

The
Election Rules

Containing the Rules for Homecoming Elections

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Mr. and Ms. Tennessee Tech Election Rules

Rule 1: Candidate Requirements

Rule 1a: GPA

Candidates must have at least a 2.75 cumulative grade point average (GPA) at the time of the election.

Rule 1b: Classification

Candidates must have earned at least 60 credits (i.e., have achieved junior status) at the time of the election.

Rule 1c: Enrollment

Candidates must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours (i.e., are a full-time student) at the time of the election.

Rule 1d: Affiliation

Candidates must be sponsored by a registered student organization (RSO) as defined by University Policy 315 or an athletic team as defined by the Director of Athletics.

RSOs and athletic teams may only sponsor one candidate for either Mr. or Ms. Tennessee Tech.

Candidates shall not be currently sitting members of the SGA Executive Council or the Commission for Elections.

Rule 1e: Eligibility

Candidates must sign a FERPA release allowing the SGA Advisor the ability to verify their eligibility under these rules.

Rule 2: Candidate Obligations

Rule 2a: Registration

Individuals are required to submit an application for candidacy by 12:00 PM on Monday, October 12th, 2026. The application shall include the submission of a headshot to be used in promotional materials for the election.

Rule 2b: General Attendance

Candidates are required to attend all meetings defined in these rules or as specified by the Commission for Elections.

Rule 2c: Attendance of Information Session

Candidates shall attend an information session in Room 246 of the Roaden University Center at 4:00 PM on Monday, October 12th or Tuesday, October 13th at 11:00 AM

Candidates who are unable to attend the session described in this Rule shall notify the Commission for Elections as well as the Center for Student Leadership and Engagement at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the session at sgasecretary@tntech.edu and engagement@tntech.edu with a valid excuse.

Candidates shall either name a representative to attend the session in their place or indicate that they will come to the make-up information session.

Rule 2d: Communicating Rules

The candidate is responsible for communicating these Rules to their nominating organization, their campaign representative(s), and any organization or individual from which they receive an endorsement.

Rule 2e: Social Media

Candidates shall set any social media account used for campaigning to “public” for the duration of campaign season.

Rule 3: Campaigning

Rule 3a: Definition of Campaigning

Campaigning refers to the act of distributing campaign material, advertising in newspapers, on signage, on the radio, and/or online (including social media), attending a meeting for the purpose of promoting one’s candidacy, and/or setting up tables/booths to promote the candidate.

Rule 3b: Campaign Representatives

A campaign representative (or “representative”) is any individual or group (such as their sponsor) who assists the candidate in planning, organizing, and executing their campaign efforts to be elected as Mr. or Ms. Tennessee Tech. This includes, but is not limited to, promoting the candidate, coordinating events, and engaging with the student body to garner support for the candidate.

Rule 3c: Campaign Season

Campaign season shall begin at 8:00 AM on Wednesday, October 14th , and shall end at 4:30 PM on Wednesday, November 4th.

Rule 3d: Prohibited Conduct

Candidates or campaign representatives shall not:

- Send mass communications to or from university accounts
- Place campaign material on another individual's property without their consent
- Participate in door-to-door campaigning or knocking
- Make vulgar or disparaging remarks directed towards another candidate
- Table in the Cafeteria, Swoops, Which-Wich, Starbucks, Au Bon Pain, or any additional Dining Services location
- Campaign in the SGA office or at non-homecoming related SGA functions

Additionally, candidates or campaign representatives shall be immediately disqualified and referred to the Dean of Students for the following:

- Collecting T-numbers, PIN Numbers, or login information of other students
- Attempting to vote using the information of other students
- Tampering or interfering with an election or a student's right to vote, including, but not limited to, requiring someone to provide evidence of voting in an election
- Bribing, coercing, or threatening students into voting on or off campus
 - Bribes include, but are not limited to, the promise or exchange of goods, favors, and/or drawing entries for raffles for promised votes.

Rule 3f: Endorsements

Only students or groups comprised exclusively of students may, with prior approval of the candidate, publicly endorse a candidate.

Endorsement from groups, organizations, or individuals outside the student body is strictly prohibited.

Rule 4: Campaign Materials

Rule 4a: Definition of Materials

Campaign material(s) refers to any promotional items or content created to support and advertise a candidate's campaign to the student body. This

includes, but is not limited to, posters, flyers, social media posts, banners, buttons, videos, and any other media used to convey the candidate's message and encourage votes.

Rule 4b: Placing Campaign Material in Non-residential Campus Buildings

All campaign material must be approved by the building coordinator of a particular non-residential campus building via e-mail before being placed in that building.

