



**WKU**<sup>®</sup>

STUDENT GOVERNMENT  
ASSOCIATION

**SGA Election Packet**  
**Spring 2026**

## **Election Codes Spring 2026**

*Edited and approved by the Judicial Council on February 23rd, 2026.  
Election Code Meetings: March 31st and April 2nd, 2026 at 5:00 PM in the SGA Chambers  
Elections will be held from April 13th at 7:00 PM until April 15th at 7:00 PM via TopNet.  
Results will be released on April 15th at 7:01 PM in the SGA Chambers with a social media post  
shortly following.*

### **1. Authority**

- 1.1. The Judicial Council shall enact and review election rules in accordance with Section 4.6.5 of the Student Government Association (SGA) Constitution.
- 1.2. The following Election Codes apply to both Executive and Legislative Elections.

### **2. Candidacy and Filing Procedures**

- 2.1. The Chief Communications Officer, or a designated appointee, or necessary aid, pursuant to Section 2.7.4. of the SGA Constitution, shall publicize all filing dates.
- 2.2. In order to run for an office, a student must file an application with the Chief Justice no later than Friday, April 3rd at 11:00 AM.
- 2.3. The candidate's packet shall be distributed at the codes meeting and be made available on the SGA website. In the event of unordinary circumstances, the Chief Justice may assume a different route to receive candidate information.
  - 2.3.1. The candidate packet shall consist of a schedule of dates and events, a cost estimate sheet, campaign finance forms, the email of the Chief Justice, the candidate profile sheet, and any other pertinent information.
- 2.4. Candidates will be required to sign an agreement affirming that they will abide by the Election Codes, SGA Constitution, SGA By-Laws, and Student Handbook. They must also agree to release their academic and disciplinary records to the SGA Advisor.
- 2.5. Election Code Meetings will be held on Tuesday, March 31st, at 5:00 PM and Thursday, April 2nd, at 5:00 PM. All candidates must attend one of these meetings to be eligible to run.
  - 2.5.1. Candidates who file but fail to attend one of these meetings shall be disqualified, unless an exemption has been granted by the Judicial Council.
  - 2.5.2. The Chief Justice, or a designated member of the Judicial Council, shall notify all candidates of and preside over the Election Codes Meetings.

### **3. General Election Guidelines**

- 3.1. The Judicial Council shall meet once a week during the election season.
- 3.2. No Justice of the Judicial Council may advocate for the election or defeat of any SGA office. Additionally, no Justice may provide a candidate with an official opinion or interpretation of SGA policy without a ruling by the Judicial Council.
  - 3.2.1. Members of the Judicial Council will not show favoritism in any manner on social media. This includes "liking", "retweeting", "sharing", "commenting", "reposting", and similar activities on any campaign posts.
- 3.3. Mudslinging on social media, or any other avenue, is strictly prohibited.
- 3.4. Any Judicial Council rulings will be sent through the University email to all candidates.
- 3.5. Campaigning will begin for all candidates on Monday, April 6th at 8:00 AM.
  - 3.5.1. Any candidate accused of early campaigning will immediately be subject to a disciplinary hearing with the Judicial Council where disqualification will be considered.

