme when administering these Rules and the SBA elections: "The elections of voting Delegates and Officers shall be fair, open, and unbiased and shall be held to the highest ethical standards of democratic electoral conduct for participants, election officials, and monitors." SBA Constitution, Art. VII, § 1.

Best of luck – happy campaigning!

SBA Elections Committee:

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Justin Williams 3L
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