

Title 7

Election Code

Chapter 700

Definitions of Terms for Student Government Elections

- 700.1. The following terms shall apply only for the purposes of Title 7 of these Statutes. These terms shall be considered binding in all legal actions brought forth during an election.
- 700.2. **Active Campaigning** - Public and intentional expression of support for a candidate or ticket including vocal campaigning, distributing flyers, and campaigning via social media or email.
- 700.3. **Administrative Capacity** - Assisting with a campaign in a supervisory role; only including: organizing volunteers, creating plans for marketing, overseeing the creation of campaign materials, campaign strategizing, and/or managing campaign finances.
- 700.4. **Applicant** - Any person or pair that has submitted an official application to the Election Rules Commission (ERC) prior to the application deadline or Petitioned Senator Application (PSA) to Student Government Advising, Training and Operations (SGATO).
- 700.5. **Assistant Deputy** - A voluntary position appointed by the Supervisor of Elections to assist in the election process.
- 700.6. **At-Large Seat** - When there are more vacant seats than there are applicants for a particular college during a Midterm election, the remaining vacant seats shall become At-Large Senate seats. Any candidate for the Senate may opt to run for an At-Large seat instead of for a seat in their college.
- 700.7. **Ballot** - The electronic form containing the names of the candidates and tickets, any constitutional amendments, any referenda, or any recalls to be presented to the Student Body on which they will vote on the items presented before them.
- 700.8. **Beyond Reasonable Doubt** - The standard that shall be met by the claimant's evidence that no other logical explanation can be derived from the evidence except that the claim made by the claimant is valid.
- 700.9. **Bribe** - A prize, reward, gift or favor given or promised with the intent to influence another vote for a particular candidate or ticket. Any campaign materials approved by the Election Rules Commission and given during official campaigning shall not constitute as a bribe or bribery.
- 700.10. **Campaign Budget Statement** - An itemized list of all campaign expenditures made by a candidate, ticket, or their respective campaign staff, and all campaign contributions received by a candidate, ticket, or their respective campaign staff.
- 700.11. **Campaign Contributions** - Any resource provided, at fair market value, a reduced price or without cost to the candidate, ticket, or their campaign staff, from a person or entity, on or

off campus, for the purpose of furthering a campaign for a Student Government office. Non-monetary campaign contributions shall be assessed at fair market value.

- 700.12. **Campaign Expenditures** - The spending of money by a candidate, ticket, or their campaign staff, for the purposes of campaigning for a Student Government office.
- 700.13. **Campaign Materials** - Any physical or electronic materials which promote a candidate or ticket or impugn another candidate or ticket.
- 700.14. **Campaign Staff** - Any person who is helping a campaign ticket in any administrative capacity.
- 700.15. **Campaign Staff List** - The official list of Campaign Staff for each individual Campaign Ticket maintained by the Election Rules Commission and submitted by a Campaign Ticket.
- 700.16. **Campaign Ticket** - Any person or group certified to take part in the elections (Senate Candidate or Ticket, Referendum Sponsor/Referendum Campaign, Presidential Campaign Ticket, Campaign Staff, etc.).
- 700.17. **Campaign Volunteer** - Any person who is helping a campaign ticket in any non-administrative capacity.
- 700.18. **Campaigning** - An expression by any medium attracting public attention whether radio, television, newspaper, magazine, periodical, direct mail, e-mail, display, leaflet, speech, or any other means which shall transmit any idea furthering the candidacy of any person.
- 700.19. **Candidate** – An applicant who has passed all eligibility checks by SGATO and the ERC and has attended the mandatory candidate meeting(s) as specified by the ERC.
- 700.20. **Candidate Meeting** – A mandatory meeting for all applicants organized by the ERC.
- 700.21. **Certification** - The process by which tentative election results are made official.
- 700.22. **Constitutional Amendments** - Proposed changes to the SB Constitution which have been passed by the Senate, signed by the President, and presented to the Student Body to be voted on.
- 700.23. **Declaration of Intent to Run** - An official form that an applicant or ticket signs to officially declare their intent to be certified for a Student Government position.
- 700.24. **Donation** - Any contribution, monetary, or otherwise, given to a candidate, ticket, campaign, or campaign staff member by any individual or entity, specifically for use in the campaign including, but not limited to, campaign staff, other students, or any non-student individual or entity.
- 700.25. **Early Campaigning** - Actively campaigning before being certified by the ERC and SGATO, and/or prior to the onset of campaigning as determined by the ERC.

- 700.26. **Election Cycle** - The timeframe beginning on the first day of campaigning and ending upon certification of election results.
- 700.27. **Election Rules Commission (ERC)** - An official entity of Student Government created to oversee the execution and logistics of all Student Government elections.
- 700.28. **Electorate** - The officially enrolled student body, as determined by the Office of the Registrar, at the University of South Florida, Tampa Campus.
- 700.29. **Expedited Elections** - Any elections held in the event that a Supreme Court ruling or other circumstances result in an election needing to be rescheduled.
- 700.30. **Extenuating Circumstances** - A documented occurrence that would render someone reasonably unable to fulfill a requirement, including but not limited to: personal illness, hospitalization, bereavement, a serious family illness, or another obligation as determined by the Supervisor of Elections.
- 700.31. **Fair Market Value** - The price a person or entity would charge any other entity for a good or service.
- 700.32. **General Election** - The Annual Spring semester election during which the President, Vice President, and the new term of Senators are elected, any new constitutional amendments are proposed, and any referenda are voted upon.
- 700.33. **Governing Documents** - For the purposes of enforcement of Title 7, this shall refer to the SB Constitution, Student Government Statutes, and the Election Rules Commission Rules of Procedure.
- 700.34. **Grievance** - Any complaint brought forth via the grievance form to the Election Rules Commission and can be submitted against a candidate, ticket, or any group certified to take part in a USF Student Government election.
- 700.35. **Interim Elections** - The elections held after the General Election to fill any open Senate seats or present any issues that shall be voted on by the Student Body. Elections held in the event that the total number of filled Senate seats falls below (70 %) of the total number of allotted seats. This election may only call for a Senatorial Election.
- 700.36. **Major Violation** - An assessment given by the Student Supreme Court which may be assessed to a candidate, ticket, or any group certified to take part in a USF Student Government election which result in the candidate or ticket being disqualified from the election.
- 700.37. **Majority** - A vote of 50% +1 of the total electorate who voted in the election; applicable to university-wide Student Government elections only.
- 700.38. **Members of the Election Rules Commission** - Includes all employees, paid or non-paid, who comprise the Elections Rules Commission.

