



USG Fall 2026 Election

Rules, Regulations, and Responsibilities

**Undergraduate
Student Government**
Elections Commission



Student Affairs
UNIVERSITY OF DENVER

Important Dates

Thursday, September 17th, 8AM

Campaign Launch | Candidate Agreement and Election Guide Quiz Available (Week 2)

Candidates may begin campaigning from this point onwards. The candidate agreement and election guide quiz will be available on the USG Elections Commission Crimson Connect page and website. **Candidates will be required to get 100% on the election guide quiz as well as submitting the candidate agreement prior to initiating their campaign.** The quiz will cover all the deadlines, rules, and expectations associated with the Fall 2026 Election.

Thursday September 17th –
Friday September 25th

Election Office Hours (Weeks 2-3)

Whether you are confident you are running or just interested in learning more, come join our members of leadership if you have questions about the Fall 2026 election. Locations & times linked [here](#).

Friday, September 25th, 11:59PM

Campaign Platform and Petition Deadline (End of Week 3)

By this deadline, candidates must submit their petition and platform to meet ballot eligibility. Failure to do so will result in a candidate not qualifying for the ballot, making them unelectable.

Monday, September 28th, 8AM

Voting Opens (Week 4)

Voting will open via an email sent to all students at their university email addresses. Students will be able to submit a Qualtrics Form and must submit on their own behalf.

Wednesday, September 30th,
11:59PM

Voting Closes (Middle of Week 4)

At this point the ballot will automatically close, and no more votes will be considered. Receipts from the campaign are due.

Tuesday, October 6th, 6PM

Swearing in of New Members (Week 5)

New members will be sworn in during the 5th senate meeting of the first quarter.

Candidate Checklist

- **September 17th, 8AM:** Campaign launch date. Candidate agreement and election guide quiz opens.
- **By September 25th, 11:59PM:** Submit campaign platform and petition deadline. You must submit the election guide quiz before initiating your campaign.
- **By September 30th, 11:59PM:** Submit receipts to USGElections@du.edu
- **By October 4th, 11:59PM:** Accept or contest election results via email response.

Expectations of Elected Officials

Upon winning an election, candidates will be notified via email and given 48 hours to accept their nomination to a position. Failure to accept during this period will result in an automatic victory of the next candidate. At the point that a nomination is accepted the candidate will become a "Senator-Elect".

Candidate Elects must attend the October 06th, 2026 Senate Meeting in its entirety at which point they will take the oath of the Undergraduate Student Government (copied below) and assume their elected roles. All confirmed senators will be expected to follow attendance and all other policies outlined in the bylaws of USG.

Oath of Office

"I, (state your name), do solemnly swear that I will knowledgeably and faithfully execute the duties and responsibilities of the office of (office name), that I will abide by the governing documents of the Undergraduate Student Government and that I will work to my fullest abilities to promote the interests and welfare of the students of the University of Denver."

Available Positions & Constituencies

(Parentheses indicate the number of seats available)

Class & Resident Senator Seats

Representing all students in a certain class or residential demographic and focusing on issues that have to do with student life. Candidates must be an enrolled member of the constituency they wish to run for by September 31st, 2026.

- Freshman Senator (3)
- Sophomore Senator (2)
- Junior Senator (3)
- Senior Senator (1)
- On Campus Senator (1)
- Off Campus Senator (1)

Academic Senator Seats

Representing all the students in a certain college and focusing on issues that have to do with academic life. Candidates must be a registered major within the college that they wish to run for.

- Lamont School of Music Senator (1)
 - BM Majors, BA in Music Majors, and Secondary Music Majors may run and vote for this seat.
- Engineering and Computer Sciences Senator (1)
- Fritz Knoebel School of Hospitality Management Senator (1)

Identity/Experience Based Seats

Representing issues related to the unique group or experience that they are elected to represent.

- International Students Senator (1)
 - Must meet the University definition of an international student.
- Transfer & Exchange student senator
 - Must be at the University of Denver but not as a traditional Freshman. This includes students that are at the University for a one-year exchange program.

