

PASSED AS AMENDED 10/21/2025
UNIVERSITY OF MAINE STUDENT GOVERNMENT, INC.
GENERAL STUDENT SENATE RESOLUTION
UPDATING THE SENATE ELECTION GUIDELINES

Date: 10-17-2025

Resolution #: 46S-POL-118-10-21-2025

AN ACT TO: Modify the Guidelines of the University of Maine Fair Elections Practices Commission, Article III, Section 4, Section 5, to better match our current practices.

WHEREAS, These guidelines are outdated and do not accurately reflect how senate elections are held today.

WHEREAS, The current section reads,

“SECTION 4 - TIMETABLE OF THE ELECTION

- A. The Chair shall create an Election Timetable that details nomination processes as well as nomination, election, runoff election (if necessary), and ballot counting due dates. This timetable shall be submitted to the Commission for review. Only after the Commission has voted with a simple majority in favor of the timetable shall it be accepted.
- B. Four weeks prior to the election, for the term of one week, candidates shall be allowed to complete nomination papers. Paperwork shall be due by 5:00pm seven (7) days following the initial availability of nomination forms. Advertising promoting the availability of nomination papers must include at least two (2) advertisements in the campus newspaper (at no less than 1 /4 page each) with one posted the Monday prior to the availability of papers and the other posted the day of availability, at least three (3) emails on the UMaine G-mail system, and at least 50 posters hung in various campus locations. These are minimum advertising requirements.
- C. One day shall be allowed for elections. The polls shall be open from 9am until 5pm that day.
- D. This timetable allows four weeks and one day. Exact dates of the timetable must be provided to the General Student Senate by the FEPC Chairperson (or the Vice President of Student Government, shall the FEPC Chairperson position be vacant) at the first meeting of the General Student Senate in the fall semester.
- E. Delays caused by the University of Maine communications infrastructure, including the electronic ballot server difficulties of more than 4 hours will result in cancellation and rescheduling of voting. A delay of less than 4 hours will be resolved by keeping polls open for a longer period of time equal to the length of the delay. The voting body shall be notified electronically by the FEPC Chairperson. The election, if postponed, shall occur no more than 2 business days after the original election date.”

WHEREAS, it currently reads,

“SECTION 5 - CAMPAIGNING

- A. Campaigning may begin immediately upon availability of nomination papers.
1. Campaigning shall be defined herein as purporting or endorsing stances on any issues affecting one's candidacy or encouraging potential voters for their vote.
 - a. Announcing candidacy for office shall not fall under the definition of campaigning.
- B. No candidate shall be able to accept any funds from any Student Government organization.
- C. No campaign material shall be allowed in any polling place 12 hours before the opening of the polls. It is the primary responsibility of the candidate to remove campaign materials from polling places. Should campaign materials remain during that time period, the FEPC shall remove and destroy all campaign material. Any violations shall cause the FEPC Chairperson to consider disqualification.
- D. Candidates will be responsible for the removal of all campaign material from the entire campus after the election has concluded.
- E. All candidates that campaign on campus must be in compliance with any rules or guidelines that apply to their candidacy as well as these FEPC guidelines. If found in violation of policies, a candidate may be declared ineligible.
- F. No campaign material representing a specific candidate or candidates shall be posted within 25 feet of University of Maine Student Government Offices.
- G. Any single candidate may not spend more than \$25.00 during Senate elections. In the case of in-kind contributions the fair market value, as determined by FEPC, shall be applied toward this expenditure limit.
- H. All candidates shall be required to present a detailed account of current and projected future campaign expenditures, receipts and a summary accounting by 12:00pm one (1) business day before the election. Failure to do so shall result in immediate candidate ineligibility. This requirement shall be considered null and void if the seat the candidate is running for is uncontested.
- I. The FEPC shall review all candidate expenditure receipts and summaries. Any expenditure over the limits shall cause the FEPC Chairperson to consider disqualifying a candidate”

