

2023-2024 ASSOU Election Rules

I. Principles of the Election

1.1 These ASSOU election rules shall govern all elections of the Associated Students of Southern Oregon University. These rules shall ensure that all candidates, their campaigns, and all other related activities will be carried out according to the following principles:

1.1.1 The interests of the student body are protected.

1.1.2 Elections and campaigns are fair, equitable, and transparent.

1.1.3 The educational atmosphere of the University shall not be disrupted by the ASSOU elections process.

1.1.4 The integrity of ASSOU and the Elections process are not compromised.

2. Procedures

2.1 General Elections will be held during the Spring Term (the Elections Committee will determine dates) for Presidential, Vice Presidential, and Senatorial Officers' elections. The ASSOU election process shall be jointly supervised by the Elections Committee and the ASSOU Judiciary.

2.2 Notice for important general election dates as set by the Elections Committee shall be posted on the ASSOU website and sent to the campus community via all-campus email by the Director of Public Relations no later than one week before the petition deadline.

2.3 Filing an official petition with the Elections Committee shall constitute a declaration of candidacy.

2.3.1 The filing deadline is to be set and publicized by the Elections Committee.

2.3.2 The Candidate shall be responsible for the accuracy of the petition. Knowingly filing false information constitutes a violation of elections rules and shall follow the procedure outlined in section 6.10.4 of these rules.

2.3.2.1 The ASSOU Advisors will oversee ensuring candidates are eligible to run for office. Candidates will be notified once approved.

2.3.3 Candidates Running for President and Vice President are required to run on a combined ticket. Single candidate tickets will be deemed invalid.

2.3.3.1 If one of the candidates drops out of the race for any reason after the petition has been submitted, the ticket will be deemed invalid.

2.3.3.1.1 The remaining candidate shall be permitted to submit a new ticket as long as the deadline for submitting tickets has not passed.

2.3.4 Candidates are permitted to run as a group campaign organization.

2.3.4.1 Candidates running as a group campaign organization must register as such with the ASSOU Elections Committee before joint campaign materials are released.

2.4 The use of campaign names shall be governed by the following:

2.4.1 Each campaign using a campaign trademark, slogan, image, or name must register their items with the ASSOU Elections Committee to protect them from infringement.

2.4.2 Trademarks, slogans, images, or campaign names similar to those already registered for the election in question shall be deemed invalid.

2.5 The elections committee will host one public meeting for presidential candidates, vice-presidential candidates, and Senate candidates to debate and ask questions with the student body.

2.6 Online polls shall be open for two weeks.

2.7 No person shall vote more than once for the same office, referendum, initiative, or officer recall in any election.

3. Campaign Material

3.1 Candidates may only post campaign material in campus locations and websites which follow campus rules.

3.2 Candidates may not receive official endorsement from any individuals or organizations who are not ASSOU officers.

3.2.1 Candidates may not receive official endorsement from any current Head of Government within ASSOU.

3.2.2 Candidates may not receive official endorsement from any organization social accounts associated with SOU.

3.3 Elections may not disrupt the academic setting of SOU. If a candidate wishes to speak during class regarding elections, they must first get approval from the professor and any other relevant parties.

3.4 Candidates may not advertise their candidacy during ASSOU branch or committee meetings excluding the public meeting(s) organized by the Elections Committee.

3.5 Candidates may not campaign through institutional accounts, for example, ASSOUVicepresident@sou.edu, or use institutional mailing lists.

3.6 Candidates may campaign using social media, however, they must create a new account for campaign purposes only.

3.6.1 Social media accounts must be approved by the election committee before beginning to post, message, or interact with others through the account.

3.6.2 Candidates are prohibited from posting and/or endorsing any campaign related information on any other social media account other than the aforementioned approved account.

3.7 Appropriateness of all material and material placement is at the discretion of the Elections Committee, by a majority vote.

4. Campaign Expenses

4.1 Total campaign expenses, including the value of donated materials for candidates during all ASSOU elections, shall not exceed \$50.

4.1.1 Registered campaigns have a spending limit equal to the sum of the spending limits of the candidates who are members of the group.

4.2 Each campaign organization, group or individual, must submit an itemized report of all campaign expenses to include receipts and fair market estimation of donated materials/services by 5:00 pm PST on the business day following the polls' closing the ASSOU Elections Committee.

4.3 Campaign organizations may not be financially supported by campus-based clubs or organizations funded through the Student Incidental Fee.

4.4 All expenses or in-kind donations towards a campaign must be included in the candidates' final financial reporting.

5. Initiatives and Recall Petitions

5.1 Any prospective petition must be submitted to the Elections Committee before any signatures are collected.

5.2 Petitions for initiatives or recalls must contain the following information: printed name, student id, virtual student signature, and date of signature.

5.3 Signatures that are older than thirty days when they are turned into the Election Committee for verification shall be invalidated.

5.4 Signatures that do not have all of the required information are invalid.

6. Balloting and Results

6.1 Ballots shall be divided into the following sections: President and Vice President, Legislative, and other.

6.2 Every candidate may have one representative observe the retrieval of the electronic balloting results by the ASSOU Elections Committee, who shall announce this action's time and location to all candidates at least 24 hours prior by way of an email.

6.3 Once the polls are closed, the elections committee and the Chief Justice shall review the election results.

6.3.1 All parties shall have a period of 24 hours to file a grievance with the Judiciary for purposes of an error on the part of the Elections committee before the Judicial Branch validates the election results.

6.3.2 The Elections Committee shall announce the results by way of all-campus email and postage on the ASSOU Website as soon as they are validated. They shall also formally announce the results at the next Senate meeting following the election.

7. Election of the Candidates

7.1 Any Presidential candidate receiving the largest number of eligible votes cast for that office shall be elected to that position unless that candidate has violated the 2022-2023 Election Rules as determined by the Judiciary. If two or more competing candidates receive an equal number of eligible votes for an office, a run-off election will be held for the candidates in question.

7.2 Candidates running for ASSOU senate offices shall be elected into office by a plurality. In the event of a tie, there shall be a run-off election.

7.3 Write-in candidates are permitted and subject to the same membership requirements of all ASSOU officers. Write-in candidates will be verified by the Chief Justice.

8. Campaign Activities

8.1 Candidates who are current ASSOU Officers may only campaign when they are not acting in the official duty of their current office.

8.2 Candidates must maintain a respectful atmosphere and may be denied office for the use of slander, libel, or derogatory remarks against other candidates at the discretion of the Judiciary, under section 6.10.4 of these rules.

8.3 Candidates may not use logos, icons, or insignia from other organizations in their campaign materials as an in-kind donation without explicit endorsement from the outside organization.

8.4 Candidates may not establish partisan voting stations or offer unofficial voting stations to solicit votes on campus.

8.5 Candidates may not abuse any positions within SOU employment to campaign.

9. Grievances

10.1 Grievances shall follow existing ASSOU rules and guidelines.

I0. Ballot Measure Procedure

11.1 Ballot measure wording must be approved by the Election Committee prior to any signatures being collected. Draft wording must be submitted to the designated elections officer by the Elections Committee's timeline.

11.2 All signatures for a ballot measure must be gathered on the ballot petition form, as provided by the Election Committee. Persons seeking to place a measure on the ballot must obey all the election rules and Election Committee provisions.