**All election packets must be submitted to the Chief Justice's office at 11:00 AM on Friday, April 3rd**

- 3.6. The rules regarding the use of physical campaign materials (posters and other signage) are as follows:
  - 3.6.1. Campaign materials placed inside public buildings may only be placed on bulletin boards.
  - 3.6.2. Only one piece of campaign material per candidate may be placed per bulletin board.
  - 3.6.3. No more than 2 posters per candidate may be placed on each floor of every building.
    - 3.6.3.1. The Judicial Council defines a floor as one continuous, flattened surface within a building.
  - 3.6.4. Placement of campaign materials on department-only or official-use bulletin boards is prohibited.
  - 3.6.5. Campaign materials placed on bulletin boards should not exceed twenty (20) inches by twenty (20) inches.
  - 3.6.6. There shall be no campaign materials distributed into or onto doors or doorways.
  - 3.6.7. There shall be no distribution or placement of campaign materials inside computer labs or classrooms.
  - 3.6.8. There shall be no posters in Cravens Library, Gary Ransdell Library, or the Commons.
  - 3.6.9. No campaign materials shall be placed in the SGA Office or SGA Chambers.
  - 3.6.10. Candidates must use 100% washable sidewalk chalk to utilize campaigning on sidewalks around campus.
    - 3.6.10.1. Chalk is to be used on sidewalks only. It is not permitted on the side of buildings.
    - 3.6.10.2. No candidate shall use inappropriate language or depictions of any kind in chalking. (i.e.) Mudslinging, explicit language, nudity, etc.
  - 3.6.11. Candidates may display yard signs on or around campus property.
    - 3.6.11.1. Yard signs must not deteriorate in the rain and must be immediately removed following elections.
  - 3.6.12. If candidates opt to use Instagram or any other social media platform, they must create a new account and are prohibited from using past accounts.
    - 3.6.12.1. This does not include personal Instagram accounts and only pertains to campaign specific accounts.
  - 3.6.13. No person shall deface or alter any material of any candidate.
  - 3.6.14. All candidates shall remove all campaign material from university property no later than five (5) days after the election.
  - 3.6.15. No unauthorized person shall be allowed to remove any material of any candidate.
  - 3.6.16. No person shall deface or alter any material of any candidate.
  - 3.6.17. WKU SGA is not responsible for any materials lost, stolen, or damaged.
- 3.7. No candidate, or agent of a candidate, shall send or solicit any physical mail or email for self-promotion during the election or campaign period. Soliciting votes via email is strictly prohibited.
  - 3.7.1. This does not include contacting heads of official university-approved student organizations for the purpose of speaking at a regular meeting of said organization.
  - 3.7.2. This does not include social networking sites, such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, etc.
  - 3.7.3. This does not include the distribution of handbills to students around campus.
- 3.8. There shall be no campaigning in classrooms while class is in session, unless with the consent of the instructor. There is to be absolutely no campaigning in classrooms within 48 hours of the election.
- 3.9. There shall be no door-to-door campaigning in residence halls.
  - 3.9.1. This includes taping campaign material on doors, tying campaign material on door handles, and knocking on doors to solicit votes.
- 3.10. If a candidate uses Instagram or other social media to campaign, they must utilize their personal account or create a new campaign account. Accounts from prior campaigns are not to be used.

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- 3.11. Distribution of perishable food items shall be prohibited within 48 hours of any election.
- 3.12. No candidate, or agent of a candidate, shall solicit Social Security Numbers and/or Student ID Numbers to cast that student's vote.
- 3.13. Polling places used for campaigning purposes shall be prohibited.
  - 3.13.1. A "Polling Place" is defined as any publicly accessible computer with an internet connection.

#### **4. Candidate Finance Guidelines**

- 4.1. Candidates shall be required to adhere to the following financial limitations (donations and purchases):
  - 4.1.1. Presidential candidates shall spend no more than \$500.
  - 4.1.2. Vice Presidential candidates shall spend no more than \$250.
  - 4.1.3. Chief Financial Officer candidates shall spend no more than \$250.
  - 4.1.4. Senate candidates shall spend no more than \$75.
- 4.2. No single student or organization shall contribute more than 75% of the total per office to a candidate or per ticket. (i.e., a presidential candidate can be donated 75% of \$500, which would be \$375).
  - 4.2.1. Donations made to a candidate must be included on the election expenditure sheet and be counted towards the total amount.
- 4.3. Candidates running on a ticket will be allocated the amount from all offices (Presidential candidate, Student Body Vice-Presidential candidate, and Chief Financial Officer candidates: \$1,000).
  - 4.3.1. Only individuals running for executive offices can run as a ticket. Legislative candidates are not permitted and may be removed from the ballot for attempting to run on a ticket.
    - 4.3.1.1. Running on a ticket includes listing multiple candidate names on campaign material and/or providing students with a list of candidates to vote for.
    - 4.3.1.2. Candidates are permitted to share other candidates' campaign posts on their Instagram stories.
  - 4.3.2. All campaign materials must include all names on the ticket.
    - 4.3.2.1. It is important to note that ticketed pairs will not be noted during voting. All candidates will be separated for each respective office they are running for.
    - 4.3.2.2. A form documenting the choice to run as a ticket is attached to this form and will need to be sent in with this election packet.
  - 4.3.3. An exact report of itemized expenditures and contributions shall be filed with the Judicial Council and sent via email to the Chief Justice by Monday, April 27<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 PM.
    - 4.3.3.1. A copy of all receipts must be turned in with the expenditure sheet.

