RPIRG

ELECTION CAMPAIGN GUIDELINE

2025

VOTE HERE

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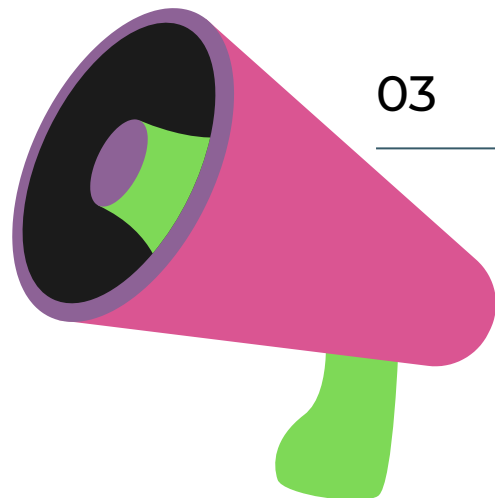
1) General Elections

RPIRG elections follow clear rules (Bylaw 6-(3)) to keep the process fair and transparent.

- URSU may help run the elections if there's a written agreement.
- The eight candidates with the most votes win.
- If there are fewer than eight candidates, students vote "Yes," "No," or "Abstain" for each one.
- If there's a tie, the CRO can either hold a run-off election or decide by a random draw.

2) Nomination Process

To run as a candidate, you must follow these rules (Bylaw 6-(5)):

- Submit your nomination package on time.
- Get 10 signatures from RPIRG student members in good standing (Bylaw 6-(5)(c)).
- Provide your name, student ID, and a phone number or university email (Bylaw 6-(5)(c)(i)).
- Attend a required nominee meeting (Bylaw 6-(5)(d)).
- If you can't make the meeting, you must meet with the CRO separately (Bylaw 6-(5)(d)(i)).

If you don't meet these rules, you will be disqualified.

3) Candidate Orientation

After being nominated, candidates must:

- Read the Elections Policy and RPIRG rules carefully.
- Know that they can spend up to $200 on their campaign (Bylaw 6-(6)(c)).
- Learn what they can and cannot do while campaigning (Bylaw 6-(6)).

4) Campaign Guidelines

Candidates must follow the RPIRG Elections Bylaws (Bylaw 6-(6)):

- **Stick to the timeline:** Only campaign within the allowed dates.
- **Get materials approved:** Posters, flyers, and online content must be approved before use (Bylaw 6-(6)(b)).
- **Be fair:** No lying, bribing, threatening, or spreading false information (Bylaw 6-(6)(a)).
- **Follow university rules:** Campaigning must follow URSU and University of Regina policies.
- **Stay within the budget:** Candidates can spend up to $200, including donations (Bylaw 6-(6)(c)).

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4) Prohibited Activities

1. No Peer Pressure
- No promoting candidates through posters, flyers, social media, or word of mouth.
- No encouraging students to vote for a candidate, even indirectly.
- No emails, messages, or group discussions pushing for votes.
- Exception: Candidates may still answer neutral questions about their platform but cannot actively seek support.

2. No Presence Near Polling Stations
- Candidates and their teams must stay at least 50 meters away from any physical polling station.
- No conversations, handouts, or last-minute persuasion near voting areas.
- No standing around polling locations in a way that could be seen as intimidation.

3. No Influencing Voters or Interfering with Voting
- Do not ask students how they voted or try to pressure them to vote a certain way.
- No offering incentives (money, gifts, food, or favours) in exchange for votes.
- Do not tell students false information about the voting process or their options.
- No using someone else's student ID or account to vote on their behalf.

4. No Tampering with Ballots or Election Systems
- Candidates and supporters must not interfere with the voting system in any way.
- No hacking, attempting to alter digital votes, or tampering with physical ballots.
- Destroying or manipulating votes will result in immediate disqualification and further disciplinary action.

5. No False Accusations or Spreading Misinformation
- Do not spread false claims about election results, other candidates, or voting procedures.
- Any complaints about the election must be made through the official appeals process with the CRO.
- Accusing another candidate without proper evidence is considered misconduct.

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4) Prohibited Activities Cont.

6. No Retaliation or Harassment After the Election
- No targeting, bullying, or harassing students based on the results.
- Losing candidates cannot blame or attack students, election officials, or other candidates.
- No organizing social media smear campaigns or personal attacks.

