



STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Wake Forest University

ELECTIONS: Spring 2024

ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Claire Hopkins	<i>Chair (Senior)</i>
Harriet Middleton	<i>Vice-Chair, Commissioner (Senior)</i>
Zach Fenster	<i>Secretary, Commissioner (Junior)</i>
Sincere Fielder	<i>Treasurer, Commissioner (Sophomore)</i>
Gabriella Sjogren	<i>Commissioner At Large (First-Year)</i>
Tim Wilkinson	<i>Advisor, non-voting</i>
Ritt Culbreth	<i>Student Trustee, Proxy</i>

All election commission members are barred from running in elections for the terms in which they serve.

IMPORTANT DATES

Friday, March 1 st		Elections Packet is released
Sunday, March 10 th		Signature Collection Begins
Tuesday, March 26 th		Campaign Staff Offers May Be Made
Tuesday, April 2 nd	7:00 PM	Signature Collection Deadline
	8:00 PM	Candidates' Meeting [Mandatory] (Pugh Aud.)
	9:00 PM	Campaigning may begin
Sunday, April 7 th	7:00 PM	Candidates' Debate
Tuesday, April 9 th	12:00 PM	Polls Open on The LINK
	5:00 PM	Campaign Budgets Due
Wednesday, April 10 th	11:59 AM	Polls Close Online
	After 12 PM	Results Posted

*If deadlines are not met, candidates could be disqualified or removed from running for any position.



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STATEMENT REGARDING ELECTIONS

Student Government elections are a sanctified process for the student body of Wake Forest University and it is vital that they remain so. It is the responsibility of the Elections Commission to ensure that the elections are fair and equitable, to enforce all campaign rules, and to investigate and address all campaign violations.

DOCUMENT LIST

In order to successfully fulfill the requirements for candidacy, the following forms must be submitted in advance of the start of election day. Particular deadlines and submission instructions can be found in the pages that follow:

1. Pledge to Abide by Campaign Regulations
2. Senator Petition / Signatures
3. Campaign Budget
4. Staff List

CAMPAIGN REGULATIONS

General Rules

1. Each candidate is responsible for running a fair and honest campaign. Failure to adhere to this expectation shall be seen as a violation of the fair and honest campaign guidelines set forth in the Student Government Constitution, and may be punishable by disqualification.
2. Each candidate is responsible for all aspects of their campaign. This means that the candidate bears the ultimate responsibility for both their actions and the actions of campaign staff members working on behalf of their campaign. Each member of the campaign team is subject to all of the same regulations as the candidate.



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- a. Campaigning is defined as any use of oral or written communication to explicitly endorse the election of a candidate to an elected office.
- b. A Campaign Staff Member is defined as anyone who campaigns on behalf of any particular candidate with the candidate's knowledge.
- c. *All campaign staff members must sign the Campaign Staff Pledge stating that they will abide by all Elections Guidelines in order to be considered official staff members and to receive e-mail communication from the candidate.*
3. A write-in candidate will be subject to the same regulations as declared candidates. The Wake Forest community is encouraged to report campaign infractions on the part of write-in candidates and their de-facto staff as they would any declared candidate. Any write-in candidate will be expected to provide an estimated campaign budget.
4. Ignorance on the part of any candidate (including write-in candidates) of the campaign regulations is not an excuse for violating the rules set forth by the Elections Commission.
5. Negative campaigning is **STRICTLY PROHIBITED**. As defined in Statute 1, Section 3: Negative campaigning will not be tolerated by the Election Commission and any negative campaigning will result in immediate and appropriate sanctions.
 - a. Negative campaigning is defined as any personal attack (in electronic format, speech, or writing) on a candidate—i.e., ad hominem attacks.
 - b. A personal attack is defined as any libelous, slanderous, or otherwise defamatory claim made against a candidate's character or person. Campaigning against a candidate's platform or a given policy is **NOT** negative campaigning and is acceptable.
6. Candidates and their respective campaign staff are not allowed to publish any material which is deemed to be false and can be sanctioned. Any member of the Wake Forest community has the right to challenge the validity of any statement published on the candidate's platform and verbal or digital statements.
7. Signatures for petition to run cannot be collected until the date listed at the top of the document in the important dates section.