#### **5. Election Results**

- 5.1. The Chief Justice shall report the results of the election to the candidates once the votes have been verified at 7:01 PM on Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2026.
- 5.2. The election results shall be posted online and made available to the media by the Chief Communications Officer within twenty-four (24) hours of the election.
- 5.3. In the event a candidate wins multiple seats, they will be selected for whichever seat occurs first according to the results provided by TopNet.

#### **6. Appeal Procedure**

- 6.1. The following is the hearing and appeal procedure for violations of these Election Codes, as outlined in section 7.3 of the General Procedural Rules of the Judicial Council:

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“The time frame for such a hearing shall be altered from the time frame as outlined in section 6.1. The hearing must take place within twenty-four (24) hours of the submission for a request for a hearing.

Hearings over election code violations may result in a change of the filed position being run for or a complete removal from the ballot, if the hearing occurs prior to the onset of voting.

Once the election starts on Top-Net, hearings regarding election code violations may not be heard to remove someone from the ballot.

Hearings over election code violations may be made after the election begins. These hearings would be grounds for removal from a position as they constitute a failure to uphold the duties of the elected office.”

- 6.2. The Chief Justice shall report the Judicial Council’s rulings regarding appeals, protests, and disqualifications at the next regular meeting of the Senate.

## **7. Online Election Procedures**

- 7.1. Internet polling will take place for 48 hours via TopNet, as determined by the Judicial Council.
- 7.2. The computer-based program will compile the results of the online elections. Results of these votes will be picked up from Information Technology by the SGA Advisor, or appointee, and the Chief Justice of the Judicial Council.

## **8. Debate or Townhall**

- 8.1. Candidates for the position of Student Body President, Student Body Vice President, and Chief Financial Officer will be required to appear for a Debate or Town Hall to answer questions from the student body.
- 8.2. The Debate may occur if there is more than one person running for President.
  - 8.2.1. The tentative Town Hall will occur on Wednesday, April 8th at 6:00pm in the DSU Auditorium.
- 8.3. There will be no character attacks during these debates, and they will remain respectful, or the Judicial Council will reserve the right to expel someone from running.
  - 8.3.1. Character attacks are considered unsportsmanlike and will be evaluated for severity by the Judicial Council following the Debate.
- 8.4. Questions will be submitted via Google Form to the SGA Senate, on Instagram, and sent out to the student body via Student all email if approved.
- 8.5. The debates/town hall will be moderated by the Chief Justice and other members of the Judicial Council as delegated by the Chief Justice.
- 8.6. Duration of the Townhall will be determined by the Judicial Council. Questions may or may not be filtered for consideration of time and imperativeness.

## **Judicial Council Contact Information**

### **Chief Justice Sophie Stirling**

sophia.stirling846@topper.wku.edu

SGA Office – 2046

If you have any questions, need clarification or assistance, or would like to file an appeal or complaint, please contact the Chief Justice or the Associate Chief Justice and visit <https://www.wku.edu/sga/judicial/meetingrequest.php> - Please provide as much information as possible so we can resolve your issue quickly and accurately.

