



WKU[®]

STUDENT GOVERNMENT
ASSOCIATION

SGA Election Packet
Fall 2026

Election Codes Fall 2026

*Edited and approved by the Judicial Council on September 3rd, 2026.
Election Code Meetings: September 15th at 5:00 PM & 16th at 4:30 PM in the SGA Chambers
Elections will be held from September 23rd at 8:00 AM - September 25th at 4:00 PM on TopNet.
Results will be released on September 25th at 4:01 PM in the SGA Chambers with a social media
post shortly following.*

1. Authority

- 1.1. The Judicial Council shall enact and review election rules in accordance with Section 4.6.5 of the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution.
 - 1.1.1. The Judicial Council reserves the right to try election code violations in a hearing format and enact equitable discipline based on the ruling.
 - 1.1.1.1. The Judicial Council reserves the right to define equitable discipline during and after rulings have been decided.
- 1.2. The following Election Codes apply to both Executive and Legislative Elections.

2. Candidacy and Filing Procedures

- 2.1. The Chief Communications Officer, or a designated appointee, or necessary aid, pursuant to Section 2.7.4. of the SGA Constitution, shall publicize all filing dates.
- 2.2. In order to run for an office, a student must file an application with the Chief Justice no later than Wednesday, September 16th at 8:00 PM.
- 2.3. The candidate's packet shall be distributed at the codes meeting and be made available on the SGA website. In the event of unordinary circumstances, the Chief Justice may assume a different route to receive candidate information.
 - 2.3.1. The candidate packet shall consist of a schedule of dates and events, a cost estimate sheet, campaign finance forms, the email of the Chief Justice, the candidate profile sheet, and any other pertinent information.
- 2.4. Candidates will be required to sign an agreement affirming that they will abide by the Election Codes, SGA Constitution, SGA By-Laws, and Student Handbook. They must also agree to release their academic and disciplinary records to the SGA Advisor.
- 2.5. Election Code Meetings will be held on Tuesday, September 15th, at 5:00 PM and Wednesday, September 16th, at 4:30 PM. All candidates must attend one of these meetings to be eligible to run.
 - 2.5.1. Candidates who file but fail to attend one of these meetings shall be disqualified, unless an exemption has been granted by the Judicial Council.
 - 2.5.2. The Chief Justice, or a designated member of the Judicial Council, shall notify all candidates of and preside over the Election Codes Meetings.

3. General Election Guidelines

- 3.1. The Judicial Council shall meet once a week during the election season.
- 3.2. No Justice of the Judicial Council may advocate for the election or defeat of any SGA office. Additionally, no Justice may provide a candidate with an official opinion or interpretation of SGA policy without a ruling by the Judicial Council.
 - 3.2.1. Members of the Judicial Council will not show favoritism in any manner on social media. This includes "liking", "retweeting", "sharing", "commenting", "reposting", and similar activities on any campaign posts.

All election packets must be submitted to Chief Justice Stirling by 8:00 PM on September 16, 2026

- 3.3. Mudslinging on social media, or any other avenue, is strictly prohibited.
- 3.4. Any Judicial Council rulings will be sent through the University email to all candidates.
- 3.5. Campaigning will begin for all candidates on Wednesday, September 16th following the code meeting at 4:30 PM.
 - 3.5.1. Any candidate accused of early campaigning will immediately be subject to a disciplinary hearing with the Judicial Council where disqualification will be considered.
- 3.6. The rules regarding the use of physical campaign materials (posters and other signage) are as follows:
 - 3.6.1. Campaign materials placed inside public buildings may only be placed on community bulletin boards.
 - 3.6.1.1. No materials may be placed on tables, chairs, countertops, or left anywhere that is not a community bulletin board.
 - 3.6.2. Only one piece of campaign material per candidate may be placed per bulletin board.
 - 3.6.3. No more than 2 posters per candidate may be placed on each floor of every building.
 - 3.6.3.1. The Judicial Council defines a floor as one continuous, flattened surface within a building.
 - 3.6.4. Placement of campaign materials on department-only or official-use bulletin boards is prohibited.
 - 3.6.5. Campaign materials placed on bulletin boards should not exceed twenty (20) inches by twenty (20) inches.
 - 3.6.6. There shall be no campaign materials distributed into or onto doors or doorways.
 - 3.6.7. There shall be no distribution or placement of campaign materials inside computer labs or classrooms.
 - 3.6.8. There shall be no posters or campaign materials in Cravens Library, Gary Ransdell Library, or the Commons.
 - 3.6.9. No campaign materials shall be placed in the SGA Office or SGA Chambers.
 - 3.6.10. Candidates must use 100% washable sidewalk chalk to utilize campaigning on sidewalks around campus.
 - 3.6.10.1. Chalk is to be used on sidewalks only. It is not permitted on the side of buildings.
 - 3.6.10.2. No candidate shall use inappropriate language or depictions of any kind in chalking. (i.e.) Mudslinging, explicit language, nudity, etc.
 - 3.6.11. Candidates may display yard signs on or around campus property.
 - 3.6.11.1. Yard signs must not deteriorate in the rain and must be immediately removed following elections.
 - 3.6.12. If candidates opt to use Instagram or any other social media platform, they must create a new account and are prohibited from using past accounts.
 - 3.6.12.1. This does not include personal Instagram accounts and only pertains to campaign specific accounts.
 - 3.6.13. No person shall deface or alter any material of any candidate.
 - 3.6.14. All candidates shall remove all campaign material from university property no later than five (5) days after the election.
 - 3.6.15. No unauthorized person shall be allowed to remove any material of any candidate.
 - 3.6.16. No person shall deface or alter any material of any candidate.
 - 3.6.17. WKU SGA is not responsible for any materials lost, stolen, or damaged.
- 3.7. No candidate, or agent of a candidate, shall send or solicit any physical mail or email for self-promotion during the election or campaign period. Soliciting votes via email is strictly prohibited.
 - 3.7.1. This does not include contacting heads of official university-approved student organizations for the purpose of speaking at a regular meeting of said organization.
 - 3.7.2. This does not include social networking sites, such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.