- 700.39. **Minor Violation** - An assessment given by the Election Rules Commission which may be assessed to a candidate, ticket, or any group certified to take part in a USF Student Government election for violations outlined within Title 7 and the Election Rules Commission Rules of Procedure.
- 700.40. **Midterm Election** - The Annual Fall semester election in which new senators are elected to fill vacancies in the Senate, any new constitutional amendments are proposed, and any referenda are voted upon. If the past general election was chosen by selection of last resort then the Vote of Confidence will also take place in this election.
- 700.41. **Officers of the Election Rules Commission** - Includes all paid employees who comprise the Election Rules Commission.
- 700.42. **Official Polling Station** - A device or outlet of voting that is directly designated in writing and staffed by the Election Rules Commission on voting days.
- 700.43. **Petitioned Senator** - A Senator elected through a Senatorial Underrepresentation Petition.
- 700.44. **Plurality** - The election of Senators, within their college, using the total vote count of the electorate who voted in the election.
- 700.45. **Post-Election Report** - A comprehensive report compiled by the Supervisor of Elections that includes reports from all officers of the Election Rules Commission.
- 700.46. **Preponderance of Evidence** - The standard that a question at hand is more likely true than not. The standard is satisfied if there is a greater than 50% chance that the proposition is true. The burden of proof lies with the plaintiff.
- 700.47. **Presidential Campaign Ticket** - A Joint Presidential and Vice Presidential pair that has been certified by the Election Rules Commission to campaign.
- 700.48. **Recall** - An action which allows any USF student, by petition, to initiate a vote of the Student Body in which an elected Student Government officer may be removed from their position.
- 700.49. **Referendum Campaign** - Any person or group supporting a Referendum that was certified to take part in an election. A Referendum Campaign will be considered a type of campaign ticket.
- 700.50. **Restricted Area** - Any physical location that has been restricted from campaigning by the Election Rules Commission, any University Entity, College, Building Manager or Dean.
- 700.51. **Run-Off Election** - The election which shall occur if no candidates or tickets receive a majority vote in the election for the offices of President and Vice President or a tie occurs for the last seat of a college between two or more Senate Candidates.

- 700.52. **Senatorial Underrepresentation Petition (SUP)** - A petition used to elect Petitioned Senators when there are no candidates available to serve as Senators for a particular college and there is not a low enough percentage of senators to require an interim election.
- 700.53. **Special Elections** - Any election which is held, other than the General and Midterm Election, throughout the academic year. These elections shall be further outlined in Chapter 707.
- 700.54. **Statute of Limitations** - A statute setting a time limit on legal action in certain cases.
- 700.55. **Student Government Referendum** - An action which allows any Student Government Officer, with the consent of the Senate and Student Body President, the power to call for a Referendum in which the Student Body will vote on the issue presented to them.
- 700.56. **Student Referendum** - An action which allows any USF student, by petition, to bring forth a question or issue to be voted on by the Student Body.
- 700.57. **Unofficial Intent to Run** - An unofficial and private declaration to a student(s) peers that they have intent to apply for certification to run for a Student Government position.
- 700.58. **University logo** - Any logo or trademark that is owned by the university, including but not limited to university, athletic, and the Student Government logos and seals.
- 700.59. **USF Spirit Squad** - The USF Herd of Thunder band, USF Pep Band, Sundolls, USF Cheerleading, USF Diamond Dolls, USF Goal Girls, and Rocky D. Bull.
- 700.60. **Unrestricted Area** - Any physical location that is free for any individual to campaign on behalf of any Campaign Ticket.
- 700.61. **Unauthorized Polling Station** - Any polling station that is not setup and operated by ERC staff and/or ERC Volunteers. This shall also include any polling station that is being operated by a campaign ticket.

Chapter 701

Election Code of Ethics

- 701.1.** Student Government elections shall be governed in a manner fair to both the Student Body and candidates alike.
- 701.2.** The Election Rules Commission shall be responsible for ensuring the education of candidates and tickets and holding them accountable to all relevant Student Government policies.
- 701.3.** Candidates are responsible for complying with procedure set forth by the Election Rules Commission and for being aware of the governing principals for Student Government Elections.
- 701.4.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall be assessed a violation without first having due process before the respective decision making body.
- 701.5.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall threaten or commit any violence to any member of a campaign ticket, or campaign staff.
- 701.6.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall commit or attempt to commit extortion, blackmail or bribery.
- 701.7.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall provide false information before the Election Rules Commission, Supreme Court, or Circuit Court.
- 701.8.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall withhold any financial records when reporting a budget or changes to the budget.
- 701.9.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall commit or condone slander or libel.
- 701.10.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall commit or condone the destruction or theft of any campaign material.
- 701.11.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall use any A&S funded materials for any political campaigns with the exception of materials produced at free printing locations listed on the USF information
- 701.12.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall cast, attempt to cast, or condone the casting of more than one vote or tampering with the election software.
- 701.13.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall distribute campaign materials by sliding material under doors of residence halls.
- 701.14.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall distribute campaign materials by placing them on vehicles parked on-campus.

- 701.15.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall violate any university policy or applicable laws in the course of campaigning.
- 701.16.** No candidate, ticket, or member of a campaign shall condone, authorize, or sponsor an unauthorized polling station.

Chapter 702 Election Timeline

702.1. General Election Timeline

702.1.1. The application period shall begin the first day of the spring semester and shall end at 11:59 PM on the last day of the third (3rd) business week.

702.1.2. After a candidate or ticket submits their complete application, the Student Government Advising Office shall commence the check of eligibility of candidates and tickets.

702.1.2.1. If a candidate or ticket is found to be ineligible to run for office they will be notified of the reason for their ineligibility by a member of SG Advising Office..

702.1.3. Campaigning shall begin four weeks prior to the start of Spring Break, and shall end with the close of polls on the final day of voting.

702.1.4. Elections shall be held nine (9) business days prior to the start of Spring Break and shall last for four consecutive business days, Monday Through Thursday of the applicable week.

702.1.5. Campaigning shall begin two weeks prior to the week of voting for the Midterm Election and will end on the final day of voting.

702.2. Midterm Election Timeline

702.2.1. The application period shall begin the first day of the fall semester and shall end at 11:59 PM on the Friday of the third week of September.

702.2.2. After a candidate or ticket submits their complete application, the Student Government Advising Office shall commence the check of eligibility of candidates and tickets.

702.2.2.1. If a candidate or ticket is found to be ineligible to run for office they will be notified of the reason for their ineligibility by a member of SG Advising Office

702.2.3. Campaigning shall begin two weeks prior to the week of voting for the Midterm Election and will end on the final day of voting.

702.2.4. The Midterm Election shall take place the Tuesday and Wednesday the second full week of October.

702.3. Run-Off Election Timeline

702.3.1. After the results of the General/Midterm Election have been announced, the Election Rules Commission will inform the candidates and tickets as to whether or

not a Run-Off Election will need to be held. All the policies and procedures of the General/Midterm Election shall apply to a Run-Off Election, except those changed by the policies and procedures found below.

- 702.3.2.** Campaigning will begin immediately following the official announcement that a Run-Off Election will occur and end upon the closing of the polls on the final day of voting.
- 702.3.3.** Run-Off Elections shall occur the following Tuesday and Wednesday after the official announcement and certification of the election results.

