



Innis College Student Society

2 Sussex Avenue, Room 107  
Toronto, Ontario  
M5S 1J5

[innisiess.ca](http://innisiess.ca)  
[info.elections.icss@gmail.com](mailto:info.elections.icss@gmail.com)

# ICSS Elections Campaign Information Package

## General Election 2026

[ICSS Constitution 2025-2026](#)

### **Campaigning Period:**

Tuesday, March 24th to Monday, March 30th

No campaigning may happen outside of this time period.

### **Voting Period:**

Tuesday, March 31st to Wednesday, April 1st

### **Online Voting:**

<https://utoronto.simplyvoting.com/>

**Candidates are responsible for reviewing this document in its entirety, and following all stated rules. Penalties will be enforced regardless of whether or not rules violations are intentional or unintentional. Failure to follow these rules will result in a warning or disqualification, as determined by the Elections Committee.**

For questions and concerns regarding the election, as well as to report rules violations, please email [info.elections.icss@gmail.com](mailto:info.elections.icss@gmail.com).

## 1. Election Rules

1. All undergraduate students registered with Innis College are eligible to run for positions on the ICSS, subject to the conditions prescribed for particular positions in the ICSS Constitution.
2. No candidates may run for more than one position within the same election period.
3. If a candidate runs unopposed, they must receive fifty (50) percent plus one (1) votes to be elected as a member of Council.
4. Candidates may submit written request to the CRO(s) to modify their name that is displayed on the ballot. This must be done so at least 48 hours before the start of the Voting Period.
5. Candidates may submit written request to the CRO(s) to modify their candidate statement. This must be done so at least 48 hours before the start of the Voting Period.



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## 2. Campaigning Period

### Rules for Campaigning

1. All campaigning must occur during the Campaigning Period.
  - a. No campaigning can occur during the Nomination Period or the Voting Period.
  - b. All campaign materials must be removed by **10:00 PM ET on the last day of the Campaigning Period**. Failure to remove campaign materials will result in a disqualification.
2. ALL campaign material, no matter physical or virtual, must state clearly and visibly: "**Questions, comments, concerns? Contact [info.elections.icss@gmail.com](mailto:info.elections.icss@gmail.com)**"
3. Campaigns should be generally positive, where one's qualifications and merits should be the topic of debate.
  - a. Negative campaigns are not permitted. This includes instances of libel or slander, personal attacks and insults, and the discussion of irrelevant topics which serves to negatively present a candidate.
4. No candidates may run as slates.
5. No currently elected ICSS members may explicitly endorse any candidates. If a currently elected ICSS member is a candidate, they may not be endorsed by other currently elected ICSS members.

### Physical Campaign Material

1. All Candidates must submit a written request to the CRO(s) at [info.elections.icss@gmail.com](mailto:info.elections.icss@gmail.com) for the approval of such Campaign Material, prior to the placing of the Campaign Material.
2. All physical campaign material must be placed with permission of the location (e.g. the Innis College Residence).
3. To place a poster at the Innis College Residence:
  - a. Posters must be no larger than 8.5 x 11 inches (letter-sized paper)
  - b. Once written approval for the poster is received from the CRO(s), hand the posters to the Innis College Residence front desk with a sticky note with the following:
    - i. Address the posters "*to the Residence Life Coordinator*".
    - ii. Include a note stating "*ICSS Election Poster - approved by ICSS CROs [info.elections.icss@gmail.com](mailto:info.elections.icss@gmail.com)*"
    - iii. Indicate the day you want it to be taken down, which should be on or before Monday, March 30th, 10pm.
    - iv. Candidates will be held responsible for the failure to remove all posters before the campaigning deadline.



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- c. Leave the posters and sticky note at the front desk of the Innis College Residence and ask the front desk employee to hand them to the residence life coordinator.
4. All campaign materials must be removed by **10:00 PM ET** on the last day of the Campaign Period.

## Virtual Campaign Material

1. All Candidates shall be permitted to use various Internet resources including, but not limited to:
  - a. Social networking sites (e.g., Instagram)
  - b. Messaging platforms (e.g., Discord servers)
2. All Candidates must submit a written request to the CRO(s) for the approval of such Campaign Material, prior to the publication of the Campaign Material. The CRO(s) **must be allowed access to these resources** during the Campaign Period.
3. Social media pages and posts cannot be published prior to the start of the Campaign Period.
4. Any negative comments on other candidates' posts, stories, by a candidate, or an arm's length party is prohibited.
5. Candidates who are currently elected ICSS members may not leverage their status as an ICSS member to gain an electoral benefit during the Campaign or Voting period.
  - a. The exception is that candidates are allowed to state current ICSS membership in their physical and virtual campaigning materials, as well as their candidate statement.
6. All campaign materials must be removed by **10:00 PM ET** on the last day of the Campaign Period. For any social media material that cannot be removed immediately (e.g., public TikTok videos), Candidates must submit proof of request for removal to the CROs.

## 3. Removal of Campaign Material

ALL CAMPAIGNING MATERIALS, VIRTUAL AND PHYSICAL, MUST BE REMOVED BY **10:00 PM ET** ON THE LAST DAY OF THE CAMPAIGNING PERIOD. A two (2) hour grace period for removing campaign materials will apply, however any campaign material that has not been removed prior to the start of the Voting Period will result in a disqualification.