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Campaign Regulations Regarding Electronic/Digital Media

1. EMAIL. Campaigning via listservs or emails sent to multiple recipients (including CC and BCC) is strictly prohibited. Candidates may send emails regarding campaigns if and only if all recipients are members of the campaign, are official endorsers of the candidate, or a member of/advisor to the Elections Commission.
2. SMS AND OTHER TEXT MESSAGES. The solicitation of votes through text message-based platforms is prohibited.
3. SOCIAL MEDIA:
 - a. FACEBOOK. Candidates may use their personal pages, campaign pages, and personal pages of the candidate's campaign staff. Candidates may not send campaign-related Facebook messages to non-staff recipients. Facebook advertising is permitted.
 - b. SNAPCHAT. Candidates may post campaign-related Snapchat stories. Candidates may not send campaign-related personal Snapchats or use the chat function for campaigning except for communicating with members of the campaign staff. Candidates may create Snapchat filters, subject to financial regulations.
 - c. TWITTER. Candidates may tweet from personal accounts, campaign staff members' personal accounts, and campaign accounts. Candidates may not send campaign-related messages directly to voters. Only campaign staff, the candidate, or an endorser may be tagged in tweets.
 - d. INSTAGRAM. Candidates may post photos from their personal accounts, campaign staff members' personal accounts, or campaign accounts. Candidates may not send campaign-related direct messages to non-staff recipients. Only campaign staff, the candidate, or an endorser may be tagged in photos.
 - e. TIKTOK. Candidates may post videos from their personal accounts, campaign staff members' personal accounts, or campaign accounts. Candidates may not send campaign-related direct messages to non-staff recipients. Only campaign staff, the candidate, or an endorser may be tagged in videos.



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Regulations Regarding the Use of Broadcast Media

1. RADIO. Candidates may appear on Wake Radio programs. A candidate may not accept an invitation from a program to appear on-air if all candidates for the position will not be included in the program. Should a Wake Radio host wish to hold an on-air debate, candidates cannot participate unless the Elections Commission is involved in the planning process. A candidate may reach out to Wake Radio programs about appearing on-air in a non-debate format, in which case the inclusion of all candidates for the position is not necessary.
2. TV. Candidates may appear on Wake TV shows. A candidate may not accept an invitation from a show to appear on TV if all candidates for the position will not be included in the show. Should a Wake TV program wish to hold a debate, candidates cannot participate unless the Elections Commission is involved in the planning process. A candidate may reach out to Wake TV shows about appearing on a show in a non-debate format, in which case the inclusion of all candidates for the position is not necessary.

Regulations Regarding the use of Print Media

1. Candidates shall adhere to the University posting and sidewalk policy, available at: <https://rlh.wfu.edu/guide-to-community-living/chapter-4-policies-and-procedures/#20220622200628> (Found under posting policies)

Regulations Regarding Endorsements

1. No organization can endorse a candidate.
2. While an individual can endorse a candidate, they may not do so, officially or unofficially, on behalf of an organization.
3. The candidate must submit to the Elections Commission, via electronic mail, *written proof* of endorsement *from the endorser* along with any graphics or materials that will be published by either the candidate, member of the campaign staff or the endorser, in any public format, digital or otherwise, for approval. These materials may not be published



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by any party until the candidate receives written approval from the Elections Commission to do so. The Commission will make haste in responding to endorsement approval requests.

4. Endorsements may be sought no earlier than the first day of campaigning, and must be submitted to the Elections Commission for approval no later than twenty-four hours before the polls open.
5. Any endorsement must include a disclaimer that is legible and in plain view of the endorsement stating the following: ***"The views and opinions expressed in this endorsement are those of the endorser and candidate alone and do not necessarily reflect the position or policy of any organization that either party is affiliated with or a member of."***
6. A non-campaign staff member re-posting a candidate's campaign graphics on social media does not count as an endorsement and therefore does not need to follow endorsement regulations.