Chapter 703

Duties and Responsibilities of Student Government during Elections

- 703.1.** Duties of the Officers of the Election Rules Commission
- 703.2.** The Election Rules commission shall be overseen by the SG Advising office.
- 703.2.1.** No member of the Election Rules Commission shall be a candidate or on a ticket for any election they preside over.
- 703.2.2.** No member of the Elections Rules Commission shall campaign, endorse, or actively assist an applicant, candidate, or ticket outside of their duties as a member of the Election Rules Commission.
- 703.2.2.1.** Should an accusation from an individual be brought forth regarding a violation of this policy, it shall be submitted in a memo to the Senate President Pro Tempore who will call for the creation of a Senate Impeachment Committee.
- 703.2.2.2.** Assistant Deputies who violate this policy shall be removed from their position by the Supervisor of Elections.
- 703.2.3.** The Election Rules Commission shall adopt a Rules of Procedure which shall not conflict with any Student Government governing document.
- 703.2.3.1.** Any proposed changes to the ERC Rules of Procedure shall be submitted to the Senate Policy Committee for approval twenty-five (25) business days prior to the first Candidate meeting of Midterm Elections.
- 703.2.3.1.1.** This shall take effect at the beginning of the 61st Term.
- 703.2.3.2.** Changes not approved by the Senate prior to the first candidate meeting shall not apply to the election in question.
- 703.2.4.** Be available during office hours to assist, candidates or tickets, and students.
- 703.2.5.** The ERC shall hold at least ten (10) office hours collectively during business days, per week during any election cycle.
- 703.2.5.1.** The ERC shall include their office hours and location in the election application packet.
- 703.2.5.2.** The ERC shall include a copy of major and minor violations in the election application packet.
- 703.2.6.** Make public and accessible to all students on the Student Government website any and all referenda, constitutional amendments, and required campaign documents, in collaboration with the Executive Branch department managing the Student Government website.
- 703.2.7.** Oversee the ongoing election process and monitor campaign materials for violations.

Statutes updated and certified accurate on 10/7/2019

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- 703.2.8.** Investigate and report any breach of any Student Government governing document by a campaign ticket or member of campaign staff.
- 703.2.9.** Investigate and when applicable assess minor violations against candidates or tickets.
- 703.2.10.** Propose and vote on changes to the Election Rules Commission Rules of Procedure when necessary.
- 703.2.11.** Create the candidate packet and related documents for all elections.
- 703.2.12.** Submit the election application packet to SG Advising Office for approval at least ten (10) business days prior to the release of applications for Midterm and General Elections.
- 703.2.13.** Propose changes to Title 7 of the SG Statues to the Senate.
- 703.2.14.** Create and distribute all certifications of elections for all elected positions.

703.3. Duties of the Supervisor of Elections

- 703.3.1.** Manage and oversee the daily operations of the Election Rules Commission
- 703.3.2.** Ensure all initial nominations and appointments to the Elections Rules Commission are done prior to the final Senate meeting of the Fall Semester excluding Assistant Deputy Appointments.
- 703.3.3.** Inform applicants and campaign tickets of election rules and regulations through a mandatory Candidate Meeting and distribute all necessary information through official USF email.
- 703.3.4.** Document the receipt of signed paperwork of campaign tickets or applications.
- 703.3.5.** Provide written notification to inform all parties mentioned in the grievance of any minor violations they have been alleged to have committed within two (2) business days of the official grievance being submitted.
 - 703.3.5.1.** All parties mentioned in the grievance shall also be informed of the date, time, and location of the violation hearing at least two (2) business days' prior to the hearing.
- 703.3.6.** Inform all Senate candidates of the number of seats per division as well as the number of candidates per division.
- 703.3.7.** Serve as the Chair of Election Rules Commission meetings. Announce locations and operating hours of all official polling stations at least five (5) business days in advance of any election.

703.3.8. Ensure that polling locations, candidates, and campaign tickets are placed on the Official Student Government Website and Official Student Government social media at least five (5) business days prior to the first day of any Election.

703.3.8.1. This shall be done by emailing the Executive Departments directly responsible for the oversight of the Official Student Government Website and/or Official Student Government social media.

703.3.9. Disperse a finalized ballot to all candidates and tickets to their official USF email at least (5) five business days prior to the onset of elections.

703.3.10. Create a paper ballot that matches the online ballot to be used in the event that it becomes necessary as determined by the Supervisor of Elections or SGATO.

703.3.10.1. Candidates may request that changes be made to correct errors to the ballot within three (3) business days of the ballot being sent out.

703.3.11. Ensure unofficial vote counts are made available to anyone within (1) one business day following the announcement of results.

703.3.12. Announce cancellation of an official polling station at least twenty-four (24) hours in advance of the applicable voting day, whenever possible.

703.3.13. Cancel any election, in conjunction with the Director of SG Advising Office or their designee, due to the university closing or problems with the voting system.

703.3.14. Announce and make public the results of all elections.

703.3.15. Certify the results of all elections.

703.3.16. Sit on a Senate created Ad Hoc Committee, following the General Election, to suggest ways to improve the election process.

703.3.17. Attend all Election Rules Commission sponsored events including the Elections Rules Commission debates and candidate mixer(s).

703.3.18. Appoint the necessary positions on each branch campus to fulfill the duties of the ERC.

703.3.19. Appoint Assistant Deputies.

703.3.20. May terminate any employed Associate or Deputy two weeks after Spring break or any time after that with the consent of the Student Body President.

703.4. Duties of Associate Supervisor(s) of Elections

703.4.1. Assume the responsibilities of the Supervisor of Elections should the Supervisor of Elections be unable to complete their term for any reason.

703.4.1.1. The ERC shall have an internal election to determine which Associate Supervisor of elections shall assume the role of Supervisor of Election, as outline in ERC ROPs

703.4.2. Assist the Supervisor of Elections in all ways necessary and proper to ensure the execution of the role of the Election Rules Commission.

703.4.3. Ensure candidates and tickets comply with the governing documents.

703.4.4. Temporarily assume any Election Rules Commission position in the event that the person cannot fulfill their duties.

703.4.5. Act on behalf of the Supervisor of Elections when the Supervisor is not present.

703.4.5.1. While acting on the Supervisors behalf the Associate Supervisor may not

703.4.5.1.1. Certify elections.

703.4.5.1.2. Hire any person to the Election Rules Commission.

703.4.5.1.3. Set deadlines for candidates and tickets not outlined in governing documents.

703.5. Duties of the Deputy Supervisors of Elections

703.5.1. Assume the responsibilities of the Supervisor of Elections should the Supervisor of Elections and Associate Supervisor of Elections be unable to complete their term for any reason.

703.5.1.1. The ERC shall have an internal election to determine which Deputy Supervisor of elections shall assume the role of Supervisor of Election, as outline in ERC ROPs

~~703.5.2.1~~**703.5.1.2.** If the Deputy Supervisor of Elections assumes the role of Supervisor of Elections, they shall be subject to a Vote of Confidence at the next scheduled Senate Meeting as outlined in Senate Rules of Procedure.

~~703.5.3~~**703.5.2.** Ensure candidates and tickets comply with the governing documents

~~703.5.4~~**703.5.3.** Assist the Supervisor of Elections in all ways necessary and proper to ensure the proper execution of the role of the ERC.

