

# Elections Policy Overview 2023

For more details, find the full Student Government Elections Policy on the Elections Commission website at [elections.union.rpi.edu](https://elections.union.rpi.edu).

## Commission Members

Evan Wadley '23 Chairman  
Sophia Gumina '24 Member at Large  
Joseph Friel '24 Undergraduate Council  
Timothy Miles '24 IFC  
Nicole Gramenides '23 Panhellenic  
Olin Ryan '23 Senator

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## 1. Background

Student government is the best way to represent and serve your campus. There is a wide range of positions available and also non-elected ways to get involved.

To learn about student government, the different branches, or find a meeting schedule for all the different bodies, go to [sg.rpi.edu](http://sg.rpi.edu) and scroll down for a meeting calendar or click the headers in the ribbon at the top of the site.

The available positions in the GM Week elections are on the Student Senate, Class Councils, Graduate Council, Alumni Positions, and the President of the Union on the Executive Board.

## 2. Position Eligibility

Only members of the Union can run. You must have paid your Union activity fee to be eligible.

Some offices are open only for specific class years, while others are open to all. For example, the Class of 2025 President position is only available for Sophomores, while the Grand Marshal position is available for all students.

Some positions require a minimum GPA of 2.5 or 3.0 to run, while others do not. These requirements can be found on the Candidacy Form.

### A. Requirements

This section details the requirements to get your name on the ballot during GM Week.

1. Attend an Elections Information session. These last 1 hour and are held from **5-6pm** every weekday on the third floor of the **Union, room 3120**, the SGS. Here, you will learn about student government, the campaign, and requirements. You will also be given forms.
2. Submit your Candidacy form to the drop box outside the Student Government Suite to officially begin campaigning.
3. Solicit nominations from fellow classmates and input these on the Elections Website, [elections.union.rpi.edu](http://elections.union.rpi.edu). Turn in nomination form(s) to the drop box.
4. Attend a meeting as described on the Attendance Form
5. Campaign! Advertise yourself, encourage others to vote for you.
6. Submit an Expense Form
7. Participate in GM week events and submit a Service Hours Form.

### B. Forms

Forms can be submitted to the EC drop box outside of Union 3120 (Student Government Suite) on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Union. Candidates should keep a scan

of all forms for their records.

**Candidacy Form** – Declares candidacy for a position.

**Nomination Form** – Solicits nominations from classmates. A nomination is not a vote, but an endorsement to be on the ballot. A nomination is an **RCS ID** and the **last 3 of the RIN**. Nomination amounts per position can be found in the full policy document. Nominees must be eligible to vote for the position they're nominating for.

**Expense Form** – The expense form is a self reporting of how much you spent on campaigning. Spending limits are listed on the form. One must be turned in before GM Week and one final one after.

**Attendance form** – Candidates are required to attend a meeting in the body they are campaigning for, to see what they will be involved with if they win. Meetings are generally an hour or shorter. A schedule with all meetings can be found at [sg.rpi.edu](http://sg.rpi.edu), at the bottom of the home page.

**Service hours form** – Each candidate is required to help during a GM Week event for 2 hours. A schedule of these events will be made known to the candidates closer to GM Week.

### 3. Candidacy and Campaigning

#### A. Schedule

**February 21st** at 5PM:

Begin Campaigning

**February 21st - March 17th:**

Information sessions held daily\* in Union 3120 **5-6 PM**.

Online option <https://rensselaer.webex.com/meet/wadlee>.

Contact [wadlee@rpi.edu](mailto:wadlee@rpi.edu) if you cannot make these times.

\*not including weekends and Spring Break

**March 17th** at 5PM:

**Candidacy Forms Due**

**Preliminary Expense Forms Due**

Preliminary Ballot Check

**March 17th:**

GM/PU/UP Primary Debates, if necessary

**March 20th:**

Primary Elections, if necessary, 8AM-6PM

**Nomination Forms Due**

**Attendance Forms Due**

Final Ballot Check

**March 21st:**

GM/PU/UP Final Debates

10PM: Campaign Materials removed from polling locations

**March 23rd:**

Final Elections 8AM-6PM

6PM: Final Expense Forms Due

**March 27th:**

5PM: Service Hours Forms Due

## B. Rules

The main goal of the rules section is to ensure a fair and safe election. The Elections Commission can enforce the rules to maintain this security with powers listed in the main policy document endorsed by the Student Senate.

Campaigning rules govern when and where a candidate can campaign, the content of their campaigning, and how campaigning is carried out.

### Campaigning

Students cannot actively campaign in dining halls or in lecture halls during class hours.

Solicitation of nominations is not permitted in lecture halls/classrooms during class hours, or any other scenario that impedes the Institute's formal academic process, but is permitted in dining halls.

Do not break institute rules when campaigning, do not start campaigning until you have submitted a candidacy form.

Be respectful with campaigning. Multiple unsolicited voicemails or follow requests are allowed. Social media pages must be opt-in.

No campaigning is allowed within a 100-foot radius or within sight of any polling location beginning at 10PM the night before the election.

Campaign material must be respectful to other candidates, non-derogatory or defamatory.

### Campaign Content

Campaign content must not include institute logos, hateful remarks, opposition attacks, or profanity.

Excessive postering in one location is not allowed.

Campaign material must not be placed over others' posters or banners.

Overuse of tape for postering is not allowed.

Posters must not be placed on glass doors or door windows, brick buildings, private property not owned by the candidate or given consent by the owner, or on the outside of the Union.

Postering in the Union is limited to 15 individual posters.

For a more complete set of rules, see the full elections policy.

#### **4. Election Procedures**

The Elections Commission has the power to sanction any candidate caught breaking the rules. All infractions will be ruled on by the entire body of the Elections Commission. Sanctions range from more nominations to removal from the ballot. The election will be held in 5 polling locations around campus on March 23<sup>rd</sup>.