



Indiana University Student Government

SPRING 2021 CAMPAIGN GUIDE

For the Spring 2021 Student Body President election

prepared by the IUSG Election Commission pursuant to R.B. § 3-1-4(c)

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CHAPTER 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

A. WHAT IS IU STUDENT GOVERNMENT?

Founded in 1948 as the Student Senate, IUSG is the campus-wide student government at Indiana University Bloomington. According to the IUSG Constitution, our core mission is to “take direct action to realize an ever-inclusive and stronger University” and “work to protect student rights, promote equity, enrich student life, and improve Indiana University for all.”

Living out this mission has taken various forms throughout IUSG’s history. In recent years, student government has focused its attention on advocating for students with IU administrators, but IUSG continues to implement its own initiatives on campus, from raising awareness of student issues to funding over \$100,000 in pandemic relief for students.

IUSG is a three-branch representative democracy. The Student Body Congress makes up the legislative branch; composed of Student Representatives who serve on behalf of academic, residential, or multicultural constituencies, the Congress is responsible for setting official IUSG policy, directing the implementation of IUSG programs and initiatives, and overseeing the other branches. Additionally, Congress has final authority over all IUSG budgeting and spending.

The executive branch, led by the Student Body President, is responsible for the daily operations of IUSG and for carrying out the mandates of the Student Body Congress. The President is the chief executive of IUSG and chief spokesperson for the student body. The President is also in charge of an executive staff of over one hundred student volunteers.

The judicial branch consists of the Student Body Supreme Court and any other courts that the Congress sees fit to establish. The Supreme Court is responsible for applying the IUSG Constitution and the various statutes passed by the Student Body Congress to any cases that may arise relating to constitutionality or other disputes, including election cases. Additionally, the eleven Justices also serve a critical role in the IU conduct system, where they adjudicate cases of student misconduct. Justices are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Congress.

B. WHAT IS THE SPRING 2021 ELECTION?

The IUSG Constitution provides that every year, the student body elects a Student Body President and Student Body Vice President to a term of one year beginning April 15. Every student enrolled at Indiana University Bloomington is eligible to vote in the Presidential election.

Elections are governed by the IUSG Revised Bylaws, a set of statutes passed by the Student Body Congress. This year, voting takes place online over a thirty-six-hour period from 10:00 a.m. ET on April 1 to 10:00 p.m. ET on April 2. There are a number of events and deadlines over the weeks leading up to the election, which are listed in Chapter 4. After voting concludes, the Student Body Supreme Court is responsible for verifying and certifying the results of the election. The President-elect and Vice President-elect will take office on April 15, 2021, and serve until April 15, 2022.

Each candidate for President must run jointly with a candidate for Vice President, and vice versa. Each pair of candidates is called a “ticket.” **New** this year, students are no longer restricted to

voting for just one ticket; while each voter may still only cast one ballot, that ballot may contain votes for as many tickets as the voter chooses.

C. WHERE TO FIND MORE INFORMATION

This document is only a guide. The detailed requirements surrounding running for IUSG office are contained in the IUSG Revised Bylaws, which are publicly available on the IU Student Government website. The citation form “R.B.” denotes a reference to a provision of the Bylaws.

It is **strongly advised** that any prospective candidate carefully study Title 3, “Elections,” and Appendix A, “Unincorporated Election Provisions.”

CHAPTER 2. THE ELECTION COMMISSION

A. ABOUT THE ELECTION COMMISSION

The IUSG Election Commission is the body responsible for managing IUSG elections and enforcing election regulations. The Commission is made up of eleven Election Commissioners, student volunteers confirmed by the Student Body Congress. As a candidate, the Election Commission is your primary point of contact for information on running in an IUSG election.

B. ADVISORY OPINIONS

One of the Election Commission's responsibilities is to serve as a resource for candidates and prospective candidates. At any time, you may email the Commission requesting clarification of any requirement imposed on candidates as it relates to your own situation. The Commission will typically respond in the form of an **advisory opinion**, a public document detailing the requirement and the Commission's interpretation of the requirement in the context of your circumstances (see R.B. § 3-1-4(4)).

An advisory opinion is just that— advisory. It is not binding upon you, the Commission, the Supreme Court, or any other person or entity; however, it is generally wise to follow the Commission's advice.

C. ENFORCEMENT OF REGULATIONS

There are a number of activities that are prohibited in an IUSG election. These prohibited activities are called "election violations," and they are discussed further in Chapter 6. The Commission is responsible for monitoring the activities of candidates and imposing penalties for election violations. The Commission has power to investigate suspected violations and will deliver a judgment of "responsible" or "not responsible" based on the available evidence.

A finding of "responsible" carries a penalty depending on the case, up to and including disqualification from the election. If you receive a finding of "responsible," you may request to appeal the decision to the Student Body Supreme Court.