Regulations Regarding Campaign Finance

1. MAXIMUMS. a. Executive Offices: \$125. In a runoff, candidates may spend an additional \$30, plus what remains of the original budget. b. Senators: \$40. In a runoff, candidates may spend an additional \$10, plus what remains of the original budget. c. Campaign budgets MUST NOT exceed these limits.
2. ACCOUNTING. All gifts, donations, and rented items, if used for campaign purposes, should be listed with an estimated dollar value if a receipt cannot be obtained. The Elections Commission reserves the right to question these estimates based on reasonable market values. Candidates are expected to notify the Elections Commission ahead of time if they will be accepting any gifts or donations, and may only use them if other candidates could reasonably be expected to be able to rent/borrow at a similar price (equal-access philosophy).
 - a. Sales tax is considered an expenditure.
 - b. Shipping is not considered an expenditure.
 - c. All printing will be valued at a minimum of the Benson Copy Center same-day price. If an outside resource for printing is used, the candidate will use the higher of the two for budgeting purposes.



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- d. Website domain purchasing fees are considered an expenditure.
 - e. Extra bandwidth fees are not considered an expenditure.
 - f. Unpaid human labor is not considered an expenditure; however, paid labor must be included in the budget.
 - g. Failure to submit an accurate budget may be grounds for disqualification.
3. **FUNDING ASSISTANCE.** Student Government wants to ensure that all students have an equal ability to run for office in order to accurately represent the student body. If you would like to submit a request for funding assistance, please email the Student Government Advisor Shauna McNeil at mneils@wfu.edu and treasurer Tim Erday at erdate20@wfu.edu as soon as possible, but no later than 72 hours prior to the start of election day. Please keep in mind that these requests are confidential and must be reviewed by the Office of Financial Aid.
- a. In order to receive funding assistance, the candidate must be DB Card certified. Please visit: DB Card Training to take the course prior to the candidates meeting.

Election Day Rules and Regulations

1. Candidates may not provide the computer/device on which students vote.
2. Candidates and campaign staff must be 15 feet away from a student who is voting.

Reporting Infractions and Processes

The Elections Commission has the ultimate authority in all matters concerning elections procedures, violations, and sanctions.

The Elections Commission will investigate all complaints. Any candidate accused of violating the election regulations will be contacted by the Elections Commission and given the opportunity to explain or refute the charges prior to a decision on sanctions (unless they fail to respond within the timeline outlined below).

1. Violations may be reported to the Elections Commission by any member of the Wake Forest community. The person who witnesses the infraction must report it to the Elections Commission within twenty-four hours of witnessing the incident.
 - a. This report must be provided in email format to the Elections Commission email (electcom@wfu.edu) with the subject line: "SG Elections Infraction: [candidate



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name] as reported by [Person Submitting Report]”

- i. Eg.: SG Elections Infraction: Jane Doe as reported by John Doe.
2. All complaints will be reviewed, and decisions regarding sanctions will be determined, in accordance with the Elections Packet in a closed meeting of Elections Commission members, and the advisor or proxy if deemed necessary by the Commission members.
3. The following shall be used to determine if a complaint has merit:
 - a. All complaints should be submitted to the Elections Commission within twenty-four hours of the offense; if the infraction is reported on Election Day it must be reported before 11:59 AM (April 5th) and must provide proof of clear and convincing evidence.
 - b. The person(s) that witness(es) the offense must be the only person(s) submitting the report of the campaign infraction.
 - c. Before the Elections Commission makes a final ruling on a campaign infraction, it will make contact with the accused candidate and the person(s) submitting the complaint.
 - i. The Elections Commission will reach out to the accused candidate via email. If the accused candidate does not respond within twelve hours the Elections Commission can move forward with sanctioning. On election day, the Elections Commission may move forward with sanctioning if the accused candidate does not respond within four hours of being contacted.
 - d. If someone on the Elections Commission witnesses a campaign infraction they must report it but abstain from voting on that particular infraction.
 - e. In the case that there is a tie in voting the student trustee can break the tie.
 - f. All Elections Commission decisions, resolutions and rationale will be communicated in writing and shared via email.