7. No Unauthorized Removal or Modification of Election Materials
- Only the CRO or authorized election officials can take down campaign materials.
- Candidates and supporters must not remove, deface, or alter posters, banners, or online content of other candidates.

8. No Bribery, Collusion, or Unfair Play
- Do not promise favours, jobs, or benefits in exchange for votes or endorsements.
- Candidates cannot make deals with each other to influence results (e.g., "If you drop out, I'll support you in the next election").
- No unauthorized coordination between candidates or campaign teams after the election.

9. No Unauthorized Challenges to Election Results
- Candidates may challenge results, but only by following the official appeals process set by the CRO.
- False claims, disruptive protests, or unofficial recount demands are not allowed.
- Any candidate found disrupting the election process may face penalties.

10. No Violating University Policies
- All candidates must continue following the university's code of conduct and election rules.
- Any behaviour that violates academic integrity, student conduct, or election ethics will be reported and penalized.

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5) Budgeting & Expenses

Candidates must follow the money rules:
- Spending limit – You can spend up to $200 on your campaign (Bylaw 6-(6)(c)).
- Donations count – Any money or items donated count toward your $200 limit.
- No sharing funds – You cannot combine budgets with other candidates.
- Save receipts – You must keep and submit receipts for everything you spend.

How to report expenses:
- Track all spending and keep receipts.
- Submit an expense report before the deadline.
- The CRO will check and approve your report.
- Breaking these rules could mean penalties or disqualification (Bylaw 6-(4)(c)).

6) Voting Procedures

Who can vote?
- Any registered student who pays the RPIRG fee can vote (Bylaw 6-(7)(a)).
- RPIRG runs the voting process, sometimes with help from URSU (Bylaw 6-(7)(b)).
- Each student can vote only once and cannot change their vote after submitting it (Bylaw 6-(7)(c)).

Voting violations (Bylaw 6-(7)(c))
- Voting more than once.
- Pressuring someone to vote unfairly.
- Changing or messing with ballots.

7) Reporting Election Violations

If someone breaks the election rules, report it to the Chief Returning Officer (CRO). Examples of violations include:
- Bribing or pressuring voters.
- Spreading false information about a candidate.
- Disrupting the election process.

How to report (Bylaw 6-(7)(d))
1. Gather proof – Take screenshots, photos, or get witness statements.
2. File a complaint – Submit it to the CRO.
3. Investigation – The Elections Committee will review and take action.

8) Election Results & Appeals

After votes are counted, the Elections Committee checks and approves the results.
- Once approved, the results will be shared publicly.
- If a candidate is disqualified, the runner-up takes their spot.

Appeal Process (Bylaw 6-(9))
- Candidates can challenge a decision made by the CRO.
- Appeals must be written and explain the reason clearly.
- The Elections Committee will review, and their decision is final.

The RPIRG election process is designed to be fair and accessible to all members. By following these guidelines, candidates can run a successful campaign while upholding RPIRG's values.

Good luck to all candidates!
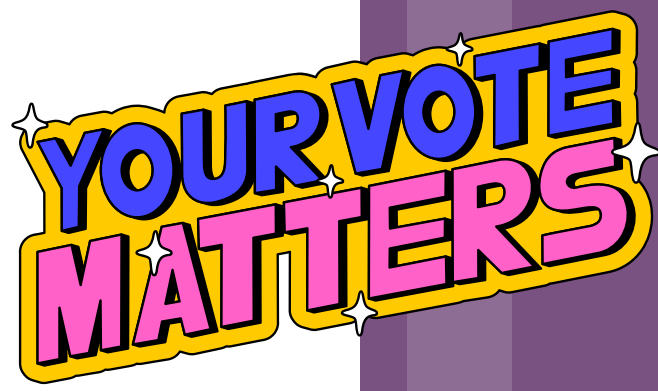
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1. Campaign Rules & Regulations

To keep the election fair, candidates must follow these rules:

- Meet deadlines – Follow the election timeline and submit everything on time.
- Use approved materials – Only RPIRG-approved posters, flyers, and online content are allowed.
- Follow university rules – Campaigning must follow the University of Regina's policies on posters, tabling, and online outreach.
- No bribing for votes – Candidates cannot offer rewards for votes (Bylaw 6-(6)(e)(xix)).
- Stick to the budget – Campaign spending, including donations, cannot exceed $200 (Bylaw 6-(6)(c)).