CHAPTER 3. REQUIREMENTS OF CANDIDACY

A. ELIGIBILITY FOR OFFICE

In order to be eligible to be a candidate for President or Vice President, a person:

1. Must be an undergraduate student at Indiana University, both during the election and for the entirety of the term of office to which they seek election.
2. Must possess a college GPA of at least 2.5 on a four-point scale.
3. Must NOT have been found guilty of sexual misconduct or a violent crime by the University or by a court of law.

(see R.B. App. A, Title I).

B. FILING FOR CANDIDACY

In order to appear on the election ballot, a ticket must file a Declaration of Candidacy with the Election Commission no later than the filing deadline. This year, the deadline is 11:59 p.m. ET on March 11, 2021 (R.B. § 3-3-3(c)).

The application form is currently available on the IUSG website under “Elections” → “Spring 2021 Election Information.” In order to properly file for candidacy, a ticket must:

1. Fill out all fields on the online application form.
2. Submit, along with the application form, a petition of support for the ticket’s candidacy that is signed by at least one hundred fifty (150) enrolled students of IU Bloomington. Signatures may be either physical or electronic (R.B. Appendix A § 103).
3. Submit, along with the application form, an up-to-date list of all ticket staff (R.B. Appendix A § 112). “Staff” includes anyone who has entered into a mutual agreement with the ticket to perform work for the ticket, regardless of pay or lack of pay (R.B. § 3-7-3(a)(2)).

C. CAMPAIGN PERIOD

Candidates and tickets are **prohibited** from campaigning before the filing deadline except for actions that are “absolutely necessary” to collect the required signatures, recruit campaign staff, or raise funds (R.B. § 3-3-4; R.B. § 3-8-8). “Campaigning” is defined as “public-facing promotion of a particular candidate or ticket” (R.B. § 3-3-1(a)(e)).

CHAPTER 4. SPRING 2021 ELECTION TIMELINE

The following is the order of required events and deadlines for the Spring 2021 Student Body President election (see R.B. § 3-3-3; R.B. App. A §§ 204-205):

March 4, 7:30 p.m. ET, Zoom: Call-out Meeting for Prospective Candidates

March 11, 11:59 p.m. ET: Filing Deadline

Last day to submit applications for candidacy, including student signatures and staff lists. A ticket that fails to meet this deadline will not be placed on the ballot for this election and cannot be elected.

Beginning March 12: Campaigning

Campaigning is not allowed until the filing deadline has passed. After that point, tickets have twenty-one days to campaign before voting ends on April 2.

March 16, 7:30 p.m. ET, Zoom: All-Candidate Meeting

Informational meeting for all tickets who successfully filed for candidacy by the filing deadline. **Every ticket must have at least one representative present at this meeting.**

March 23, 7:00 p.m. ET, Zoom: Candidate Town Hall

Students will have the opportunity to ask questions of all candidates for President and Vice President. **All candidates must participate in the town hall event.**

March 23, 11:59 p.m. ET: Intermediate Financial Statement Deadline

Every ticket is required to submit a financial statement that details all campaign donations and expenditures up to this point. **Failure to submit an intermediate financial statement will result in disqualification from the election.**

March 24, 11:59 p.m. ET: Candidate Withdrawal Deadline

March 26: Ballot Review

The Election Commission will send each ticket a copy of the official election ballot for review. Any issues must be brought to the attention of the Commission no later than March 28.

March 30, 7:00 p.m. ET, Zoom: Debate

Public debate between all pairs of candidates, hosted by the Election Commission. This is the final official IUSG event before voting begins. **All candidates must participate in the debate.**

April 1-2: Voting

April 5, 10:00 p.m. ET: Complaint Deadline

Early April: Result Announcement (Preliminary)

Once all properly cast votes have been tabulated, the Election Commission will announce the ticket that received the most votes, not including any disqualified tickets. The result is not final

until certified by the Supreme Court. Before certification, the only events that could alter the result are:

1. The ticket that received the most votes is subsequently disqualified due to an unresolved election violation case; or
2. The ticket that received the most votes fails to submit a final financial statement (see below); or
3. The ticket that received the most votes had previously been disqualified, but that disqualification is subsequently overturned by the Supreme Court following an appeal.

April 8, 8:00 p.m. ET: Final Financial Statement Deadline

Every ticket is required to submit a financial statement that details all cumulative campaign donations and expenditures over the course of the campaign. **Failure to submit a final financial statement will result in disqualification from the election.**

Mid-April: Result Certification

Once the vote totals have been reported to the Supreme Court and any remaining election violation cases have been resolved, the Supreme Court will formally certify the result of the election. **Once the election is certified, the result is final.**

April 15: Inauguration

The President-elect and Vice President-elect will be inaugurated as the next Student Body President and Student Body Vice President of Indiana University.