## Election Expenditure Sheet Spring 2026

	<b>Expenditures</b>	<b>Receipts</b>
<b>Total Amount Allowed</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Senator: \$75 <input type="checkbox"/> President: \$500 <input type="checkbox"/> SBVP: \$250 <input type="checkbox"/> CFO: \$250	
<b>Total spent on supplies</b>	(Amount Spent)	(Receipt(s) Attached?) Yes    No
<b>Total spent on advertising</b>	(Amount Spent)	(Receipt(s) Attached?) Yes    No
<b>Donations</b> (Write in name and phone number for each donor/organization, if applicable)	(Amount Given) _____ _____ _____	(Contact Information) _____ _____ _____
<b>Total spent on election</b>	\$	(Please leave this box empty)

I \_\_\_\_\_ certify that the above is correct and understand that any discrepancies will result in judicial review by the Judicial Council.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

I \_\_\_\_\_ having read and fully understood the Student Government Association Spring 2026 Election Packet, do hereby agree to fully comply with the Election Codes. I also realize that any failure to follow these guidelines may result in judicial review, including disqualification.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Student ID Number: \_\_\_\_\_

## Spring 2026 SGA Election Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

800 Number: \_\_\_\_\_

WKU Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Major(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Current GPA: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Year by Credit Hours (Freshman, Sophomore, etc.): \_\_\_\_\_

### **Executive Branch:**

\_\_\_\_ Student Body President

\_\_\_\_ Student Body Vice President

\_\_\_\_ Chief Financial Officer

### **Legislative Branch (you can select multiple, and it is recommended):**

\_\_\_\_ Senior Senator

\_\_\_\_ Junior Senator

\_\_\_\_ Sophomore Senator

\_\_\_\_ PCAL Senator

\_\_\_\_ CEBS Senator

\_\_\_\_ GFCB Senator

\_\_\_\_ CHHS Senator

\_\_\_\_ Ogden Senator

\_\_\_\_ Senator at Large

\_\_\_\_ ISEC Senator

\_\_\_\_ MHC Senator

\_\_\_\_ Transfer/Non-traditional Student Senator

\_\_\_\_ First Generation Senator

### Executive Branch Ticket Submission Form

*If you plan to run for an Executive Branch position on a ticket, please fill out the following information. Only Executive candidates are permitted to run on a ticket. If this does not apply to you, please leave blank.*

Student Body President Candidate:

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Student Body Vice President Candidate:

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Chief Financial Officer Candidate:

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Does your ticket have a slogan? If so, please write below:

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Please have each ticket member initial next to their intended position to recognize the following:

By initialing, I acknowledge that I am running for an Executive Branch position on a ticket. I recognize that all three candidates' names, including myself, must be present on all campaign materials. I also acknowledge that we will not be listed as a ticket on TopNet, with each of our names and candidacy positions being separate. I have read and understand all information regarding ticket ballots in Section 4 of the 2026 SGA Election Codes.

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Body President Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_ Student Body Vice President Candidate

\_\_\_\_\_ Chief Financial Officer Candidate

If you have questions or concerns, email Chief Justice Sophie Stirling at [sophia.stirling846@topper.wku.edu](mailto:sophia.stirling846@topper.wku.edu)

This Application is due and should be emailed or handed to Chief Justice Sophie Stirling no later than **11:00 AM on Friday, April 3rd.** You may begin campaigning at **8:00 AM on Monday, April 6th.** Elections will be held from **April 13th at 7:00 PM to April 15th at 7:00 PM** via TopNet.

By signing this document and running for a position in the WKU SGA Senate, you assert that you have read and will follow the Spring 2026 Election Codes. If you win a seat, you must **commit to attending weekly Senate Meetings in the DSU SGA Senate Chambers from 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM on Tuesdays.** Senate meetings are mandatory, and nonattendance may result in your expulsion from SGA.

**Signature** (if submitting electronically, just type your full name):

X \_\_\_\_\_

Total Seats Available:

**Executive:**

- 1 Student Body President
- 1 Student Body Vice President
- 1 Chief Financial Officer

**Legislative:**

- 3 Senior Senators
- 3 Junior Senators
- 3 Sophomore Senators
- 1 PCAL Senator
- 1 CEBS Senator
- 1 CHHS Senator
- 1 Ogden senator
- 1 ISEC Senator
- 1 MHC Senator
- 1 First Generation Senator
- 1 Transfer/Non-Traditional Senator
- 14 Senators at Large

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