703.6. Duties of the Executive Branch

703.6.1. The duties of the Executive Branch involving Student Government Elections shall include, but are not limited to the following:

- 703.6.1.1.** Ensure all Executive Branch members follow any and all election procedures out lined in the Student Government Constitution, Title 7 and the Elections Rules Commission Rules of Procedure.
- 703.6.1.2.** Ensure the utilization of all social platforms for the marketing of any elections in collaboration with the Elections Rules Commission.
- 703.6.1.3.** Ensure a compatible voting platform has been selected and purchased prior to the onset of any election.
- 703.6.1.4.** Ensure that the link to the vote is easily accessible on the USF Student Government website, as well as from the web link, “usf.edu/vote”.
- 703.6.1.5.** The Student Body President shall consider for approval, any and all constitutional amendments that have been passed by the Senate.
- 703.6.1.6.** The Student Body President may remove any Election Rules Commission member(s) with the advice and consent of the Senate by a supermajority vote.
- 703.6.1.7.** The Solicitor General shall be available to provide advice and representation to all students during the election process, including any grievance hearings, when requested by a student.
 - 703.6.1.7.1.** The campus Public Defender shall provide advice and representation to their respective campus’ students in conjunction with the Solicitor General.
 - 703.6.1.7.2.** In the event that the Solicitor General position is vacant, the Student Body President shall appoint another member of the Executive Branch not in the Department of Legal Affairs to fulfill this duty.

703.7. Duties of the Legislative Branch

- 703.7.1.** The duties of the Legislative Branch involving Student Government Elections shall include, but are not limited to the following:
 - 703.7.1.1.** Ensure all Legislative Branch Members follow any and all election procedures out lined in the Student Government Constitution, Title 7 and the Elections Rules Commission Rules of Procedure.
 - 703.7.1.2.** Consider for approval, any and all constitutional amendments that have been submitted to the Senate President Pro Tempore, as long as the request falls within the timeline in Title 7.
 - 703.7.1.3.** The Senate President shall call an Ad Hoc committee to review the election process prior to the second Senate meeting of the summer session.
 - 703.7.1.4.** The Senate President Pro Tempore, in conjunction with the Director of SG Advising Office or their designee, shall determine the total number of vacant seats in any Midterm and Interim Election and make the seat count public prior to the onset of the elections.
 - 703.7.1.5.** The Senate President Pro Tempore, in conjunction with the ERC Supervisor of Elections and Director of SG Advising Office or their designee, shall

determine the total number of At-Large seats available in any Midterm elections and shall make the seat count public prior to the onset of the elections.

703.7.1.6. The Senate Policy Committee shall consider the Elections Rules Commission's Rules of Procedure when amendments are submitted by the ERC.

703.7.1.7. The Senate may end the ERC's Supervisors time in office four weeks after Spring Break or any time after that with a majority vote.

703.8. Duties of the Judicial Branch

703.8.1. The duties of the Judicial Branch involving Student Government Elections shall include, but are not limited to the following:

703.8.1.1. No Judicial Branch member shall become involved in a Student Government Election as a candidate, campaign staff, campaign volunteer, or actively assist an applicant, candidate, or ticket outside of their duties as a member of the Judicial Branch.

703.8.1.2. Any conflict of interest between Judicial Branch member and a candidate or campaign ticket shall be disclosed in writing to the Director of SG Advising Office and the Supervisor of Elections prior to the first day of voting.

703.8.2. The Supreme Court shall have original jurisdiction over:

703.8.2.1. All federal cases and controversies involving Student Government.

703.8.2.2. All federal cases and controversies involving constitutional amendments.

703.8.2.3. All federal cases regarding major election violations.

703.8.2.3.1. The burden of proof for these cases shall be beyond a reasonable doubt.

703.8.3. The Circuit Courts shall have original jurisdiction over:

703.8.3.1. All local cases and controversies involving Student Government.

703.8.3.2. All local cases regarding major election violations.

703.8.3.2.1. The burden of proof for these cases shall be beyond a reasonable doubt.

703.8.3.2.2.

703.8.4. The Supreme Court shall have appellate jurisdiction over:

703.8.4.1. All cases and controversies involving candidates, recall elections, and the Election Rules Commission.

Chapter 704

Voting in Student Government Elections

- 704.1.** Online voting shall be utilized in all Student Government elections whenever possible.
- 704.1.1.** If online voting is not available, paper ballots may be used.
- 704.1.1.1.** Paper Ballots shall be signed and timestamped by non-student Staff members of SG Advising Office.
- 704.1.1.2.** The ballots shall include the students' NetID?
- 704.2.** All USF students shall have the right to vote in all Student Government Elections.
- 704.2.1.** If a student attempts to submit more than one ballot, only their first submitted ballot shall be counted.
- 704.2.1.1.** If a student is found to have attempted to tamper with the voting software, they shall be placed in poor standing with Student Government, permanently.
- 704.3.** The Student Government Advising Office shall be responsible for maintaining the format of the infrastructure being utilized for voting.
- 704.3.1.** Any changes being made to the voting software shall require the authorization of the Director of SG Advising Office.
- 704.4.** Only non-student staff members of SG Advising Office may have access to the vote counts during active voting.
- 704.4.1.** The aforementioned parties shall not share the running tally of vote counts with any other student or individual, unless requested by the University Board of Trustees, their designees or applicable courts.
- 704.4.2.** The vote counts and all documents pertaining to the voting system shall be made public by the Election Rules Commission once active voting is complete, certified, and archived for historical purposes.
- 704.4.2.1.** All vote counts shall be published online on the Official Student Government Website and Official Student Government social media.
- 704.5.** SG Advising Office shall make a reasonable attempt to ensure that the order of the candidates' and tickets names on the ballot shall be determined by a randomized selection process as determined by the voting software.
- 704.6.** There shall be no write-in candidates or tickets.
- 704.7.** The Election Rules Commission shall set up and operate official polling station(s) on campus during regular business hours (9 AM – 5 PM) on each voting day for any election.

- 704.7.1.** A polling station shall be set up and operated at the Marshall Student Center for each day of any election.
- 704.7.2.** At least one other polling station shall be set up and operated on campus for each day of the General and Midterm Elections
- 704.8.** In the event of unforeseen circumstances, which hinder the commission from operating polling stations safely, the Election Rules Commission can operate a minimum of one (1) official polling station until it is deemed safe to resume normal operations.
- 704.9.** Election Certifications
- 704.9.1.** For all General and Midterm Elections, the Election Rules Commission shall release the uncertified results on the day following the close of the respective election's polls no later than 5:00 PM.
- 704.9.2.** For all General and Midterm Elections, the Election Rules Commission shall release the certified results on the day following the close of the respective election's polls no earlier than 10:00 AM and no later than 8:00 PM if there are no pending grievances.
- 704.9.2.1.** In the event of a pending grievance following the close of elections, the Election Rules Commission shall certify the results following one (1) business day of the resolution of the final grievance.
- 704.9.3.** If a Run-Off occurs, then the results of the Run-Off Election shall be certified no earlier than 10:00 AM the day following the close of the election's polls and no later than 5:00 PM on the Friday following the close of the election's polls. These certifications shall include notice of any pending Supreme Court cases involving the election.
- 704.9.4.** The results of any election are not official until certified by the Elections Rules Commission given that the certification is in compliance with all Student Government governing documents.