Campaign Rules

Ground Rules

- Respect
 - All Candidates are expected to exhibit a baseline level of respect and courtesy to their fellow candidates, students, the elections commission, and university administration.
 - Any slander, defamation, or personal attack on any individual will not be tolerated.
 - Sabotage of another candidate in any way is strictly forbidden.
- Reporting
 - It is an expectation that candidates and current members of USG report all violations of the rules outlined in this document to the elections commission by email within 24 hours of witnessing a violation.
 - Reporting a potential violation will never be interpreted as attempting to sabotage another campaign if it is done so through the proper channels and no other.
- Withdrawing
 - If you wish to withdraw from the race at any point during the process, please notify the Elections Commission via email at least 48 hours prior to ballots being released.
 - The Elections Commission cannot guarantee candidates' names will be removed from the ballot if a request to be removed is made less than 48 hours prior to ballots being released.
- Solicitation
 - No candidate may solicit votes, endorsements, or assistance in exchange for prizes of monetary value, or money, in any way (raffles, etc.).
 - Candidates may not solicit, collect, or use student voting information to vote on behalf of another student.

Qualifying for the Ballot

Candidates must meet all the following criteria by the deadline listed above to qualify for the ballot. All requirements must be submitted through the candidate agreement.

- Election Guide Quiz
 - The election guide quiz must be passed with 100% by candidates before they initialize their campaign.
 - This is available on the Elections website through Crimson Connect.
 - The quiz tests candidates on information found in this guide.
- Candidate Agreement and Petition Form
 - The candidate agreement is an online form in which candidates will select the position that they are choosing to run for, submit a platform describing their goals for position they are running for, and upload a headshot to be used by the Elections Commission for marketing purposes.
 - By submitting an agreement, all candidates agree to abide by the elections guide, the USG bylaws, and any directions of the Elections Commission.

- Candidates must submit a petition signed by 25 unique individuals who are registered as full time students at DU.
 - Candidates may sign petitions other than their own.
 - Individuals may sign as many petitions as they wish.
- University Standing
 - Submission of the candidate agreement also gives the USG Staff Advisor permission to check the grades and standing of the candidate.
 - All candidates must have a minimum 2.5 GPA and be in good standing with the university to qualify for the ballot.

Campaign Finances

- Campaign Budget
 - Candidates may spend up to \$40.00 on their campaign.
 - Any digital subscription services that are used (Canva, Remind, etc.) should be reported at either 1/12 of the annual cost for a student membership or at the monthly student cost - whatever is cheaper.
 - Using non expensed printers (personal printers, other university printers, etc.) must be expensed at the rate posted by WEPA
- Receipts
 - All candidates are REQUIRED to scan and email copies of the receipts to the Elections Commission by 11:59 pm on the day before the new Senate is sworn in.
 - If using your printing dollars on school printing kiosks, please take a photo of your balance before printing and after printing, and include this in your receipt submission.
 - EVERYTHING being used for campaigning needs to be expensed, even if it is something from home. If there is no receipt, it CANNOT be used. This is considered a violation.
 - Candidates will not be sworn in until they send in their receipts.
- Reimbursements
 - **No reimbursements** will be given from USG to candidates, successful or otherwise, for campaign costs as outlined above.

Campaign Materials

- All Materials
 - Campaign materials must all be removed within 48 hours of voting closing.
 - Moving, covering, or otherwise disrupting any other candidates campaign materials will be viewed as sabotage and will not be tolerated.
 - Joint campaign materials including 2 senate candidates must clearly state one can only vote for one of the two candidates.
 - Candidates are forbidden from using the USG logo in any iteration for the purpose of advancing their campaign.
 - This includes wearing apparel adorned with the USG logo in any campaign capacity.

- Posters
 - Be sure to read signage on message boards about who may post there.
 - Posters may not be posted on any glass doors where it may obstruct someone from clearly seeing in or out.
 - All posters destined for university buildings must abide by the policies of that building.
 - Driscoll Community Commons approves flyers through the front desk on the first floor.
 - Residence halls all approve flyers through the HRE office located in Dimond Family Residential Village
 - Other buildings (such as Sturm and AAC) individually approve posters through their building manager. Contact info can be found online [here](#).
- Campaigning Digitally
 - The use of Canvas, group chats, and organization email lists are not permitted for campaign uses at any point.
 - Candidates may use social media such as Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter etc. to publicize their campaign.
 - Individuals may repost on their own volition, but candidates may not incentivize the reproduction/resharing of posts with financial compensation, or other compensations of monetary value.
- Chalking
 - Chalking is prohibited within 50 feet of an entrance to any university building.
 - Chalking is prohibited on any vertical surfaces including building walls and stairs.
 - All chalking is subject to removal by University Facilities
- Other Outdoor Signage
 - Outdoor signage that is not chalk is prohibited.
 - This includes yard signs, taping signs to lamp posts, and posting signs on the exterior of any doors.
- Campaign Materials Near Polling Locations
 - Candidates are forbidden from lingering near, campaigning at, or posting materials in the general area surrounding any in-person polling locations hosted by the Elections Commission or USG.
 - In the event that a candidate's poster has already been placed near a polling location, the elections commission may remove or cover it for the duration of polling.