All digital campaign material to be placed on digital signage in non-residential buildings must be submitted to sga@tnitech.edu. Image dimensions shall be 1920 x 900 pixels (or a multiple thereof) for horizontal screens and 1080 x 1740 pixels (or a multiple thereof) for vertical screens.

Rule 4c: Placing Campaign Material in Residential Campus Buildings

All campaign material must be approved by the Office of University Housing & Residential Life via e-mail at reslife@tnitech.edu before being placed in any residential building or buildings.

General guidelines for the posting of campaign material in residential buildings are maintained by the Office of University Housing & Residential Life. Candidates may contact the Office at reslife@tnitech.edu or at (931) 372-3414.

Rule 4d: Placement of Campaign Material by the Student Government Association

The Student Government Association shall place posters of each candidate in the windows of the campus bookstore facing the hallway leading to Swoops.

This rule shall apply notwithstanding the provisions of Rule 4e.

Rule 4e: Prohibited Placements

No campaign material may be placed on any painted surface, door, or window.

No campaign material may be placed in classrooms or on electronic platforms that have been set up as an extension of the classroom.

Chalk shall not be used on any brick surface, covered area, or vertical surface.

Rule 4f: Removal of Campaign Material

All campaign material shall be removed within twenty-four (24) hours following the end of campaign season.

Rule 5: Campaign Finances

Rule 5a: Campaign Expenditures

A candidate's total expenditures shall include all goods and services purchased by or donated (including monetary or in-kind contributions) to a candidate or campaign that are used during campaign season.

If an item or service is not actually used as part of the public facing campaign, then it does not count towards the candidate's spending limit. Non-publicly facing items or services are those used by the candidate or their campaign for internal organization or review, which are not shown to the voting public.

Rule 5b: In-kind Contributions

An in-kind contribution shall be regarded as anything contributed to a candidate other than money, excluding campaign volunteers.

In-kind contributions for the use of campaign fundraising or printing of campaign paraphernalia must be reported and will count toward the maximum expenditure a candidate may spend.

Receipts for these contributions must be submitted with expenditure reports.

Rule 5c: Fair Market Value

The fair market value of a donated item or in-kind contribution shall be the value recorded on the final expenditure report.

Fair market value is determined by the candidate securing two price estimates of the exact item to be used on the campaign, the average of which is to be included on the expenditure report. Both estimates must contain the name, address, and phone number of the entities furnishing the estimates.

Barring a reasonable doubt, the Commission will recognize the retail value paid for a good or service at its fair market value. The Commission reserves

the right to reassign value to a good or service in response to a complaint that the good or service is not reported at its fair market value.

Rule 5d: Spending Limit

Candidates and their campaign representatives shall spend no more than five-hundred dollars (\$500) collectively per campaign.

No pairs or groups of candidates may combine budgets or campaign materials.

Rule 5e: Itemized Budget

Candidates shall provide an itemized budget (including receipts or invoices of each item) including donations to the Commission for Elections and enter for Student Leadership and Engagement at sgasecretary@tnitech.edu and engagement@tnitech.edu no later than twenty-four (24) hours following the end of campaign season.

Candidates shall ensure that all financial documentation submitted to the Commission has been properly redacted, and personal account information removed.

Rule 5f: Public Record

All financial information submitted by candidates is public record, and the Commission for Elections shall take caution that all reasonable confidentiality is protected regarding credit card and account numbers.

Rule 5g: Usage of Campus-wide Funding

Candidates and their campaign representatives shall not apply or receive money from any campus-wide fund (ex. the S.O.L.O. Fund, Chapter 606, etc.) for the purpose of promoting a candidate, a group of candidates, or the election itself. Violation of the Rule shall result in disqualification and potential probation from receiving S.O.L.O. funds in the future for a period defined by the Commission for Elections.

Rule 6: Campaign Violations

Rule 6a: Enforcement

The Commission for Elections shall interpret and enforce all rules contained within fairly and impartially.

Rule 6b: Reporting Violations

Any student shall have the right to file a complaint concerning potential violations of these Rules. Complaints must be sent via email to sgasecretary@tntech.edu and engagement@tntech.edu. Oral complaints or anonymous complaints will not be accepted.

Complaints must contain the following:

- Name of the candidate and/or individual(s) who committed the alleged violation
- Brief description of the alleged violation, including date and time of the incident
- Any applicable evidence
- Printed name of the person filing the complaint
- Signature of the person filing the complaint

Complaints must be filed within 24 hours of the violation or within 24 hours of when the violation is known.

The respondent to the complaint will be notified within twelve (12) hours upon receipt of said complaint by the Chair of the Commission for Elections. The respondent will then have twelve (12) hours to submit a response.

The Commission shall review all complaints within twelve (12) hours of receiving all materials including the response from the respondent.