Chapter 705

Requirements and Regulations for the General and Midterm Elections

- 705.1.** The purpose of the General Election is to elect a Student Body President and Vice President, elect Senators, propose any Constitutional Amendments and vote on any referenda.
- 705.2.** The purpose of the Midterm Election is to fill the vacant Senate seats, propose any Constitutional Amendments and vote on any referenda.
- 705.3.** Candidacy
- 705.3.1.** Students interested in running for office will be able to pick up an application packet from the Election Rules Commission and access it online starting on the first day of classes prior to the respective election.
- 705.3.1.1.** Once a student has submitted an official application to the ERC, they shall be considered an applicant and may be held liable to all rules and procedures governing the elections process.
- 705.3.2.** In order to be placed on the official ballot applicant(s) must meet the following requirements:
- 705.3.2.1.** Submit the following documents by the appropriate deadline:
- 705.3.2.1.1.** The official application packet
- 705.3.2.1.2.** A Declaration of Intent
- 705.3.2.1.3.** A Student Record Waiver
- 705.3.2.1.4.** Candidates shall also submit information to the ERC as required by Statutes and ERC ROP's when necessary throughout the campaign process.
- 705.3.2.2.** Attend at least one of the official candidate meetings.
- 705.3.2.2.1.** There will be at least two meetings scheduled before Official Campaigning prior to the General and Midterm Elections.
- 705.3.2.2.2.** The dates and times will be included in the application packet.
- 705.3.2.2.3.** In the case that applicants cannot attend any of the meetings, they can inform the Supervisor of Elections, in writing at least twenty-four (24) hours before the final meeting.
- 705.3.2.2.4.** If the reason(s) for missing all of the meetings are due to extenuating circumstances, then a make-up meeting will be scheduled with the applicant(s).

- 705.3.3.** In order for President/Vice President tickets to be placed on the official ballot they must attend an additional meeting with the Supervisor of Elections in addition to meeting the above requirements.
- 705.3.3.1.** Both candidates shall attend the meeting.
- 705.3.3.2.** The Supervisor of Elections may schedule the time for this meeting after the application deadline.
- 705.3.3.2.1.** Candidates shall be given at least forty-eight (48) hours' notice of this meeting time.
- 705.3.3.2.2.** If a candidate cannot attend the scheduled meeting time, they can inform the Supervisor of Elections, in writing at least twenty-four (24) hours before the meeting.
- 705.3.3.2.3.** If the reason for missing all the meetings are valid (as decided by the Supervisor of Elections), then a make-up meeting will be scheduled with the candidate.
- 705.3.4.** In order for a single applicant to be placed on the official ballot as a Senatorial candidate AND on a President/Vice President ticket, they must attend meetings fulfilling each of the above requirements.
- 705.3.4.1.** The applicant must additionally sign a form expressing their understanding that, should their ticket win the Presidential election, they shall not be eligible for a Senatorial seat even if they receive the requisite number of votes.
- 705.3.4.2.** If a candidate is elected to both the winning ticket and Senate, their subsequent senate seat(s) shall be given to the runner-up senate candidate(s).
- 705.3.5.** The candidates' or tickets' name(s) shall be on the ballot. The Election Rules Commission may allow nicknames to be listed along with the legal name on the ballot.
- 705.3.6.** Candidate biographies and photos shall be accessible through the Student Government website, Official Student Government social media, and binders at all polling stations.
- 705.3.6.1.** Candidate biographies and photos shall not be placed on the ballot.
- 705.3.7.** Any USF Student who has served in any of the following positions shall not be eligible to run in the General Elections unless they resigned from that position prior to September 1st of the year immediately before the election.
- 705.3.7.1.1.** A USF SG Supreme Court Justice
- 705.3.7.1.2.** A USF SG Attorney General
- 705.3.7.1.3.** A USF SG Solicitor General
- 705.3.7.1.4.** A member of the USF SG Election Rules Commission

- 705.3.7.2.** This shall apply beginning with those serving at any point in the 61st Term.
- 705.3.8.** Any USF Student who has served as a Justice shall not be eligible to run in the Midterm Elections unless they resigned from that position prior to June 1st that year.
- 705.3.9.** Senatorial candidates and tickets shall not run for more than one Senate seat during the election.
- 705.3.10.** Candidates and tickets may withdraw from an election at any time by submitting a Withdrawal form.
- 705.3.10.1.** Candidates and tickets who withdraw from an election may not reapply for any position in that given election after the close of applications.
- 705.3.10.2.** Should a Presidential or Vice Presidential Candidate remove their name from a campaign ticket, the remaining candidate shall select and report the replacement to the Election Rules Commission within two (2) business days.
- 705.3.10.3.** Violations assessed shall remain in effect for the new ticket.
- 705.4.** Determination of Vacancies in the Senate
- 705.4.1.** The total number of vacant seats shall be determined by the Senate President Pro Tempore in conjunction with the SG Advising Office, or designee.
- 705.4.1.1.** The Election Rules Commission will make the number of seats public prior to the onset of elections.
- 705.4.2.** At the start of the election process until the commencement of an election, SG Advising Office will routinely check the eligibility of candidates and tickets.
- 705.4.3.** If a Candidate or ticket is found to be ineligible to run for office they will notified of the reason for the ineligibility by a member of SG Advising Office prior to the onset of Official Campaigning or upon discovery throughout the election process.
- 705.4.4.** The Election Rules Commission will inform the candidate and/or ticket they are eligible to run for office.
- 705.5.** At-Large Senate Seats in Midterm Elections
- 705.5.1.** If there are fewer applicants than there are seats available, the ERC supervisor shall turn the remaining seats into an At-Large Senate Seat.
- 705.5.2.** The ERC Supervisor shall confirm the At-Large Senate seat numbers with the Senate President Pro Tempore and SG Advising Office..
- 705.5.3.** The ERC Supervisor of Elections will notify all candidates via official USF email of their option to run for an At-Large seat within 48 hours after the application deadline.

705.5.4. Any candidate for the Senate may choose to run for an At-Large Senate seat.

705.5.4.1. Upon notification of At-Large seat availability, a candidate has two (2) business days to notify the ERC Supervisor of Elections via official USF email of their decision to run for an At-Large Senate seat.

705.5.4.2. Once a candidate has opted to run for an At-Large Senate seat, a candidate shall not revert back to running for a seat in their college for this election cycle.

705.5.4.3. If another At-Large seat is created after this time period closes, this process shall repeat and candidates will again have the ability to choose to run for an At-Large seat.

705.5.5. The final day for seat creation will be the Friday of the week prior to the respective election.

705.6. Run-Off Election Candidates

705.6.1. Run-Off Elections shall not occur if first place candidate or ticket receives 10% or more of the vote than the second-place candidate or ticket.

705.6.2. The Election Rules Commission will inform the candidates and tickets as to whether or not a Run-Off Election will be held.

705.6.3. All of the policies and procedure of the preceding election shall apply to a Run-Off Election, except those changed by the policies and procedures found below.

705.6.4. If there is a tie between two or more Senate candidates or tickets for the last seat in any college than a Run-Off Election will occur between these candidates or tickets.

705.6.4.1. The Run-Off Election shall take place between the two tickets who received the most votes in the General Election provided the 10% rule was not met.