Sanctions

There shall be three classes of infractions for actions by candidates against the regulations and requirements in this packet. All candidates are allowed to actively campaign until the Elections Commission reaches a decision on the presented infraction. However, the Election Commission reserves the right to suspend this rule in the case of a severe infraction. Any sanction could result in disqualification from the election pending approval by the advisor, depending upon the severity of the infraction. The Elections Commission will operate using the standard of



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preponderance of the evidence. The incident may also be forwarded to the Office of Student Conduct for a potential honor code hearing.

Class 1 Offense: The first offense shall be subject to a fine of \$25 to be subtracted from the candidate's budget. The offense could result in disqualification from the election pending approval by both advisors, depending upon the severity of the infraction.

- a. If a candidate's budget has been spent, the candidate will suspend all campaigning for a period of twelve hours beginning at the time they receive a message from the Elections Commission.

Class 2 Offense: After the second offense, the candidate will be required to suspend all campaigning for twenty-four hours beginning at the time they receive a message from the Elections Commission.

Class 3 Offense: The third offense will lead to the candidate being subject to disqualification from the election pending two-thirds (five of seven members) approval by the Elections Commission.

Severity of Infraction: The sanction framework is a guide for decision-making when determining sanctions. The nature of the violation and specific circumstances will be considered when determining the final sanction. The Elections Commission reserves the right to alter the severity of a sanction based on the context of the infraction. This may include, but is not limited to:

1. Altering suspension times of campaigning
2. Proceeding with an initial warning
3. Public posting of incident and or sanctions to the Wake Forest community

Appeals

Submitting and Reviewing Appeals

1. Appeals for decisions issued by the Elections Commission will be handled as follows:
 - a. An appeal is only available for a Class 3 Offense;



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- b. An appeal shall be submitted in writing and sent to the Student Organization Judicial Assembly electronically; (Chief Justice Aman Khemlani: khemam20@wfu.edu)
 - c. The Student Organization Judicial Assembly shall hear the request with an advisor (Judicial Branch Advisor or other) present;
 - d. The Student Organization Judicial Assembly shall vote on whether the appeal will be heard and a majority vote shall determine whether the appeal shall be heard;
 - e. If the Student Organization Judicial Assembly decides to move forward with the appeal, together the Student Organization Judicial Assembly and the Judicial Branch Advisor shall decide who the investigator shall be;
 - f. The investigator shall compile evidence and conduct their investigation;
 - g. Once the investigation is completed, the Student Organization Judicial Assembly shall issue a final recommendation based on a timeline outlined in the Elections Packet.
 - i. The recommendation is based on the standard of the preponderance of the evidence.
2. There are four grounds for requesting an appeal:
- a. Procedural Error;
 - i. An aspect of the Elections Commission proceeding was done incorrectly.
 - b. Germaine New Evidence;
 - i. Evidence not available at the time that the Elections Commission meeting occurred that could significantly impact the outcome.
 - c. Appropriateness of the Sanction(s);
 - i. The sanction(s) issued by the Elections Commission is not deemed appropriate relative to the offense committed.
 - d. Insufficient Evidence;
 - i. There is not enough evidence present for the Elections Commission to have reached their sanction decision.

Timeline for Appeals

In the event that a candidate feels they have been treated unfairly by the Elections Commission, they may appeal a sanction imposed within 24 hours of polls opening and reaching the Class 3 violation level. The right to appeal expires 24 hours after they are notified of the Elections Commission's decision. Reversing a decision requires a majority vote by the Student Organization Judicial Assembly. The Student Organization Judicial Assembly will have three



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business days to determine whether they will hear the appeal, investigate the appeal, and make a decision on the appeal. Any appeal within the final three days of the election period will be considered at the discretion of SOJA.

Forms

All of the necessary forms can be found in the following pages, or as separate documents through the links below.

Campaign Budget Form:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/13eVpXbwqYSSr_YKTFah-Xm0oXdfXk34p/view?usp=drive_link

Pledge to Abide by Campaign Regulations:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/15MLt1VYdSw8kyPSQjxt4ku06sMtwC74h/view?usp=drive_link

Candidate Petition Form:

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1JgTO4NN3FuanzcLQCFUUArNtJpkrY-RL/view?usp=drive_link



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◆ *ELECTIONS: Spring 2024* ◆ *Candidate Information Packet* ◆

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
Student Government Elections
Campaign Budget Form

Name: _____

- No Senate candidate shall spend more than \$40.
- No Executive Candidate shall spend more than \$125.
- All gifts, donations, and other things received free of charge must be included in the budget with an estimated dollar value.
- All receipts should be attached to this document.
- *The failure to submit an accurate budget by the deadline indicated below may result in disqualification from the election.*

All Campaign Budget documents are due to the Elections Commission via email (electcom@wfu.edu) by 5:00 pm on Tuesday, April 9th, 2024.

