

Information for Executive Candidates

About the Position

- The elected officials of the ASSU Executive are the President and Vice President. The Executive Cabinet is not selected in the general election.
- The ASSU Executive represents both the undergraduate and graduate populations at Stanford, and is elected by both.
- The President may only serve one term.
- The Executive term starts two weeks after the election, and continues for the next school year. For that reason, Executive candidates are expected to remain in good standing at Stanford for the entire school year.

Campaigning Overview

- Candidates for Executive run together as a “slate,” with one person marked specifically as the candidate for President and one person marked specifically as the candidate for Vice President.
- All slates for Executive must register a Declaration of Intent with the Elections Commission to be eligible in the election. Write-in slates who have not registered a Declaration of Intent will not be considered in the election. *See Declaration of Intent.*
- The ballot will list the name of the slate as the last name of the candidate for President, followed by the last name of the candidate for Vice President.
For instance, a slate of John Hennessy for President and John Etchemendy for Vice President would be listed on the ballot as “Hennessy & Etchemendy.”
- To appear as an option on the ballot, the slate must submit a petition demonstrating that at least 200 students support their campaign for office. *See Petitioning.*
Candidates that do not appear as an option on the ballot may still win the election as a write-in candidate, provided they have registered a Declaration of Intent with the Elections Commission.
- No slate may spend over \$1000 on its campaign for office. Slates that spend over this cap will be disqualified from the election. *See Campaign Finance.*
- Slates that submit petitions demonstrating that a sufficient number of students support their campaign for office are eligible for up to \$500 in public financing to offset the cost of their campaign. *See Campaign Finance.*
- The Executive election uses Instant Run-off Voting (IRV); voters rank as many slates as they wish, and the election concludes when one slate has over 50% of the vote. *See Voting Procedure.*

Declaration of Intent

- All slates seeking the Executive office must register a Declaration of Intent with the Elections Commission to be eligible in the election. This is ordinarily the first step towards seeking office.
- Slates who have not submitted a Declaration of Intent, or whose Declaration of Intent has been declared invalid, are ineligible in the election.
- The Declaration of Intent form is supplied in this packet.

Petitioning

- To appear as an option on the ballot, a slate must submit a petition showing that 200 students support their campaign.
- Slates whose petitions contain at least 300 total signatures, including at least 100 from the Undergraduate population and at least 100 from the Graduate population, are eligible for public campaign financing. See *Campaign Finance*.
- Please see the *Petitioning Guidelines and Information* document for important information on petitions, validity, and timeline.

Campaign Finance: Spending Cap

- Slates for Executive may spend a maximum of \$1000USD on their campaign.
- All slates must submit a budget to the Elections Commission by the start of Campaign Period (see *Calendar*) enumerating the expected expenses incurred by their campaign.
- This budget may be modified throughout Campaign Period, but changes in the budget must be communicated to the Elections Commission “immediately.”
The Elections Commission defines “immediately” as: “as soon as practicable, but in no case later than 24 hours subsequent.”
- By the time polls close (see *Calendar*), receipts must be submitted that corroborate the budget previously submitted.
- Any expenditure that is made with the actual or tacit knowledge of the slate to further its campaign shall be counted toward its budget at purchase value, or if purchase value cannot be shown, at fair market value.

Specific examples of “actual or tacit knowledge” include, but are not limited to, endorsing groups’ expenditures on behalf of an endorsed slate, expenditures made by campaign staff on behalf of the slate, and expenditures made by friends of the slate while the slate “turned a blind eye.” “Fair market value” is the price for the same (or as similar as practicable) item or service purchasable in the Stanford area.

- Donations shall be counted toward the slate’s budget at fair market value.
- Failure to meet a deadline, fraudulent budgets and/or documentation, or expenditures over \$1000, can be considered a violation of campaign finance regulations.
Fraudulent budgets include budgets that are willfully incomplete (i.e., a slate does not report all its spending.) Violations are dealt with on a case-by-case basis in a three-step process involving the ASSU Financial Manager, the Elections Commission, and the Constitutional Council.
- A slate that violates campaign finance regulations may be disqualified from the election (i.e., its Declaration of Intent is considered invalid), and the members of the slate may be disqualified from seeking any office at Stanford for the period of one year.
- All campaign expenditures shall be in accordance with California and Federal law as well as Stanford University’s Fundamental Standard.

Campaign Finance: Public Financing

- Slates whose petitions contain at least 300 total signatures, including at least 100 from the Undergraduate population and at least 100 from the Graduate population, are eligible for public financing. Slates that do not meet this requirement are not eligible for public financing.
- Any slate that violates election regulations (including spending cap regulations) may be considered ineligible for public financing, and will not be reimbursed at all.

- Slates eligible for public financing may be reimbursed up to \$500 from the budget of the current ASSU Executive toward campaign expenditures. Expenditures over the reimbursement limit will not be reimbursed.
If more than six slates are eligible for public financing, the reimbursement limit becomes \$3000 divided by the number of eligible slates.
- In all cases, a slate may only spend \$1000 on its campaign (see *Spending Cap*).

Voting Procedure

- The Executive election uses Instant Run-off Voting (IRV). In an instant run-off election, voters may rank as many slates as they wish, in order of their preferences.
- Voters' choices are tabulated in a number of "rounds," and at the end of each round, the slate with the lowest number of votes is eliminated; ballots that indicated that slate as their top choice are redistributed to slates according to their next-highest choice. If the ballot didn't have a next-highest choice, it is considered "expired."
- This procedure is repeated until two choices remain, and the choice with the most votes is considered the winner.
- See the election archives at <http://elections.stanford.edu/archives> if you are confused.

Please Note: This document is a summary of the ASSU Constitution, Joint Bylaws, GSC Bylaws, UGS Bylaws, and the Elections Appendix. Those documents are the final authority on any elections issues. This document is provided as a convenient reference, and does not necessarily contain all the regulations that may apply to you.

Please read the Governing Documents at http://assu.stanford.edu/governing_docs/ and e-mail the Elections Commission, elections@elections.stanford.edu, if you have questions.