705.6.5. The winner of the Run-Off election shall be the campaign ticket that receives the most votes during the Run-Off election.

Chapter 706

Campaign Processes and Restrictions

706.1. Campaigning

706.1.1. Campaigning shall begin two weeks prior to the week of voting. Candidates and listed campaign staff may not campaign prior to Official Campaigning.

706.1.2. Campaigning shall not be permitted in the Student Government office, Bulls Radio, SGCS, or SAFE Team.

706.1.3. SG Officials, paid or unpaid, shall not actively campaign or wear campaign materials while on the clock or while performing in any Official SG capacity.

706.1.3.1. This includes but is not limited to:

706.1.3.1.1. Attending any SG meeting.

706.1.3.1.2. Being in the SG Suite.

706.1.3.1.3. Being in any SG Agency.

706.1.3.1.4. Representing SG at any events.

706.1.3.1.5. Volunteering at any SG events.

706.1.3.1.6. Tabling.

706.1.3.1.7. Wearing any SG uniform, nametag, or polo.

706.1.4. Members of the ERC are not permitted to wear campaign materials or campaign for any candidate or ticket.

706.1.5. Applicants, Candidates and Campaign Tickets may organize campaign staff and volunteers and communicate with potential donors prior to the onset of campaigning.

706.1.6. If Applicants, Candidates or Campaign Tickets solicit assistance of staff and organizers, they are responsible for ensuring that all Campaign Staff are familiar with all rules, statutes, and regulations that pertain to the elections process.

706.1.6.1. If a Campaign Manager and/or Campaign Staff are established, then the applicant(s), candidates, or campaign tickets shall report their Campaign Staff List to the Election Rules Commission prior to the start of official campaigning

706.1.6.2. Adjustments to a campaign staff list shall be submitted by the end of business of Friday of each week.

706.1.7. Any candidate or listed campaign staff may engage in campaigning on behalf of a campaign ticket.

706.2. Campaign Materials

- 706.2.1. All campaigns materials shall have the candidate's or ticket's name on said material.
- 706.2.2. Campaign materials shall include all print and electronic graphics used by a campaign to further a candidate or campaign ticket.
- 706.2.3. Campaigns materials shall not use University and Student Government logos or trademarks.
- 706.2.4. Campaigns materials shall not use endorsements from or images of university administrators, USF Departments, the USF Spirit Squad, current NCAA Division I athletes, and/or any current non-student University employee.
- 706.2.5. Students may not campaign within 100 feet in any direction of an official polling station on voting days.

706.3. Fundraising & Donations

- 706.3.1. A Federal Campaign Ticket shall receive no more than \$1000 per donor.
- 706.3.2. All Senate candidates and applicants shall receive no more than \$250 per donor.

706.4. Expenditures

- 706.4.1. Each Presidential/Vice Presidential ticket and Senatorial candidate or ticket shall submit a completed Campaign Budget Statement to the Election Rules Commission before they will be allowed to officially campaign.
- 706.4.2. This statement shall include all campaign contributions and any campaign expenditures with all receipts attached.
- 706.4.3. A Campaign Ticket shall submit an amended expense form to the Election Rules Commission the Friday before voting begins and the Monday after voting ends, if changes have been made.
- 706.4.4. Misreported information on the Campaign Budget Statement may result in minor violations being assessed against a candidate or ticket.
 - 706.4.4.1. All original and final campaign Budget Statements shall be posted on the Student Government Website and/or official Student Government social media.
 - 706.4.4.2. Any misinformation reported over \$250 will result in a major violation.

706.5. Violations

- 706.5.1. Should the actions of any Campaign Ticket, Campaign Staff or Candidate violate Student Government Statues or Elections Rules Commission Rules of Procedure, the respective Campaign Ticket or candidate may be held liable.

- 706.5.2.** The Election Rules Commission and Supreme Court do not have jurisdiction beyond Student Government Statutes, the Student Government Constitution and Election Rules Commission Rules of Procedure, respectively.
- 706.5.2.1.** Violations of University Policy and Student Code of Conduct shall be determined by the office of Student Rights and Responsibilities.
- 706.5.2.2.** Violations of municipal, state and federal law shall be determined by the judiciary of the respective government.
- 706.5.3.** Minor Violations include:
- 706.5.3.1.** Using A&S funded materials to further their campaign (with the exception of anything printed via the free printing locations).
- 706.5.3.2.** Using A&S funds from any USF print shop for campaign materials.
- 706.5.3.3.** Sliding campaign materials under doors of residence halls.
- 706.5.3.4.** Posting signs in unauthorized locations.
- 706.5.3.5.** Chalking in unauthorized locations.
- 706.5.3.6.** Campaigning within 50 feet of an official polling location.
- 706.5.3.7.** Campaigning in any Student Government Agency or Bureau.
- 706.5.3.8.** Campaigning while wearing any USF Department uniform, nametag, or polo given as a result of a position in that department.
- 706.5.3.9.** Early campaigning.
- 706.5.3.10.** Using University administrators, USF Spirit Squad, current NCAA Division 1 athletes, any current non-student University employee as endorsement of a campaign.
- 706.5.3.11.** Placing campaign materials on vehicles parked on-campus.
- 706.5.3.12.** Any violation of the Election Code of Ethics.
- 706.5.3.13.** Condoning others to commit these acts.
- 706.5.4.** The Elections Rules Commission may assess minor violations to Campaign Tickets or a Candidate. A Campaign Ticket shall be disqualified should the Campaign Ticket accumulate seven⁽⁷⁾ minor violations.
- 706.5.5.** For each minor violation after the first violation, a nominal fine of \$50 will be levied against a Presidential ticket, Gubernatorial ticket certified to take part in a USF Student Government election.
- 706.5.5.1.** The ERC shall issue a written notification that included the amount of the fine and the violation.
- 706.5.6.** For each minor violation after the first violation and, a nominal of \$25 will be levied against a Senate candidate, Campus Council ticket, or referendum campaign certified to take part in a USF Student Government election.

- 706.5.6.1.** The ERC shall issue a written notification that includes the amount of the fine and violation.
- 706.5.7.** All minor violations shall be paid within fifteen (15) business days of being issued a written notification.
- 706.5.7.1.** If fines are not paid within fifteen (15) business days, the candidate, or campaign ticket shall be disqualified from the current election.
- 706.5.7.1.1.** In this case, the candidate will be disqualified and the next candidate will be given the seat.
- 706.5.7.2.** If unpaid fines remain at the end of a USF Student Government election, the financially accountable student for a ticket may request a one-time ten (10) business day extension for payment via a written request to the SG advising office office.
- 706.5.7.2.1.** Fines will be processed in accordance with University of South Florida Regulations.
- 706.5.8.** The Election Rules Commission may assess minor violations to Campaign Tickets or a Candidate. A Campaign Ticket shall be disqualified should the Campaign Ticket accumulate seven (7) minor violations.
- 706.5.9.** Major Violations shall be:
- 706.5.9.1.** Any attempt, successful or unsuccessful, to:
- 706.5.9.1.1.** Use force or threats in any way, including for money, favors, or votes
- 706.5.9.1.2.** Use money or favors to persuade a person or group to act in a certain way, not including purchases of goods or sponsorships
- 706.5.9.1.3.** Spread false, damaging statements against any person or group
- 706.5.9.1.4.** Tamper with voting software
- 706.5.9.1.5.** Condoning the commission of any of these actions by others.
- 706.5.9.2.** Any use of SG or USF resources to assist or harm a campaign, including:
- 706.5.9.2.1.** Using social media pages that are otherwise primarily used for a position, department, or office
- 706.5.9.2.2.** Using ListServs or other similar department/office email lists in any way
- 706.5.9.2.3.** Using department/office tabling events
- 706.5.9.2.4.** Seeking donors or volunteers while on the clock or in the workplace
- 706.5.9.2.5.** Actively campaigning while on the clock or in the workplace
- 706.5.9.2.6.** Condoning the commission of any of these actions by others.
- 706.5.9.2.7.** Group chats that exist exclusively for the purpose of conducting official business and operations for a department at the university.

