Election Timeline

- Your application to Student Council is due Wednesday April 29th
- Turn in your election at **lasastuco.org/run**
- You will be notified if your application has been approved by May 2nd
- A candidate zoom meeting to discuss rules will take place on May 4th
- Your video and written statements are due May 8th
- Voting will take place from May 16th to May 22nd
- Results will be announced on May 26th

Running for Student Council

Information and Application

How will online elections be different from regular Student Council Elections?

The Student Council election process should always be equitable. We are extending the timeline so candidates and voters have enough time to complete the various parts of the student council election process. It is our wish that no one should feel that they can't run because of lack of resources or time. If you feel at any point that you don't have the resources to complete a part of the application process, email the student council senior president and Mrs. A, the student council sponsor, at leadership@lasastuco.org and melissa.driscoll@austinisd.org.

What is Student Council?

Student Council is LASA's student government organization, made up of four officers from each class. Student council is responsible for planning many school events, providing academic and social support to students, and acting as a link between administrators and students. More information about Student Council and its responsibilities can be found at lasastuco.org.

What are the expectations of officers?

Student Council meets every Wednesday during lunch. When applying, make sure to check that you will be able to attend every single meeting. This is important for all officers. Student Council also has occasional joint meetings with LBJ Student Council to coordinate events like Homecoming and Prom. It is expected that not only will officers attend meetings but also invest significant time outside of the meetings into student council. It is typical to expect around two hours of work outside of meetings per week.

How can you run for office?

Fill out the google form at lasastuco.org/run and email a screenshot of your grades and name to melissa.driscoll@austinisd.org (this is Mrs. A, the student council sponsor and theater teacher). To run, you must have an average above an 80 in all of your fall semester class averages *or* spring 10 week grading period average and no referrals or other disciplinary infractions. Fill out the form and send the email no later than **11:59 pm, April 29th**. You will be contacted by the email address you provided in the form if you have been approved to run by May 2nd. Remember to also read the rules attached. **Any infraction of these rules will likely lead to your immediate disqualification**.

Online Election Campaign Rules and Procedures

General Process

Student Council is committed to making the election fair for everybody. If at any point you feel that you are at a disadvantage to other candidates solely because of the resources available to you, please contact leadership@stuco.org and we will work with you to ensure you are given a fair campaign.

Student Council also recognizes that face-to-face campaigning is an integral part of the Student Council election process and is often what can make the difference in terms of being elected. Although in the past, there have been very strict social media and online campaign guidelines (including via text/direct message), these are being loosened somewhat as direct communication campaigning via text is a reasonable substitute to in person campaigning. Remember that you leave a semi-permanent digital foot print.

- All candidates will be allowed a three-minute video. Once your application is approved, you will be emailed a list of questions that you can answer in your video. While you don't have to answer all the questions on the list, you can't answer questions or provide comments outside the scope of these questions
- The same guidelines apply to a one page statement that you are allowed to make (in response to questions).
- These videos will be distributed publicly to the entire student body. Consider this when you are making your video
- Your video will be screened to ensure that it complies with the rules of the election.
- Social media campaigning isn't allowed (except for posts made on the election Instagram), but text campaigning is.

Overarching Rules

- Most importantly, run a campaign **in good faith**. That is, respect the spirit of the campaign as not a competition but of a process allowing people to learn more about you as a person and for them to determine if you are the most qualified candidate to be on student council.
- Don't do any of the following:
    - Give policy promises
    - Endorse candidates for other positions
    - Talk negatively about other candidates
    - Make threats (even if within official AISD policy) of any kind
- Note that giving policy promises is not the same as saying why you would be a good fit for student council. Please do the latter, but not the former!
- Social media campaigning **isn't allowed** on your personal social media pages. As will be explained in the candidate zoom, you may only post to an already made student council Instagram page (send your submissions for posts to leadership@stuco.org). You are allowed one post per day maximum on this student council created Instagram page. Expect a day of delay between the emailing of a submission and a post. The general guidelines for posts are the same as for all other campaigning. They must comply with AISD policy.
- Be kind and act as if you were meeting them in person. Don't say anything that you wouldn't say to a person's face.
- You **are** allowed to campaign via text (or related services such as WhatsApp, GroupMe, and "Instagram direct messages"), as this is a suitable substitute for in person campaigning. You are also allowed to campaign via group chats, but only via group chats that aren't for the sole purpose of your student council campaign. **You can't create group chats for the purpose of promoting your student council campaign.** Remember that:
    - You can't advocate your candidacy before the candidate zoom meeting.
    - You can't advocate your candidacy during the week of voting.
        - You can only tell people to vote (not necessarily to vote for you) during the week of voting.

Online Election Campaign Rules and Procedures

- Be in charge of your campaign. All statements made via text about your election should be made by you. Instruct your friends not to campaign for you. If you feel you are at a disadvantage (for instance, usually you will only talk to people in person because you don't have a phone), reach out to leadership@lasastuco.org and we will find a reasonable substitute. For instance, you might be allowed a longer video/written statement, or a friend might be allowed to send out messages for you.
- We recommend that you carefully specify what position you are running for in all of your statements. This has led to quite a bit of confusion in the past!
- **Once again, you are held responsible for your friends' actions**. Tell them not to campaign for you.
- You might be thinking right now that you can get away with "edge" situations that marginally don't violate the rules, or you could be thinking of some loop hole. **Don't act on these thoughts**. Even if this is how you don't normally behave in the online world, you must behave according to these rules if you hope to not be disqualified.

Specific rules and tips about the video and written statement

- Focus on the questions and only the questions. Obviously, some deviation from student to student is expected. Do make your answer unique. But don't talk about topics not related to student council or the questions at hand.
- We recommend that you plan your answers ahead of time. If you talk off the cuff on your video, you could end up giving vague answers.
- No special effects are allowed in your video. It should just be of you answering questions.
- All of the overarching rules apply to these statements as well.
- You are allowed to talk about your accomplishments/what you have done in the past.

How to report violations

It is critical to maintain election integrity to ensure a fair election for all candidates. If you see or hear of any campaign violations email leadership@lasastuco.org, the student council sponsor Mrs. A (melissa.driscoll@austinisd.org), or Mr. Paulson (andy.paulson@austinisd.org). Encourage your friends to do the same. All reports will remain anonymous.

Examples of Correct Interactions

On the week of voting

Person X: Hi there! I'm still on the edge of who to vote for. Could you give me some reasons why I might vote for you?
You: I'm sorry, I'm not allowed to campaign on the day of elections. Remember to vote by Friday though!

During the campaigning week: Text Message

"Vote for me for Sophomore Student Council Vice-President! I've been a part of club X for the past year and love to help out in student activities. I'm enthusiastic about representing the issues of the sophomore class, and I have the leadership skills necessary for Student Council as demonstrated through the volunteering activities I've organized in the past." *Probably wouldn't be this long though and you can have school appropriate graphics added to it.*

Examples of Incorrect Interactions

On the week of voting

Person X: Hi there! I'm still on the edge of who to vote for. Could you give me some reasons why I might vote for you?
You: I've been a member of club X for the past couple of years. I also have a lot of volunteer experience through my time at X, and I am good at communicating and listening to complaints of other people, one of the qualities needed in Student Council members. *While this would be a great response during the campaign, you aren't allowed to campaign while the election is taking place.*

During election week: Text Message

Vote for me for Sophomore Student Council Vice-President! If you don't vote for me, I'll quit my role as Y for club X, and I have more volunteering experience than candidate Z. *Don't make threats of what will happen if you don't run, and don't compare yourself to other candidates.*