

Rules of the 2021 Election

Election will take place from 8:00pm April 8th to April 9th 11:59pm

1. Clerk of Elections will work with the Director of Communications to publicize the availability of the Legislative and Executive Branch candidates packets via posters, e-mail and electronic medium beginning upon timeline and rules approval.
2. Both Legislative and Executive Branch candidates will self-nominate as per the application process to be placed on the ballot. Nominations will open on Thursday March 4th, 2021 at 12:00pm and will be accepted until Thursday March 18th, 2021 at 12:00pm. All other candidates will be "Write-In Candidates" after this date.
3. If there are any changes to the bylaws of the Stout Student Association that affect Legislative and Executive Branch positions, all candidates will be notified of the changes by the Clerk of Elections and given an opportunity to rescind their candidacy, or to self-nominate for a different position.
4. Voting will take place electronically via ballot that will be sent out through an all-campus e-mail using Qualtrics. The Clerk of Elections shall work with a group of SSA Members not seeking candidacy in the upcoming election to create a secure survey.
5. The Clerk of Elections will create information pieces for the Legislative and Executive Branch candidates that have submitted applications within the above date, to be posted on S.S.A. social media, which will include:
 - In order to be placed on the page this information must be received by Thursday, March 18th, 2021 by 12:00pm. The information shall include: (All information must be completed via CONNECT form)
 - The candidates name
 - Year in school
 - Major, minors and concentrations
 - Campus involvement or contributions
 - S.S.A. involvement or contributions
 - Community involvement or contributions
 - Personal statement; no longer than 150 words
 - Candidate picture; the picture must be submitted by the applicant.
 - Candidates may not have links to external sources on their webpage.
6. The Clerk of Elections shall work with the Director of Communications to coordinate all marketing efforts for the elections, including but not limited to: Digital signage in the MSC, Posters, Social Media Posts and Stoutonia Ads.
7. The order of offices available on ballots will be the order in which they are listed in the Bylaws of the S.S.A. .
8. Ballot order will be assigned based on the order of which candidates declare their candidacy and submit their documents, then followed by write in candidates.

9. Campaigning (promotional material, meetings, person-to-person, etc.). All rules apply to "Write-In Candidates" as well as in ballot candidates
 1. You may not campaign prior to March 19th, 2021.
 2. Campaigning will not take place within classrooms; including, but not limited to, speeches, campaigning material placement, and campaigning give away items. Buttons can be on backpacks and clothing but not be distributed in-class.
 - 2.1. Awareness of the S.S.A election can be advertised as well, but no mention of candidates can be made or alluded to unless requested.
 3. No mass-emails sent via classroom e-mail lists/from Canvas
 4. No door to door soliciting in the dorms or off-campus
 5. No placing pamphlets on vehicles.
 6. No spray chalk or paint chalk can be used.
 - 6.1. Normal sidewalk chalking is allowed, but it must be approved through MSC reservations.
 7. Campaigning will not take place within the Involvement Center and Stout Student Association Office in the MSC.
 8. Posters may be posted in University Buildings until April 23rd . All posters must be removed by the candidates by April 23rd, 2021.
 - 8.1. See Involvement Center Desk or their CONNECT page for proper locations and methods to hang posters in University Building.
 9. Removal or vandalism of opposing candidate's posters or campaign materials is, subject but not limited to, grounds for removal from the elections.
 10. Candidates may not utilize any S.S.A funds, supplies, telephone lines, or computers for campaigning purposes.
 11. Candidates may not spend more than \$500 on campaigning materials. Candidates must file a financial report by emailing the Clerk of Elections with all spending by 11:59 P.M. on April 7th. Campaign materials include any type of medium including candidate's name, image, or other identifiers to any candidate.
 12. Donations cannot be accepted by any candidate.
 13. Slam campaigns and inappropriate language, nudity, or pornographic images are not allowed and is, including but not limited to, grounds for removal from elections.
10. The S.S.A. Election Debate is set on Thursday April 1st, 2021 at 6pm held virtually by the Clerk of Election. All candidates including Write-In Candidates are invited to participate in the S.S.A. Election Debate.
 - a. Ballot Candidates will be automatically included in the S.S.A. Election Debate.
 - b. Write-In Candidates must notify the Clerk of Elections by Wednesday March 31st at 6 PM with their intentions to participate in the Debate.
11. Results will be released within one week of April 9th. The Clerk of Elections shall work with the Advisor of the S.S.A. to tally the exact count of votes. The results will be sent out to all students electronically via e-mail.
12. If the results of any position comes in as a tie upon the verification of the results, the tie shall be resolved by a drawing from a hat of the Clerk of Elections' choosing. A runoff election will be called instead upon the emailed request of any involved candidate.

- a. Timeline for request of run off will be 24 hours after email of notification of tie from the Clerk of Elections.
 - b. Dates for a runoff election shall be four days after notification of runoff status.
- 13. Any other unforeseen circumstances not laid out in these rules shall be subject to the decision of the Clerk of Elections, this is final.
 - a. Appeals can be made in University Court.
- 14. Any questions, concerns or comments, please contact the Clerk of Elections at ssavicepres@uwstout.edu.

Qualifications for Each Position:

All candidates: shall be in good academic standing with the University and submit evidence of such status to the Clerk of the Election Committee for approval via letter of good academic standing.

The President: shall have been enrolled in the University of Wisconsin-Stout's academic program at least two semesters and are required to enroll in a minimum of two consecutive semesters after elections.

The Vice President: shall have been enrolled in the University of Wisconsin-Stout's academic program at least one semester and must enroll in a minimum of two consecutive semesters after election or appointment.

The President or Vice President: shall hold no other major office in any University Organization that may institute bias as indicated by the Organizational Affairs Committee, or they may not hold more than two executive positions within any two organizations recognized by the University of Wisconsin-Stout.

All other Officer Positions: are required to enroll in a minimum of two consecutive semesters after elections.

Candidate Application Process:

Complete CONNECT application to receive a signature collection form:

- 13.1. Contact Information
- 13.2. Major, minor, concentration
- 13.3. Year in School
- 13.4. Campus involvement or contributions
- 13.5. S.S.A. involvement or contributions
- 13.6. Menomonie community involvement or contributions
- 13.7. Position Running for
- 13.8. Personal Statement
- 13.9. Upload Photograph
- 13.10. Collect student signatures, virtually via a CONNECT signature sheet (provided by the Clerk of Elections). **Candidates will be placed on the ballot if the proper amount of signatures is received on their CONNECT signature form by the deadline of nominations.**

13.11. Amounts of Student Signatures will be as follows pursuant to section 2.31 (12) of the Bylaws of the Stout Student Association;

-50 signatures for President and Vice President; who will run as a ticket, and therefore will collect jointly.

-25 student signatures for and Director positions; which will be collected individually

-10 signatures for Senator positions; which will be collected individually

Election Misconduct Sanctions:

Each rule for the 2021 election carries with it a penalty if it is found or reported to be violated; they are outlined as follows. All sanction reports will be reviewed by the Clerk of Elections.

Rules 9.1-9.8

- Minus 10 votes per candidate per reported incident.

Rules 9.9-9.10

- Minus 20 votes per candidate per reported incidence

Rules 9.11-9.13

- Removal from the ballot