Endorsements and Support

- Individual Endorsements

- Individuals may endorse a candidate or campaign though it must be clear that the endorsement is made only on their behalf and not made in relation to any leadership position that they hold on or off campus.
- Organization Endorsements
 - Organizations that are recognized as a Registered Student Organization on campus may decide to endorse a candidate or campaign only after the EBoard, Leadership, or similar group has voted in majority to endorse a candidate or campaign.
 - Academic organizations (PLP, Honors, The Center for American Politics, etc) are forbidden from endorsing candidates.
 - Organizations that are not a Registered Student Organization may not endorse candidates or campaigns.
 - Candidates may not use the logo of an organization that has not endorsed them on any campaign materials aside from the generic University of Denver Logo.
 - Organizations that have not formally endorsed a candidate may not post or reshare any candidates information on their social media platforms.
 - Candidates are prohibited from tagging any accounts that have not officially endorsed them in social media posts.
- Support
 - Candidates are permitted to ask students for help with their campaign though these students cannot be promised or led to believe they will receive any compensation in the form of gifts, favors, or positions in return.
 - Candidates are forbidden from receiving support from any individual or organization not affiliated with the University of Denver aside from professional printing services

Elections Commission Authorities

- Unforeseen Circumstances
 - It is impossible to foresee all possible incidents; therefore, the USG Elections Commission reserves the right to make any additional decisions.
- Rule Enforcement
 - Candidates will be notified of any legitimate infractions they have committed within 48 hours of the Elections Commission receiving a report.
 - Any infractions can result in vote reductions, disqualifications, or other disciplinary measures taken outlined below or as the committee sees fit.
 - Intentional Defamation = Immediate Disqualification
 - Improper Poster Placement = 1 Warning before a vote percentage penalty
 - DU Honor Code Violations = Handled with guidance from SRR
 - All punishments must be approved unanimously.
- Candidates Right to Appeal
 - If a candidate believes that the disciplinary action taken by the Elections

Commission against the candidate is unfair, they may appeal it to the Judicial Branch (usgjudicial@du.edu)

The Elections Commission

Structure and Overview

The Elections Commission is the facilitator of the election and should be your first point of contact with any questions or concerns. It chaired by the elections commissioner who directs the two subgroups – the regulations team and the engagement team – that make up the commission.

The Elections Commission Regulation Team shall serve as a quasi-judicial board ensuring that all candidates are following the rules and regulations outlined in this document. They will enforce such rules using the policies outlined in the Elections Commission Authorities Section of this document and will answer any questions related to unforeseen circumstances.

The Elections Commission Engagement Team is a non-regulatory authority dedicated to increasing candidate and voter engagement in the USG Election in a neutral manner that favors no individual candidate or ticket over another. Members of the USG Communications Cabinet and the Diversity Committee must be invited to serve on this committee so long as they meet the other requirements.

Responsibilities of the Elections Committee

It shall be the responsibility of the Elections Commissioner to respond to all emails that come into the USGElections@du.edu inbox within 72 hours.

The Elections Commission shall make a valiant effort to promote equitable and accessible elections. This includes but is not limited to:

- Hosting information sessions both in person and online at a variety of different times
- Providing options for voting in languages other than English

Elections Commission Membership

The Elections Commission serves as an internal committee of the USG Legislative Branch and is led by the Elections Commissioner who is appointed from within the Senate. The Elections Commissioner then appoints at least two additional individuals to the commission to assist with the operation of the election. These members may only be removed from the commission by a majority vote in the form of a bill passed by the Senate.

Of these additional members, the Elections Commissioner is allowed to designate a Vice Elections Commissioner who shall assist them in operating the commission and may take on responsibilities as delegated.

Members of the Elections Commission may not appear on the ballot. Additionally, Elections Commission members are forbidden from attempting to influence the election in any way by assisting candidates with their campaign, making an endorsement, or manipulating voting. Elections Commission members are permitted to vote on their own ballot.

Elections Commission Members

Elections Commissioner:

Omar Zaragoza

The Elections Commission Team

Owen Mantelli

Tenzing Walker