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- 3.7.3. This does not include the distribution of handbills to students around campus.
- 3.8. There shall be no campaigning in classrooms while class is in session, unless with the consent of the instructor. There is to be absolutely no campaigning in classrooms within 48 hours of the election.
- 3.9. There shall be no door-to-door campaigning in residence halls.
 - 3.9.1. This includes taping campaign material on doors, tying campaign material on door handles, and knocking on doors to solicit votes.
- 3.10. If a candidate uses Instagram or other social media to campaign, they must utilize their personal account or create a new campaign account. Accounts from prior campaigns are not to be used.
- 3.11. If a candidate chooses to utilize a “campaign team”, they are responsible for the conduct, behavior, and campaign efforts of each member.
 - 3.11.1. A “campaign team” is defined as any supporting personnel or adherents to the candidate’s campaign efforts. Members thereof are considered “agents” of the candidate.
 - 3.11.2. If a candidate chooses to utilize a campaign team, they are responsible for relaying all election codes, guidelines, and regulations to each member thereof.
- 3.12. Election Code violations committed by campaign team members are a **direct reflection** of the candidate and shall be reviewed by the Judicial Council as a violation of the candidate.
- 3.13. Distribution of any food, drink, and other perishable items for consumption shall be prohibited within 48 hours of any election.
- 3.14. No candidate, or agent of a candidate, shall solicit Social Security Numbers and/or Student ID Numbers to cast that student’s vote.
- 3.15. No candidate, or agent of a candidate, shall pressure or request that a student cast their vote in front of them.
- 3.16. Polling places shall not be used for any campaigning purposes, including but not limited to verbal campaigning, posting of campaign materials, or showcasing campaign merchandise.
 - 3.16.1. A “Polling Place” is defined as any publicly accessible computer with an internet connection. These include but are not limited to Cravens Library, the Commons, the Hub at Jody Richards, Gary Ransdell Library, etc.
 - 3.16.2. The Judicial Council reserves the right to designate future spaces as “polling places.”

4. Candidate Finance Guidelines

- 4.1. Candidates shall be required to adhere to the following financial limitations (donations and purchases):
 - 4.1.1. Presidential candidates shall spend no more than \$500.
 - 4.1.2. Vice Presidential candidates shall spend no more than \$250.
 - 4.1.3. Chief Financial Officer candidates shall spend no more than \$250.
 - 4.1.4. Senate candidates shall spend no more than \$75.
- 4.2. No single student or organization shall contribute more than 75% of the total per office to a candidate or per ticket. (i.e., a presidential candidate can be donated 75% of \$500, which would be \$375).
 - 4.2.1. Donations made to a candidate must be included on the election expenditure sheet and be counted towards the total amount.
- 4.3. Candidates running on a ticket will be allocated the amount from all offices (Presidential candidate, Student Body Vice-Presidential candidate, and Chief Financial Officer candidates: \$1,000).
 - 4.3.1. Only individuals running for executive offices can run as a ticket. Legislative candidates are not permitted and may be removed from the ballot for attempting to run on a ticket.
 - 4.3.1.1. Running on a ticket includes listing multiple candidate names on campaign material and/or providing students with a list of candidates to vote for.

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- 4.3.1.2. Candidates are permitted to share other candidates' campaign posts on their Instagram stories.
- 4.3.2. All campaign materials must include all names on the ticket.
 - 4.3.2.1. It is important to note that ticketed pairs will not be noted during voting. All candidates will be separated for each respective office they are running for.
 - 4.3.2.2. A form documenting the choice to run as a ticket is attached to this form and will need to be sent in with this election packet.
- 4.3.3. An exact report of itemized expenditures and contributions shall be filed with the Judicial Council and sent via email to the Chief Justice by Monday, September 28th at 5:00 PM.
 - 4.3.3.1. A copy of all receipts must be turned in with the expenditure sheet.

