

Model Legislature & Court Elected Officers

Officer Categories

Delegations may run ONE candidate in Category 1, ONE for Category 2 and up to FIVE for Category 3, as long as their total number of candidates is no more than five. For example, the Hogwarts delegation could run Governor, Chief Justice, Forum Sgt-At-Arms, NIC PC and Presiding Justice candidates, but not Governor, Secretary of State, Speaker of the Assembly, NIC PC and Chief Justice.

This year we've added a new category, Category 4: Grassroots Leadership. This group of officers is selected in their program area and does NOT count against your number of candidates running for office. This means that you can run five candidates for Categories 1 to 3, and still run additional delegates for Category 4.

Category 1: Statewide Leadership

- | | |
|---|------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth Governor | Primary at T&E II, Elected at ML/C |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary of State | Primary at T&E II, Elected at ML/C |

Category 2: Program Leadership

- | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Lt. Governor | Primary at T&E I, Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speaker of the Assembly | Primary at T&E I, Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Justice | Elected at T&E I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NIC Presiding Commissioner | Elected at T&E I |

Category 3: Program Area Leadership

- | | |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Attorney General | Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> District Attorney | Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forum Sgt-At-Arms (Senate/Assembly) | Elected at T&E I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forum Secretary/Chief Clerk | Elected at T&E I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forum Speaker of the Assembly | Primary at T&E I, Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forum Lt. Governor | Primary at T&E I, Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> NIC Administrative Clerk | Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presiding Justice | Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Secretary of the Senate/Chief Clerk of the Assembly | Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sgt-At-Arms (Senate/Assembly) | Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Speaker/President Pro-Tem | Elected at T&E I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Legislative Analyst | Elected at T&E I |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Superintendent of Public Instruction | Elected at T&E I |

Category 4: Grassroots Leadership

- | | |
|---|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> NIC Adversary General | Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chief Polling Officer | Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Presiding Speaker of the State Constitutional Convention | Elected at T&E II |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pro-Tem of the State Constitutional Convention | Elected at T&E II |

Candidate Photos

Whenever 2,400 bright motivated teens participate in a program, the level of competition for leadership opportunities is intense. It is essential that advisors and delegates read the Qualifications and Duties of Elected Officers for each office and that Nomination Forms are filled out clearly. To help ensure the candidate has a positive experience, please make sure all forms are submitted prior to the deadline. When submitting officer applications, the electronic system will automatically log the time of submission. Late applications will not be accepted. The Y&G office recommends that the local delegation asks candidates to turn in their forms one week before they are due and that they are checked and signed by the advisor. **All nomination forms require the submission of a candidate photo.** Since these photos are used in program schedules and the Commemorative Book, it is important that the picture meets the following guidelines:

- Head and shoulders formal photo
- Plain white background
- Sharp picture in either color or black and white
- Delegates must be dressed in Sacramento Attire
- Please DO NOT edit the picture
- NO CELL PHONE PICTURES

POLICY ON PHOTO SUBMISSION: Officer candidate photos must be submitted by the application deadline. Failure to submit an appropriate photo will result in disqualification.

All elected officers and appointed leadership are required to arrive at the ML/C Conference in Sacramento one day early to participate in officer training.

Where They Run For Office

Some candidates run for office in front of the entire ML/C. Some candidates only run for office in front of their program area. If your delegate is running for a Category 1 or Category 2 position, they will be speaking in front of the entire ML/C and in smaller groups during Meet The Candidate (MTC) sessions. Category 3 and 4 candidates only speak in front of their program area.

Election Rules

Model Legislature & Court Elections Policy

This document contains the complete set of rules governing the running of 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 President/CEO of California YMCA Youth & Government.

Convention Style Election Rules & Procedure

Voting

- Each delegation may cast one vote for each delegate in attendance.
- Delegation will cast its votes on a Delegation Ballot.
- Ballots will be distributed at the Convention, and delegates should not cast their votes until all speakers have given their final Convention Speech/Debate.
- 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

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

Secret Ballot Election Rules & Procedure

- Each delegate in attendance of the conference may cast one vote for each ballot item that they are eligible to vote on.
- Each delegate will cast their votes on an individual ballot (not a delegation ballot).
- Delegates voting privilege may not be assigned to anyone else; each delegate must cast their own vote(s).
- Votes must be cast during designated polling times. Votes outside designated polling times will not be counted.
- Distracting behavior (including talking) will not be permitted in a polling area. Voters may be asked to leave if they partake in this behavior.
- Campaigning for any candidate or ballot measure is prohibited within 100 feet of a polling place.
- Only votes cast via the official ballot, in accordance with rules outlined on the ballot, will be counted.
- Final vote counts will be tallied and verified by the Office of Secretary of State.
- 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
- NIC Adversary General
- Chief Clerk of the Assembly
- Secretary of the Senate
- Sgt.-At-Arms of the Senate and Assembly
- Attorney General
- Presiding Justice
- District Attorney
- Constitutional Convention Presiding Speaker

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 (one candidate from each political party, and one unaffiliated candidate will advance).

Sacramento

The following position is elected by secret ballot at Sacramento:

- Secretary of State

The following position is elected by convention style election at Sacramento:

- Youth Governor
- Final two candidates will qualify by secret ballot at Sacramento
- Youth Governor is elected Convention Style at the Governor's Banquet

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:

- Lieutenant Governor
- President Pro-Tempore
- Speaker of the Assembly
- Secretary of State
- 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 by 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.
- All candidates who run in primary elections (EXCEPT Forum candidates) will be allotted a total of \$400 to spend over the course of the primary and general elections. Candidates will be allotted \$250 in their primary election and continuing candidates will be allotted the remaining \$150. *This category includes candidates for Lt. Governor, Speaker of the Assembly, Youth Governor and Secretary of State.* All other candidates will be allotted a total of \$250 for their election campaigns. *This category includes ALL Forum offices, ALL Judicial offices, Chief Clerk of the Assembly, Secretary of the Senate, ALL NIC offices, Constitutional Convention Presiding Speaker, State Legislative Analyst, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, President Pro-Tem, Speaker Pro-Tem, Sgt.-at-Arms of the Senate/Assembly.*
- 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 are encouraged to receive donations. All donations must be recorded as an expense on a Campaign Finance Disclosure Form.
- 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 & Court Calendar.

Candidates must meet all qualifications for office outlined in the General Qualifications for All Leadership Positions

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.
- Any candidate that has been identified as committing an action that violates the spirit of Youth & Government and manipulating the electoral process may be disqualified at the discretion of the CEO or his/her designee.
- Change to any elections or campaign rules may be recommended to the Elections Commission.

Elections Commission

The Elections Commission will meet at least once per program year to review the current elections and campaign guidelines. The committee will be chaired by the Secretary of State and will be comprised of the following:

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

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