

2019-2020 Election Board Infractions and Penalties Guideline

1. Purpose

- a. The Election Board will reference this guideline in order to properly assess sanctions on candidates or individual members of slates that violate the Election Code. More so, the Election Board still has full authority to determine sanctions for violations that are not mentioned in this guideline and that the Election Board deems necessary.

2. Petition/Sanction Process

- a. Once a candidate has determined that a violation has been made by an opposing party, said candidate must file a petition with the Election Board.
- b. The petition form will be available via Google Forms on the Election Board social media.
- c. Once a petition has been filed, the Election Board Investigations Director will carefully review the petition and determine if a violation has occurred or if the petition will be thrown out. The petitioner and respondent will be notified if the petition is accepted or thrown out.
- d. In the event that the Investigations Director determines that a violation has occurred, the petitioner and the respondent will be notified that the Election Board has agreed to hear the petition.
- e. The respondent will then get a chance to meet with the Election Board, without the petitioner present, to present their own evidence and have a chance to defend themselves against the claims made against them by the petitioner.
- f. The Election Board will then meet with the petitioner to gather a final statement and collect any evidence that the petitioner may have in regard to his/her petition.
- g. The Election Board will then deliberate, carefully weighing all the evidence that each side has presented, and decide how to proceed.
- h. If, after deliberation, the Election Board has deemed that a violation did occur, the petitioner and the respondent will be notified immediately of the sanction and the reasoning for such sanction. The same process will ensue if a violation was not determined to be made.

- i. The respondent will be bound by the terms of the sanction, and if found to have violated the terms of the sanction, will be subject to further investigation and additional penalties determined by the Election Board.
- j. Article 8 section 8.2.7.c provides a list of prohibited behaviors for candidates, however, candidates are still responsible for following rules stated in the entire Election Code.

3. Notes

- a. The Election Board must go through the petition/sanction laid out in the Infractions and Penalties Guideline document within 48 hours.
- b. The respondent must be given the chance to tell their side of the story and present whatever evidence they deem necessary to help his/her case to the Election Board.
- c. The Election Board has full authority to determine sanctions for violations not mentioned in this guideline and that the Election Board deems necessary.
- d. Depending on the severity of the violation, sanctions will range from being restricted from online/on-campus campaigning for an allotted amount of time to disqualification. The severity of a sanction is at the discretion of the Election Board.
- e. During voting week, the sanction process will be shortened from 48 hours to 36 hours.
- f. Once results are publicly announced, no further petitions will be accepted by the Election Board.
- g. This document in no way restricts the Election Board from doing what they see fit in a certain circumstance or situation.