5. Election Results

- 5.1. The Chief Justice shall report the results of the election to the candidates once the votes have been verified at 4:01 PM on Friday, September 25th, 2026.
- 5.2. The election results shall be posted online and made available to the media by the Chief Communications Officer within twenty-four (24) hours of the election.
- 5.3. In the event a candidate wins multiple seats, they will be selected for whichever seat occurs first according to the results provided by TopNet.

6. Appeal Procedure

- 6.1. The following is the hearing and appeal procedure for violations of these Election Codes, as outlined in section 7.3 of the General Procedural Rules of the Judicial Council:
 - “The time frame for such a hearing shall be altered from the time frame as outlined in section 6.1. The hearing must take place within twenty-four (24) hours of the submission for a request for a hearing.
 - Hearings over election code violations may result in a change of the filed position being run for or a complete removal from the ballot, if the hearing occurs prior to the onset of voting.
 - Once the election starts on Top-Net, hearings regarding election code violations may not be heard to remove someone from the ballot.
 - Hearings over election code violations may be made after the election begins. These hearings would be grounds for removal from a position as they constitute a failure to uphold the duties of the elected office.”
- 6.2. The Chief Justice shall report the Judicial Council's rulings regarding appeals, protests, and disqualifications at the next regular meeting of the Senate.

7. Online Election Procedures

- 7.1. Internet polling will take place for 56 hours via TopNet, as determined by the Judicial Council.
- 7.2. The computer-based program will compile the results of the online elections. Results of these votes will be picked up from Information Technology by the SGA Advisor, or appointee, and the Chief Justice of the Judicial Council.

Judicial Council Contact Information

Chief Justice Sophie Stirling

sophia.stirling846@topper.wku.edu

SGA Office – 2046

Associate Chief Justice Hannah Hash

hannah.hash644@topper.wku.edu

If you have any questions, need clarification or assistance, or would like to file an appeal or complaint, please contact the Chief Justice or the Associate Chief Justice and visit <https://www.wku.edu/sga/judicial/meetingrequest.php> - Please provide as much information as possible so we can resolve your issue quickly and accurately.

Election Expenditure Sheet Fall 2026

	Expenditures	Receipts
Total Amount Allowed	• Senator: \$75	
Total spent on supplies	(Amount Spent)	(Receipt(s) Attached?) Yes No
Total spent on advertising	(Amount Spent)	(Receipt(s) Attached?) Yes No
Donations (Write in name and phone number for each donor/organization, if applicable)	(Amount Given) _____ _____ _____	(Contact Information) _____ _____ _____
Total spent on election	\$	(Please leave this box empty)

I _____ certify that the above is correct and understand that any discrepancies will result in judicial review by the Judicial Council.

Signature: _____

Student ID Number: _____

I _____ having read and fully understood the Student Government Association Fall 2026 Election Packet, do hereby agree to fully comply with the Election Codes. I also realize that any failure to follow these guidelines may result in judicial review, including disqualification.

Should I, _____, choose to utilize a campaign team, assistant, or other external personnel for the purpose of campaigning, I hereby affirm that I have relayed and reviewed the Student Government Association Fall 2026 Election Packet in its entirety with each member thereof. I understand that failure of my campaign team members, assistants, or other external personnel for the purpose of campaigning, to fully comply with the Election Codes may *still* result in judicial review, including disqualification.

Signature: _____

Student ID Number: _____

Fall 2026 SGA Election Application

Name: _____

800 Number: _____

WKU Email: _____

Major(s): _____

Current GPA: _____

Current Year by Credit Hours (Freshman, Sophomore, etc.): _____

Legislative Branch (you can select multiple, and it is recommended):

____ Freshman Senator

____ Gatton Academy Senator

____ Graduate Senator

____ International Student Senator

If you have questions or concerns, email Chief Justice Sophie Stirling at sophia.stirling846@topper.wku.edu

This Application is due and should be emailed or handed to Chief Justice Sophie Stirling no later than **8:00 PM on Wednesday, September 16th**. You may begin campaigning **following the code meeting on September 16th**. Elections will be held from **September 23rd at 8:00 AM to September 25th at 4:00 PM** via TopNet.

By signing this document and running for a position in the WKU SGA Senate, you assert that you have read and will follow the Spring 2026 Election Codes. If you win a seat, you must **commit to attending weekly Senate Meetings in the DSU SGA Senate Chambers from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM on Tuesdays**. Senate meetings are mandatory, and nonattendance may result in your expulsion from SGA.

Signature (if submitting electronically, please type your full name):

X_____

Total Seats Available:

Legislative:

- 3 Freshman Senators
- 1 Gatton Academy Senator
- 1 Graduate Senator
- 1 International Student Senator