ITEM (Please attach receipt)	COST
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TOTAL EXPENDITURE: \$

My signature below certifies that all statements made on this document are complete and accurate. I understand that any misleading or incorrect statements or omissions may render my candidacy void, and, if I am elected to the position, may be cause for immediate dismissal.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____



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WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
Student Government Elections
Pledge to Abide by Campaign Regulations

NAME: _____

CANDIDATE POSITION (RES HALL IF APPLICABLE): _____

This document is due to the Elections Commission via email (electcom@wfu.edu) by 9 PM Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024.

On my honor, I pledge to abide by the Student Government Constitution and By-laws, as well as all of the election guidelines stated in the above document. I will adequately inform my campaign staff of the rules and requirements, and to the best of my ability ensure that they follow them as well. I will submit an accurate budget by 5PM on Election Day. I understand that if I fail to abide by these guidelines myself or through my campaign staff that I risk disqualification. I understand that ignorance of the contents of this document on my part or that of my campaign staff is not an excuse for violating the rules.

Signature: _____



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WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
Student Government Elections
Candidate Petition Form

Please complete this form and the petition. Upon completion, return this form to the Elections Commissioner (electcom@wfu.edu) via email by **7 PM Tuesday, April 2nd, 2024**. All candidates are required to attend a **mandatory** candidates meeting in the **ZSR Auditorium (ZSR 404)** at **8 pm on Tuesday, April 2nd**.

Absolutely no campaigning of any sort is allowed until after the candidates meeting. If you have any questions, please contact a member of the Elections Committee.

YOU MAY NOT POST YOUR INTENTION TO RUN OR YOUR GOOGLE FORM TO GATHER SIGNATURES, THAT WOULD BE CONSIDERED CAMPAIGNING! YOU MAY ONLY CAMPAIGN OFFICIALLY AFTER THE CANDIDATES MEETING.

My signature below certifies that all statements made on my candidate petition are correct and complete. I understand that any misleading or incorrect statements or omissions may render this petition void and, if I am elected to the position, may be cause for immediate dismissal.

SIGNATURE: _____

DATE: _____



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WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
Student Government Elections
Signature Collection

To collect virtual signatures, candidates must use a Google Form using the template outlined below. Fill in your name and the position you wish to run for. Candidates running for a senator position will need to collect 30 signatures. All 30 of these signatures must be from students in the candidate's class. Candidates running for an executive position with previous Student Government experience must collect 100 signatures, those without previous Student Government experience must collect 250. Aside from the candidate's name and class year, **do not modify any other language. Modification of the signature petition will be considered a campaign violation and will be subject to the above-listed protocols.**

Candidate must also make the Elections Commission (electcom@wfu.edu) a collaborator on the form so that the Elections Commission can verify the signatures. You can do this by clicking the three dots beside the send button. Click Add Collaborators, then add as a collaborator.

Lastly, **the candidate must set the form to automatically collect email addresses.** This is to ensure that individuals are personally signing their names. To do this, click Send and check the box that says "Automatically collect a respondent's Wake Forest University email address." Be sure to do this before sharing the link.

This petition must be filled out in its entirety and submitted by **7 PM on Tuesday, April 2nd.**



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Questions Responses **40** Settings

Student Government Elections Signature Collection

WAKE FOREST UNIVERSITY
Student Government Elections Senator Petition
Name: Jackson Buttler
Class Year: Rising Sophomore
Residence Hall: Angelou

I wish to run for Student Government Senator. This petition merely places my name on the ballot, and you are in no way obligated to vote for me by signing it. I must obtain 30 signatures from students of my class.

Email *

Valid email

This form is collecting emails. [Change settings](#)

Please type your first and last name in the space below



Short answer

Short answer text



Required