For any social media material that cannot be removed immediately (e.g., TikTok), Candidates must submit proof of request for removal to the CRO(s).



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## 4. Voting Period

Candidates are not permitted to campaign, both directly and passively, during the Voting Period to ensure a fair election. The electronic ballots shall include the name of each candidate and their statement.

## 5. Post-Voting Period

### Vote Counts

1. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each position shall be elected.
2. If the “abstain” option receives more votes than a candidate running uncontested, that candidate shall not be elected.

### Unofficial Results

1. Unofficial results consisting of the raw vote counts shall be released to all Candidates within 12 hours of the conclusion of the Voting Period.
2. Candidates may dispute the unofficial results of the election within 24 hours of the release of the unofficial results. See the Appeals section for further details.

### Official Results

1. Official results consisting of confirmed winners shall be made public within two (2) days of the conclusion of the Voting Period.

## 6. Violation of Election Rules

For violations of any election rules by candidates during the campaigning period, an escalating penalty structure will be used.

- For first violations committed during the campaigning period, the candidate will be given a warning by the CRO(s).
- For second violations committed during the campaigning period, the candidate will immediately be disqualified from the election.



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For violations of any election rules by candidates during the voting period, the CRO(s) will exercise their discretion when imposing penalties. See appendix for examples of offences that would constitute a warning, and examples of offences that would constitute a disqualification from the election.

## 7. Appeals

Should a candidate wish to dispute a decision made by the CRO(s) or the unofficial results of the election, they may send an appeal email to [info.elections.icss@gmail.com](mailto:info.elections.icss@gmail.com) indicating which decision they'd like to dispute and their rationale. The appeal must be sent within 24 hours of the end of the Voting Period. The appeal will then be reviewed by the CRO(s). A ruling will be made to maintain or overturn the decision and will be communicated to the candidate. Rationale behind the ruling will also be provided.

Should the candidate be dissatisfied with this first ruling, it may be further disputed. A committee consisting of at least 3 elected ICSS council members including at least 1 member of the executive body will review the dispute. This committee will not consist of the CRO(s). The committee will make a final ruling to maintain or overturn the original decision. This second ruling will be final and is not up for further appeal.

## 8. Appendix

### Definitions

**Abstain** refers to the ballot option that indicates the voter chooses not to express a preference for any candidate, or dissatisfaction with all presented candidates.

**Appeal** refers to an email addressed to [info.elections.icss@gmail.com](mailto:info.elections.icss@gmail.com) addressed to the CRO(s), requesting a review of the unofficial election results or of a decision made pertaining to violation(s) and/or disqualification(s). Appeals will be reviewed by the CROs and the ICSS executive body.

**Arm's-length party** is any person or group deemed by the CRO(s) to be acting on behalf of the candidate.

**CRO** refers to the Chief Returning Officer. They are responsible for organizing elections, responding to appeals, and enforcing election rules as outlined in this document. They may be contacted at [info.elections.icss@gmail.com](mailto:info.elections.icss@gmail.com).

**Campaigning** refers to any attempt to solicit votes for a candidate. Campaigning can occur even in the absence of Campaign Materials.

**Endorsing** refers to any campaigning for a candidate carried out by another person or party. This includes but is not limited to: sharing someone's virtual poster on social media, verbally soliciting votes from other members of the student body, and creating campaigning materials on somebody else's behalf.



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**Slate** refers to the joint promotion of electing two or more Candidates for office, indicating a team or endorsement of each participating candidate.

**Voting Period** shall refer to the period of time during the election schedule set by the CRO where Members may cast their vote(s).

## Examples of Violations

- Candidate A publishes an insulting comment about Candidate B on Candidate B's campaign post.
  - This will result in a disqualification for Candidate A.
- Candidate A asks their friends to tell all of their other friends to not vote for Candidate B.
  - This will result in a disqualification for Candidate A.
- A candidate begins campaigning during the Nomination Period.
  - This will result in a warning for the candidate.
- A candidate publishes a post on Instagram encouraging their followers to vote for them. They forgot to add "*Questions, comments, concerns? Contact [info.elections.icss@gmail.com](mailto:info.elections.icss@gmail.com)*" on it.
  - This will result in a warning for the candidate.
- A candidate currently holds an elected position on the ICSS and recently organized an ICSS event. The candidate sends a mass communication to attendees of that event, asking attendees to vote for them.
  - This will result in a disqualification for the candidate.
- A candidate creates an Instagram account for their campaign and publishes posts asking people to vote for them. The candidate does not take down the account before the Voting Period starts.
  - This will result in a disqualification for the candidate.
- A candidate previously received a warning from the CRO(s) during the same election period. The candidate then commits another violation.
  - This will result in a disqualification for the candidate.
- A candidate has not deleted their campaign post at 11:40 PM on the last day of the Campaign Period.
  - This will result in a warning for the candidate and a request to immediately take the material down, as there is a two hour grace period after 10:00 PM for the removal of campaign material.