RESOLVED, It will be amended to read as follows,

“SECTION 4 - TIMETABLE OF THE ELECTION

- A. The Chair shall create an Election Timetable that details nomination processes as well as nomination, election, runoff election (if necessary), and ballot counting due dates. This timetable shall be submitted to the Commission for review. Only after the Commission has voted with a simple majority in favor of the timetable shall it be accepted. **In the event of a lack of Commission or at the Commissioner's discretion, the timetable shall be submitted to the Policy and Procedure Committee to be passed.**
- B. Nomination papers shall be made available at least two weeks prior to the

beginning of campaigning. Paperwork shall be due by noon, two Fridays before election day. ~~Four weeks prior to the election, for the term of one week, candidates shall be allowed to complete nomination papers. Paperwork shall be due by 5:00pm seven (7) days following the initial availability of nomination forms.~~ Advertising promoting the availability of nomination papers must include at least ~~two (2) advertisements in the campus newspaper (at no less than 1/4 page each) with one posted the Monday prior to the availability of papers and the other posted the day of availability, at least three (3) emails on the UMaine G-mail system, and at least 50 posters hung in various campus locations. These are minimum advertising requirements.~~ one (1) advertisement to all undergraduate students through email and at least one (1) advertisement on UMSG Inc. social media.

- C. One day shall be allowed for elections. The polls shall be open from at minimum 9am until 5pm that day.
- D. ~~This timetable allows four weeks and one day.~~ Exact dates of the timetable must be provided to the General Student Senate by the FEPC Chairperson (or the Vice President of Student Government, shall the FEPC Chairperson position be vacant) before nomination papers are made available. ~~at the first meeting of the General Student Senate in the fall semester.~~
- E. Delays caused by the University of Maine communications infrastructure, including the electronic ballot server difficulties of more than 4 hours will result in cancellation and rescheduling of voting. A delay of less than 4 hours will be resolved by keeping polls open for a longer period of time equal to the length of the delay. The voting body shall be notified electronically by the FEPC Chairperson. The election, if postponed, shall occur no more than 2 business days after the original election date."

RESOLVED, it will be amended to read,

"SECTION 5 - CAMPAIGNING


- A. Campaigning may begin immediately after nomination papers are due. ~~upon availability of nomination papers.~~
 - 1. Campaigning shall be defined herein as purporting or endorsing stances on any issues affecting one's candidacy or encouraging potential voters for their vote.
 - a. Announcing candidacy for office shall not fall under the definition of campaigning.
- B. No candidate shall be able to accept any funds from any Student Government organization.
- C. Campaign material must be promoting a candidate or candidates. Campaign material may not contain any vulgar content or demean any member of the UMaine community.
- D. No campaign material shall be allowed in any polling place 12 hours before the opening of the polls. It is the primary responsibility of the candidate to remove campaign materials from polling places. Should campaign materials remain during that time period, the FEPC shall remove and destroy all campaign material. Any

- violations shall cause the FEPC Chairperson to consider disqualification.
- E. Candidates will be responsible for the removal of all campaign material from the entire campus after the election has concluded.
 - F. All candidates that campaign on campus must be in compliance with any rules or guidelines that apply to their candidacy as well as these FEPC guidelines. If found in violation of policies, a candidate may be declared ineligible.
 - G. No campaign material representing a specific candidate or candidates shall be posted within 25 feet of University of Maine Student Government Offices.
 - H. Any single candidate may not spend more than \$25.00 during Senate elections. In the case of in-kind contributions the fair market value, as determined by FEPC, shall be applied toward this expenditure limit.
 - I. All candidates shall be required to present a detailed account of current and projected future campaign expenditures, receipts and a summary accounting by 12:00pm one (1) business day before the election. Failure to do so shall result in immediate candidate ineligibility. This requirement shall be considered null and void if the seat the candidate is running for is uncontested.
 - J. The FEPC shall review all candidate expenditure receipts and summaries. Any expenditure over the limits shall cause the FEPC Chairperson to consider disqualifying a candidate.

AUTHOR: VPSL Feng
SPONSOR(S): FEPC Stankevitz
COMMITTEE: Policy and Procedure
RECOMMENDATION: [6-0-0] OTP AA

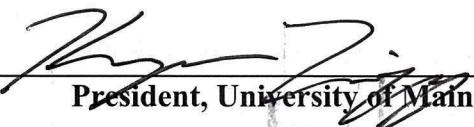
SENATE VOTE: [PASSED/PASSED WITH AMENDMENTS/FAILED]

SIGNATURE:



President, University of Maine General Student Senate

SIGNATURE:



President, University of Maine Student Government, Inc.