Rule 6c: Adjudicating Violations

Upon written concurrence by a majority of Commission members that a complainant merits a hearing, then a hearing shall be scheduled within two (2) business days. In the hearing, the person or persons filing the complaint shall carry the burden of proof.

If the Commission decides to hear a complaint, a member of the commission will inform all involved individuals of both the charges they face and a summary of the evidence. The respondent is found responsible only if a majority vote of the Commission finds them responsible upon a preponderance of the evidence.

If the Commission finds the accused party responsible of committing an election violation, the commission has the discretion to impose a penalty.

The Commission for Elections maintains the right to publicly disclose the findings of any hearings on the SGA website.

Rule 6d: Penalties for Violations

Except as defined in these rules, the Commission for Elections shall have full authority to determine the penalty for violating election rules.

Possible penalties for violations include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Restriction of Campaigning – A candidate may be restricted from campaigning online and/or in-person in certain locations or for specified time periods.
- Assignment of Community Service Hours – A candidate or a representative of their campaign may be assigned no more than five (5) community service hours, in proportion to the severity of the violation. The Student Engagement office shall be responsible for overseeing the completion of any imposed community service hours.
- Imposition of Probation – While on probation, if a candidate or a representative of their campaign is found violating these Rules again before the end of campaign season, the candidate is disqualified.
- Subtraction of Votes – If a candidate or a representative of their campaign has been found to have given themselves an illegal or unfair advantage in the election, the Commission may choose to remedy that advantage by the subtraction of votes proportional to the severity of the violation.
- Disqualification – If a candidate or a representative of their campaign has been found to have committed an egregious violation of these rules, they may be disqualified without recourse for appeal.

Rule 7: Election Day Regulations

Rule 7a: Election Day

Election Day shall be Wednesday, November 4th.

Rule 7b: Voting Timeframe

The period of voting shall begin on Election Day at 8:00 AM and shall end at 4:30 PM.

Rule 7c: Voting Method

Voting shall be done online via survey.

The SGA shall instruct the student body on how to vote via e-mail and social media.

Rule 7d: Certification of Results

The Commission for Elections shall examine the election results immediately following the end of the period of voting. When the Commission is satisfied that no technological malfunction has occurred and that every vote was counted accurately, it shall certify the results.

Rule 7e: Announcement of Results

The Commission for Elections shall announce the members of the homecoming court immediately following certification outside the SGA office.

Mr. and Ms. Tennessee Tech shall be announced at the Homecoming football game during halftime. Other awards and recognitions, as defined in Rule 8, shall be announced immediately following.

Rule 8: Awards and Recognitions

Rule 8a: Eligibility

Candidates not chosen for Mr. and Ms. Tennessee Tech shall be exclusively eligible for the awards and recognitions defined in Rule 8.

Rule 8b: Mr. and Ms. Community Service

Candidates are encouraged to give back to their community. They are given this opportunity through participation in the Tennessee Tech Food Pantry food drive.

Candidates shall compete for Mr. and Ms. Community Service as a part of a team. Their team shall be the members of the RSO or athletic team that is sponsoring their candidacy. Teams may not partner or otherwise jointly compete for Mr. and Ms. Spirit.

The candidates and their teams will receive a list of items eligible for the food drive during the information session and makeup session described in Rule 2c.

Each candidate shall be responsible for talking about the food drive to their peers, registered student organizations, and other affiliated groups.

Candidates will have the duration of campaign season to collect and turn in their goods to the Tennessee Tech Food Pantry for counting.

The candidates that collect the most amount of goods will be named Mr. and Ms. Service during the halftime show, subject to Rule 8a.

Rule 8c: Mr. and Ms. Homecoming Spirit

Candidates are encouraged to be active participants in campus life. They are given this opportunity through participating in homecoming week events.

Candidates shall compete for Mr. and Ms. Homecoming Spirit as a part of a team. Their team shall be the members of the RSO or athletic team that is sponsoring their candidacy. Teams may not partner or otherwise jointly compete for Mr. and Ms. Homecoming Spirit.

The homecoming events that contribute to the awarding of Mr. and Ms. Homecoming Spirit and the points for each said event shall be as follows:

Event	1st Place	2nd Place	3rd Place	Participation
Banner Contest	75 pts	65 pts	55 pts	40 pts
Lip Sync	100 pts	90 pts	80 pts	40 pts
Homecoming Carnival	100	90 pts	80 pts	40 pts
Homecoming Hangout	-	-	-	80 pts
Parade	100 pts	90 pts	80 pts	40 pts

If a tie occurs in overall points, the candidates sponsored by the highest-scoring parade teams shall be designated Mr. and Ms. Homecoming Spirit, subject to Rule 8a.