CHAPTER 5. CAMPAIGN FINANCE

A. TRACKING TICKET FINANCES

Each ticket is required to keep detailed records of all money it raises or spends over the course of the campaign. Every campaign donation that the ticket accepts must be recorded. Every expenditure for campaign purposes must be recorded as well. In the event of ambiguity concerning whether something counts as a donation or an expenditure, the final decision rests with the Election Commission (R.B. Appendix A § 201).

When recording an expenditure, you must record the **fair market value** of the good or service purchased, regardless of the price you actually paid for it. “Fair market value” is “the price a good or service would command on the open market, e.g. before family discounts or other special deals not available to all competing tickets” (R.B. App. A § 201).

When in doubt about campaign finance regulations, **ask the Election Commission.**

B. MAXIMUM DONATIONS AND EXPENDITURES

There are strict limits on how much money a ticket may accept and how much it may spend. Those limits are as follows (R.B. App. A § 202):

1. A candidate for President or Vice President may donate **no more than five hundred dollars (\$500.00)** to their ticket’s campaign.
2. An individual or organization that is **not** on the ballot may donate **no more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) total to all tickets**. For example, a non-candidate may donate \$100.00 to Ticket A and \$0.00 to Ticket B; or \$80.00 to Ticket A and \$20.00 to Ticket B; but may **not** donate more than \$100.00 across all tickets.
3. A ticket may spend **no more than two thousand dollars (\$2,000.00) in campaign expenditures throughout the course of the campaign.**
4. A ticket **may not spend more money than it raises**. In other words, total campaign expenditures may not exceed total campaign donations.
5. Additionally, following the end of voting, each ticket has **four (4) weeks** to return all unspent donations. Unspent donations must be returned proportionally to donors.

C. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Every ticket is required to submit two financial statements to the Election Commission: an intermediate financial statement no later than 11:59 p.m. ET on Tuesday, April 23, and a final financial statement no later than 8:00 p.m. on Friday, April 8, 2021. Each statement must include exact, cumulative records of all donations and expenditures up to the date submitted. Each record of donation must be accompanied by the contact information of the donor. Each record of expenditure must include a receipt and vendor contact information and must list the fair market value of the expenditure (R.B. App. A § 203).

Both financial statements must be signed by the ticket’s candidate for President. **Failure to submit a statement by the deadline will result in immediate disqualification** (R.B. § 3-8-2).

CHAPTER 6. ELECTION VIOLATIONS

A. POINT SYSTEM

A ticket found responsible for an election violation will be assessed a number of points depending on the class of violation and the severity of the individual case. At all times, you have the right to know how many points you have accrued over the course of the campaign (R.B. § 3-7-4).

Point penalties are not assessed to an individual candidate, but instead to the ticket as a whole. A violation by either candidate or by the campaign manager counts against the whole ticket. Additionally, violations that are either (a) committed by ticket staff or (b) directly or indirectly authorized, directed, or condoned by a member of ticket leadership also count against the whole ticket (R.B. § 3-7-3).

A ticket that accrues a cumulative ten (10) points is immediately and automatically disqualified. The ticket will still appear on the ballot, but even if it receives the most votes, it cannot win the election unless the Supreme Court overturns the disqualification following an appeal. Once the election result is certified, any and all disqualifications are final, and no further disqualifications may occur (R.B. § 3-7-5).

The classes of election violations and their respective point penalties are as follows (R.B. § 3-7-6):

1. Class A, ten (10) points.
2. Class B, no fewer than six (6) and no more than eight (8) points.
3. Class C, no fewer than four (4) and no more than six (6) points.
4. Class D, no fewer than two (2) and no more than four (4) points.
5. Class E, no fewer than one (1) and no more than two (2) points.

B. VIOLATIONS OVERVIEW

The complete definitions of all election violations are found in R.B. 3-8, “Violations Defined.” The following list does NOT contain in-depth descriptions the various election violations, but instead a brief overview:

Vote Interference

Voter suppression, voter fraud, voter harassment or intimidation, buying votes, etc., Class A.

Campaign Finance Offense

Failing to submit a required financial statement, Class A. Excess donations or expenditures by over one hundred dollars (\$100.00), Class A. Excess donations or expenditures by up to one hundred dollars (\$100.00), Class B.

Candidate Dishonesty

Knowingly or intentionally providing provably false information to the Election Commission, withholding evidence or other required information, Class A.

Improper Use of IUSG Office

Using IUSG office space for campaign purposes, Class C.