706.5.9.2.7.1. Informal groups shall be excluded from this definition.

706.5.9.3. Any of the following other violations:

- 706.5.9.3.1.** Receiving more than the caps specified in SG Statutes 706.3
- 706.5.9.3.2.** Knowingly providing false information to the Supreme Court, the ERC, and/or to SGATO
- 706.5.9.3.3.** Withholding any financial records or any updates to them
- 706.5.9.3.4.** Damaging, destroying, or thieving a campaign's materials
- 706.5.9.3.5.** Setting up or operating an unauthorized polling station
- 706.5.9.3.6.** Condoning the commission of any major violations by others

706.5.10. If found responsible for any of the acts stated in 706.5.9.1 1 or condoning others to commit these acts shall cause the candidate(s) or tickets to be in poor standing with Student Government, permanently.

706.5.11. The Election Rules Commission may accept grievances for major violations against candidates and tickets and they shall be filed with the Supreme Court as trials.

706.5.11.1. If actions constituting a major violation are proven beyond a reasonable doubt then the Supreme Court may assess major violations to the respective Campaign Ticket or Candidate and that Campaign Ticket or candidate will be disqualified.

706.6. Grievances

706.6.1. The person filing the grievance shall provide sufficient evidence of the breach in order for the Election Rules Commission to report the grievance.

706.6.1.1. The Grievance must be submitted to the ERC Prior to the close of voting.

706.6.2. The Election Rules Commission Grievance form shall be filed with the following required information:

- 706.6.2.1.** The names of the accused candidate or ticket. Only one candidate or ticket can be included in each grievance.
- 706.6.2.2.** The filer's name and contact information.
- 706.6.2.3.** A description of the alleged violation(s).
- 706.6.2.4.** The evidence supporting the claim.

706.6.3. Should the grievance form filer fail to include the required information, the grievance shall be deemed null and void by the Election Rules Commission.

706.6.4. If the Elections Rules Commission accepts a grievance filed by a student, staff or faculty, the Elections Rules Commission will notify the candidate of their potential violation within two (2) business days.

- 706.6.5.** The notification shall include a copy of the grievance filed including all supporting evidence.
- 706.6.6.** After the notification is sent to the candidate in question, the candidate will have, at minimum, two (2) business days, to prepare a written or oral statement refuting the alleged charges with any applicable evidence.
- 706.6.7.** The Supervisor of Elections may schedule the grievance meeting any time after the two (2) business day to hear arguments.
- 706.6.8.** The person who filed the grievance will be given five (5) minutes to present their statement to the Election Rules Commission.
- 706.6.9.** Accused candidates or a member of the accused Campaign Ticket will be given five (5) minutes to present their statement to the Election Rules Commission.
- 706.6.10.** Should the individual be unable to attend the meeting, a written statement of their testimony may be submitted to the ERC.
- 706.6.11.** At any point during testimony the members of the Election Rules Commission may ask questions of the speaker, at the discretion of the Supervisor of Elections.
- 706.6.12.** The ability to extend time will be at the discretion of the Supervisor of Elections.
- 706.6.13.** Failure by the accused to refute any alleged charges will not impede the Elections Rules Commission from assessing the violation(s).
- 706.6.14.** The Elections Rules Commission will discuss the statements from both parties, review evidence, and vote on whether or not to assess a minor violation to the candidate.
- 706.6.14.1.** The burden of proof shall be by clear and convincing evidence.
- 706.6.15.** An official decision on violation assessment by the Election Rules Commission shall be made public no later than two (2) business days from the adjournment of the meeting.
- 706.7.** No grievances may be filed after 11:59 PM of the day after voting ends.
- 706.7.1.** Only grievances pertaining to vote count manipulation shall be accepted after this deadline.
- 706.7.2.** No grievance will be accepted after election results have been certified.
- 706.8.** In the event of a Run-Off, violations assessed to candidates and tickets in the General or Midterm Election shall remain in effect until the certification of the results of the Run-Off Election.

706.9. No grievances may be filed after 9:59:59 AM of the day after voting for the Run-Off Election ends.

706.9.1. Only grievances pertaining to vote count manipulation shall be accepted after this deadline.

706.9.2. No grievance will be accepted after Run-Off Election results have been certified.

Chapter 707

Special Elections

707.1. Interim Elections

- 707.1.1. The Senate shall call for an Interim Election when the total number of filled Senate seats fall below (70 %) of the total number of seats as determined by the Constitution.
- 707.1.2. The Senate President Pro Tempore shall determine the total number of vacant seats in conjunction with the SG Advising Offices and notify the Senate when the total number of filled seats falls below (70 %).
- 707.1.3. Upon announcement of an Interim Election, the officers of the Election Rules Commission will meet to draft a plan for the specifics of the election.
 - 707.1.3.1. If an Election Rules Commission has not been assembled at the time of the election, then the SG Advising office shall run the election.
- 707.1.4. An Interim Election may only call for a Senatorial Election.
- 707.1.5. No part of an Interim Election may be held during Spring Break, Winter Break, or any University Holiday.

707.2. Recalls

- 707.2.1. A Recall Election may be called by any USF student to initiate a vote of the Student Body in which an SG Official may be removed from their position.
- 707.2.2. In order for this election to be called a student shall first petition the Student Body.
 - 707.2.2.1. The petition shall follow the guidelines as outlined in the Student Government Constitution.
- 707.2.3. A Recall Election may be called at any time during an academic semester and will be led by the Student Government Advising Office with the assistance of the Elections Rules Commission.
- 707.2.4. Upon announcement of a Recall Election, the officers of the Election Rules Commission will meet with the Student Government Advising Office to draft a plan for the specifics of the election.
- 707.2.5. The current Student Body President and Vice President, as well as members in the Senate, are the only people who can be subjected to a Recall Election, as outlined in the SB Constitution.

- 707.2.6.** The Recall Election shall be held no later than three (3) weeks after the individual has submitted all appropriate materials necessary to hold a Recall Election to the Student Government Advising, Training, and Operations Bureau.
- 707.2.7.** The official ballot shall state the name of the Student Government Office in question.
- 707.2.8.** The reasons for the recall and a rebuttal from the elected official(s) being recalled shall be made public and accessible to all students prior to the Recall Election.
- 707.2.9.** A majority of the votes cast in favor of the removal of the elected official(s) shall lead to their removal.
- 707.2.10.** The Student Government Advising Office shall be responsible for certifying the Recall Election no earlier than 10:00 AM and no later than 5:00 PM the day following the close of the election's polls.