What candidates CANNOT do (Bylaw 6-(6)(e))

- Campaign in URSU businesses or other restricted areas.
- Campaign in classrooms unless the instructor allows it.
- Share or combine money with other candidates.
- Hand out campaign materials off-campus.
- Use offensive language, spread hate, or lie about opponents.
- Ask professors or university staff for endorsements.

Breaking these rules may lead to penalties or disqualification (Bylaw 6-(4)(c)).

2. Campaign Strategies & Outreach Tips

Strategy
Effective campaign strategies can enhance visibility and voter engagement. Candidates should develop a structured approach to connect with students.

Developing a Clear Campaign Message
A strong campaign message should be concise, memorable, and relevant to student concerns. Identify key priorities and how you plan to address them.

Utilizing Social Media
Social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, and TikTok are powerful tools for engaging students. Maintain a professional and consistent online presence.

Engaging in Direct Outreach
Visiting classrooms, attending student group meetings, and engaging in club activities can significantly increase voter support.

Tips for Outreach:
- Create a one-minute campaign video with clear messaging.
- Develop a daily outreach plan targeting different student groups.
- Personalize your interactions to build genuine connections with voters.

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3. Social Media & Online Promotion Tips

Best Practices for Online Campaigning
- Maintain consistent branding (same colors, fonts, and messaging across platforms).
- Post regular updates about your campaign to maintain engagement.
- Use a mix of graphics, videos, and text-based posts to keep content engaging.
- Utilize polls, Q&A sessions, and live streams to interact with students.
- Avoid excessive posting that could be perceived as spam.

Hashtags & Collaboration
- Use relevant hashtags to increase visibility (#RPIRGElections, #StudentVote, #YourVoiceMatters).
- Collaborate with student clubs, organizations, and influencers for better outreach.

What Not to Do
- Do not post misinformation or negative content about other candidates (Bylaw 6-(6)(a)).
- Avoid sharing campaign materials in restricted online spaces, such as faculty-specific groups without permission (Bylaw 6-(6)(b)).

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4. In-Person
Campaigning

Where to Campaign
- Reserve a table through URSU to talk to students.
- Visit student events or club meetings (with permission).
- Talk to students in common areas and share your campaign message.

Flyer & Poster Rules
- Use eco-friendly options like QR codes or digital flyers.
- Only put posters in approved areas (Bylaw 6-(6)(b)).
- Make sure all materials follow university rules.

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5. Debate & Public Speaking Tips

How to Prepare for a Debate
- Research important student issues and anticipate common questions.
- Prepare three important points to emphasize during your speech.
- Keep responses clear, concise, and fact-based.

Presentation Techniques
- Maintain eye contact and engage your audience.
- Control nervous habits by practicing in front of a mirror or peers.
- Stay calm and composed under pressure.
- If attacked, redirect focus to your platform instead of retaliating.

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6. Voter Engagement & Mobilization

How to Increase Student Turnout
- Use social media to remind students of voting deadlines.
- Host small meet-and-greet sessions to personally connect with voters.
- Offer step-by-step guides on how students can vote online.

Breaking Down the Voting Process
- Any registered student who pays the RPIRG fee is eligible to vote (Bylaw 6-(7)(a)).
- Voting is typically conducted online, with instructions provided by RPIRG and support from URSU (Bylaw 6-(7)(b)).
- Students can only vote once and cannot change votes after submitting their ballots (Bylaw 6-(7)(c)).

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7. Ethical &
Fair Play

How to Run a Clean Campaign
- Treat all candidates with respect and professionalism.
- Make sure that all campaign actions are transparent and fair.
- Report any election violations immediately and especially through the appropriate channels (Bylaw 6-(7)(d)).

Reporting Election Misconduct
- If you witness an offense, report it to the Chief Returning Officer (CRO).
- Provide documented evidence, such as screenshots, photos, or witness statements.
- The Elections Committee will investigate and take necessary actions (Bylaw 6-(7)(d)).

By following these guidelines, candidates can run a successful, ethical, and impactful campaign while adhering to RPIRG's bylaws and policies.

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