Improper Use of Telecommunications

Emailing, texting, or calling students for campaign purposes without:

1. offering them the option to unsubscribe;
2. placing all email addresses in the BCC line; or
3. ceasing to send those communications to students who have requested to stop receiving them;

class depends on cumulative number of students the violation is committed in communication with:

1. One (1) to fifty (50), Class D.
2. Fifty-one (51) to five hundred (500), Class C.
3. Five hundred one (501) to five thousand (5,000), Class B.
4. More than five thousand (5,000), Class A.

Improper Use of IUSG Branding

Using the IUSG seal on campaign materials; acting, speaking, or distributing materials in a way that would give a false impression that said actions, speech, or materials are on behalf of IUSG or any IUSG body or officeholder, Class C.

Restricted Area Campaigning

Campaigning in violation of RPS policies, campaigning in a University library or computer lab without Election Commission approval, campaigning at a 21+ establishment, or campaigning in a classroom (or Zoom equivalent) during instruction without instructor approval, Class D. Posting materials, wearing campaign clothing, or sending campaign communications do not count as Restricted Area Campaigning.

Campaigning Before Campaign Period

Campaigning before the filing deadline, Class E. Necessary actions to collect the required 150 signatures, recruit campaign staff, or encourage others to run do not count as Campaigning Before Campaign Period.

Print Materials Offense

Posting or distributing print materials in violation of IU, RPS, or UITS policies, Class E.

Campaign Interference

Attempting to cause another ticket to commit an election violation, same class as the class attempted to be caused to be committed. Interfering with another ticket's campaign materials, Class D or Class C depending on the severity of the case

University Policy Violation

Being found responsible by an IU judicial authority for a University policy violation in the course of campaigning, class depends on the severity of the case.

CHAPTER 7. COMPLAINTS AND APPEALS

A. COMPLAINTS

Any person who has credible evidence that an election violation has been committed has an “affirmative duty” to report the violation to the Election Commission by filing an election complaint (R.B. § 3-9-1).

The complaint form is available on the IUSG website. A complaint will not be considered unless it includes the following information (R.B. § 3-9-4):

1. The name and University email address of the complainant.
2. A **specific, detailed** allegation of wrongdoing by one or more persons, including names and dates.
3. Accurate citation(s) to the provision(s) of the IUSG Bylaws violated by the alleged offense.
4. Any evidence the complainant considers necessary or relevant to support the allegation.

All complaints are distributed by the Commission to all tickets and published on the IUSG website. If the Commission determines there is a “substantial possibility that the alleged violation(s) did occur, in whole or in part,” it will accept the complaint and begin a formal investigation into the allegation. The Commission is not required to accept the complaint, nor is the Commission required to justify its decision whether or not to accept (R.B. § 3-9-5).

B. IF AN INVESTIGATION IS INITIATED AGAINST YOU

If the Commission investigates your ticket for a suspected election violation, it will notify you immediately. You will then have seventy-two (72) hours to respond to the allegation in the form of a reply brief (R.B. § 3-9-6).

Following its investigation and deliberations, the Commission will issue a formal judgment of “responsible” or “not responsible.” A judgment requires a two-thirds majority vote of the commission.

A finding of “not responsible,” meaning that there is not sufficient evidence to determine that a violation did occur, is final. It may not be appealed to the Supreme Court, nor may it be reconsidered by the Commission unless in case of an “extraordinary discovery of evidence” (R.B. § 3-9-8).

A finding of “responsible” will be accompanied by a point penalty. A ticket found responsible for an election violation has the option request to appeal the decision to the Student Body Supreme Court.

C. APPEALS

Appeals are governed by R.B. § 6-3, “Appellate Procedures.” The appeal request form is available on the IUSG website. The Supreme Court is NOT required to accept a request for appeal.

If the Election Commission issues a judgment against your ticket, you then have forty-eight (48) hours to request an appeal; however, no appeal may be requested after the election result is certified (R.B. § 6-3-2). A request must include the following (R.B. § 6-3-3):

1. An identification of the Election Commission ruling to be appealed.
2. A specific request for relief (e.g. that the point assessment be reversed).
3. An argument as to why the Election Commission ruled incorrectly and why the requested relief should be granted.
4. Any evidence you consider necessary or relevant to support your argument.

The Supreme Court may grant a request to hear an appeal if the Commission ruling was a clear and plain error in judgment, if the case hinges on a matter of interpretation of the IUSG Bylaws or other statute, or if it suspects bias on the part of the Commission (R.B. § 6-3-1).

Upon granting a request, the Court will then request that the Commission explain its ruling in the form of a reply brief. Then both the appellant (the ticket) and the appellee (the Commission) will be invited to appear before the Court to deliver oral arguments. Following oral arguments, the Court will deliberate on the case and issue the Opinion of the Court, a document detailing the reasoning behind its decision to (a) uphold the Commission's judgment, (b) overturn the Commission's judgment, or (c) remand the case back to the Commission for further review.

No matter what the Supreme Court decides, its ruling is **final**.