707.3. Student Referendums

- 707.3.1.** Any student enrolled at the University of South Florida may call for a Student Referendum in accordance with the Student Body Constitution.
- 707.3.2.** If a student intends to get a Student Referendum on the ballot, then a petition with signatures with at least five (5) percent of the student body shall be required.
 - 707.3.2.1.** The Student Referendum shall be proposed to the student body during the next Midterm or General Election.
 - 707.3.2.2.** The ERC is responsible for informing the student calling for a referendum the number of necessary signatures to get a Student Referendum on the ballot within three (3) business days of the request.
- 707.3.3.** A Student Referendum shall be submitted with the following documents in order to be considered:
 - 707.3.3.1.** Title of Student Referendum.
 - 707.3.3.2.** The Petition.
 - 707.3.3.3.** The Referendum question.
 - 707.3.3.4.** The name and contact information of the student submitting the Referendum.
- 707.3.4.** Only one petition may be submitted per Student Referendum.
- 707.3.5.** Each student that signs the petition shall include their U Number, printed name and signature.
- 707.3.6.** The signatures of the Student Referendum shall be verified by the SG Advising Office.

707.3.7. If the signatures cannot be verified, the ERC will notify the student bringing forth the referendum.

707.3.8. The ballot shall include the following:

707.3.8.1. Title of Student Referendum

707.3.8.2. The Referendum question

707.3.8.3. The answer options of the Student Referendum

707.3.9. The ballot of the Student Referendum shall have two options: “Yes, I agree” and, “No, I disagree”.

707.3.10. The official ballot shall state verbatim the resolution Student Referendum as submitted proposed by the Student Referendum by the student.

707.3.11. The official ballot shall also include a statement explaining the reason for bringing forth the Student Referendum.

707.3.12. The deadline for the Student Referendum to be submitted to the Elections Rules Commission (ERC) shall be ten (10) business days prior to the election in which it will be voted on.

707.3.12.1. If no members of the ERC have been hired, the Student Referendum shall be submitted to a member of the SG Advising Office.

707.3.13. The ERC shall time-stamp the Student Referendum upon submission.

707.3.13.1. If no members of the ERC have been hired, a time-stamp shall be placed on the referendum by a member of the SG Advising Office.

707.3.14. The Referendum as well as the reason for bringing forth the Referendum shall be made public and accessible to all students on the Student Government website or official Student Government social media at least five (5) business days prior to election in which it will be voted on.

707.3.15. If multiple student referendums are on the ballot, then each referendum shall be numbered in the order in which it was received.

707.3.16. A majority of the votes cast in favor of the Student Referendum shall constitute the non-binding approval of the Student Referendum by the Student Body.

707.4. Student Government Referendum

707.4.1. Any Officer of Student Government may submit a Referendum during any academic semester to the Student Government Senate.

707.4.2. Any referendum of the Student Body is subject to a constitutional conformity review by the Court and the approval of the Senate via a supermajority vote.

- 707.4.2.1.** The Student Government Referendum shall be provided to the Senate President at least forty-eight (48) in advance of the Senate meeting at which it is to be presented.
- 707.4.2.2.** The referendum is subject to the full approval of the Senate at least fifteen (15) business days prior to the election in which it will be voted on.
- 707.4.2.3.** The Senate President shall sign and submit any Referendum to the Student Body President within twenty-four (24) hours of it being passed by the Senate.
- 707.4.2.4.** The Student Body President shall sign the Referendum and send it to the Chief Justice within five (5) business days of receiving it or it shall be considered not approved.

- 707.4.3.** The Student Government Referendum shall be signed by both the Senate President and the Student Body President in order to be placed on the ballot at the next Midterm or General Election.

- 707.4.4.** The referendum is subject to approval through a constitutional conformity review by the court within at least five (5) business days prior to the election in which it will be voted on.
 - 707.4.4.1.** If the approval of the judicial branch surpasses the five (5) business days, it shall appear on the next election's ballot.

- 707.4.5.** The deadline for the Student Government Referendum to be submitted to the Elections Rules Commission shall be five (5) business days prior to the election in which it will be voted on.
 - 707.4.5.1.** If no members of the ERC have been hired, a submission to the SGATO shall suffice.

- 707.4.6.** The official ballot shall state verbatim the Student Government Referendum as submitted by the officer and as approved by the appropriate parties.

- 707.4.7.** The Referendum as well as the reason for bringing forth the Referendum shall be made public and accessible to all students on the Student Government website or official Student Government social media at least five (5) business days prior to the election in which it will be voted on.

- 707.4.8.** A majority of the votes in favor of the Student Government Referendum shall constitute the non-binding approval of the Student Government Referendum by the Student Body.

- 707.5.** Constitutional Amendments
 - 707.5.1.** Any student may propose a Constitutional Amendment.

- 707.5.2.** The Amendment shall be approved by a supermajority vote of Senate and be signed by both the Senate President and the Student Body president before being placed on the ballot to be voted upon by the Student Body at the next Midterm or General Election held within the Fall and Spring academic Semesters.
- 707.5.3.** The deadline for the Constitutional Amendment to be submitted to the Election Rules Commission shall be fifteen (15) business days prior to the election in which it will be voted on.
- 707.5.4.** Constitutional Amendments shall be made public and accessible to all students on the Student Government website and/or official Student Government social media, with an explanation of what is being proposed, at least five (5) business days prior to the election in which it will be voted on.
- 707.5.5.** The official ballot shall state the proposed amendment to the SB Constitution to be voted on by the Student Body.
- 707.5.6.** If a majority of the votes cast are in favor of the Amendment, then the Amendment shall be adopted.

707.6. Selection of Last Resort

- 707.6.1.** If the processes aforementioned in the Title 7 cannot select an official and sworn Student Body President and Student Body Vice President within ten business days before the start of Spring Commencement, then the Student Senate of the previous term shall select from the certified pool of Campaign Tickets a joint Presidential and Vice Presidential ticket to be the President and Vice President.
- 707.6.2.** The Selection of Last Resort shall occur, even if there is pending litigation or dispute.
- 707.6.3.** If the Student Body President and Student Body Vice President have been selected by Last Resort, then they shall be subject to a Student Body vote of confidence in the next Midterm Election.
- 707.6.4.** Should the Student Body President and Student Body Vice President be removed by a supermajority, then the Order of Succession shall determine the new officers.

707.7. Expedited Elections

- 707.7.1.** Only the Supervisor of Elections and the Student Government Supreme Court can call for Expedited Election.
- 707.7.2.** Upon announcement of an Expedited Election, the Officers of the Election Rules Commission will meet to draft a plan for the specifics of the election.
- 707.7.3.** All paperwork submitted by candidates and tickets to the Election Rules Commission shall remain in effect.

- 707.7.4.** An Expedited Election may call for a Presidential/Vice Presidential race, a Senatorial race, or both.
- 707.7.5.** No part of an Expedited Election may be held during Spring Break, Winter Break, or any University Holiday.