



CALIFORNIA YMCA YOUTH & GOVERNMENT

73rd Model Legislature & Court Election Rules and Regulations

Running for a statewide office in Youth & Government is arguably one of the most rewarding parts of the program. Not only will candidates meet delegates from all around the state; they will make close friends within their own delegation. Please do not hesitate, should you have any questions once you read this handout and check the resources page, to reach out to the lead staff for Officers and Elections at elections@calymca.org.

When overseeing the elections process, Officers & Elections Staff recognize how important the "Spirit of Y&G" is. If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out for clarification, but if you believe what you're asking goes against the "Spirit of Y&G", the staff probably will too. Elections can be a stressful and emotional process. Our goal is never to impede on an individual delegate's experience; however, we need to run a fair and rewarding election season.

Who Gets Elected When/Where/How?

Different positions are elected in different ways and at different times. A timeline for each officer position and the category in which that position falls may be found at www.calymca.org. Go to the MLC resources page and look up the [master elections](#) document. There you will learn how each position is elected.

Election Categories

All positions fall into one of 4 categories and each category has restrictions on the number of candidates a delegation can run in each category. The categories and restrictions are as follows:

- Category 1: Statewide Leadership (Youth Governor & Chief Justice)
 - A delegation may run only one person in this category for the entire program year.
- Category 2: Program Area Leadership
 - A delegation may run only one person in the category per MLC session.
- Category 3: Appointed Leadership
 - A delegation may submit up to 5 candidates for appointed positions in each the Fall, Winter, and Spring MLC Session.
- Category 4: Grassroots
 - There are no restrictions on the number of candidates a delegation can put forward for grassroots positions.

Application Deadlines

Official deadlines for all leadership positions, whether appointed or elected, are set in the Delegation Calendar. All applications must be approved in a two-fold manner from both the candidate and lead advisor by the designated deadline. Applicant's approval deadline will be on a Thursday by 11:59pm with a lead advisor approval the following Friday by 1:00pm. Both of these times need to be observed in order for a candidate to be interviewed or run for a position.

Speeches

- Elected officer candidates running for any position are required to deliver a speech at a "Meet The Candidate" session. These sessions may be within their program area or in front of the entire statewide delegation. Speeches may be no more than two (2) minutes in length.
 - The content of the speech must focus on an issue facing the state of California.
 - The content of the speech must be relevant to the position for which the candidate is running.
 - Candidates must wear business attire when speaking at the Meet the Candidate sessions.

Finances

- Delegates are not allowed to spend money on their campaigns.
 - This includes a ban on spending money on any virtual platform.

Campaign Materials

Given that this year all candidates will be participating in virtual campaigns and elections no campaign materials will be allowed.

Should you or your candidate have any question about this ban, please reach out to elections@calymca.org and an Officers & Elections staff member will respond as soon as they are able.

Before Conferences

Candidates should work with advisors to craft their speeches. Candidates should also reach out to other delegations and e-visit as many as possible. When visiting delegations, please note that a candidate is allowed to e-visit each delegation once per MLC session.

Best Practices for Supporting Candidates

- Please keep in mind that it is the candidate running for office, not the advisor or the delegation.
- Come up with a timeline for the campaign (i.e. when delegations should be visited, when speeches should be completed).
- Be honest and realistic with your candidates.
- Come up with catchy (Y-appropriate) slogans.

At Conferences

Candidates must attend a mandatory candidate meeting designated in the delegation calendar and conference schedule.

Candidates are prohibited from campaigning during designated program area sessions.

Timeline For Candidates

- Decide/elect candidates within the delegation as soon as possible
 - Candidates should immediately start working on two speeches
 - Speech 1: Why they should be elected
 - This speech is the one they should give to other delegations while they are campaigning
 - Think "stump speech"
 - Speech 2: Speech on an issue facing the state of California and relevant to the position for which they are running
- Make sure all candidate applications are submitted by election deadline
 - All candidates, lead advisors and any advisors that the lead advisors designate should receive an election confirmation email within one week of the application deadline.
- Candidates should be given time at delegation meetings to practice their speeches and answer questions from other delegates.

Open Races & Line of Succession

Open Positions

In the event that no candidates qualify to run for an elected position, the Youth Governor shall appoint a delegate to the position.

Line of Succession

In the event that the Youth Governor is unable to fulfill their duties, the following line of succession will determine a replacement until the Youth Governor is able to perform their duties again:

- Chief of Staff
- Governor's Cabinet
- Appointment by Youth & Government Core Staff

In the event that an elected officer other than the Youth Governor is unable to fulfill their duties, the Youth Governor shall appoint a replacement until the officer is able to perform their duties again.

Running for 74th Youth Governor

If you are a candidate for Youth Governor, please read the following very carefully, as the rules and regulations for this election are different than those for any other position. [Youth Governor Permission Slip](#)

Qualifications

- Eligible candidates must submit an Intent to Run application by the date indicated on the Delegation Calendar to be eligible to run for office of Youth Governor.
- Delegates must attend a mandatory Youth Governor meeting, dates will be sent to delegates who complete the intent to run form.

- Delegates must be a junior in high school with at least one full year of Youth & Government experience.

Youth Governor Election Timeline

The 74th Youth Governor election will be held across all three sessions on MLC this year. Below is when each election will be held.

- First Round Ranked Choice Primary at the end of Fall MLC
 - The top 4 vote getters will move onto the next round
- Second Round Ranked Choice Primary at the end of Winter MLC
 - The top 2 vote getters will move onto the final round
- General Election at the end of Spring MLC

Campaigning

Candidates for Youth Governor may NOT do e-visits to delegations during the Fall MLC session or prior to the Fall MLC session. Candidates who move onto the Winter and Spring session are allowed to do e-visits. Candidates are allowed to e-visit each delegation one time, for a maximum of 10 speaking minutes, in the Winter session and one time, for a maximum of 10 speaking minutes, in the Spring session.

- Candidates may create free online platforms to promote their candidacy.
- Candidates may not spend any money on advertising or promotional marketing for their campaign on any social media site, included but not limited to Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.
- Candidates may not campaign in program areas at any time, unless a part of a designated session approved by Officers & Elections Program Staff.

Youth Governor candidates required campaigning activities for each round.

- Fall MLC
 - Candidates will be required to create a campaign add and submit it to Core Staff by **Thursday November 12th by 11:59pm**
- Winter MLC
 - Participate in mandatory candidate town hall **Thursday January 28th at 4:30pm**
 - Interview with Y&G media program the **week of February 1st.**
- Spring MLC
 - Participate in Mandatory candidate debate **Thursday March 11th at 4:30pm**
 - Interview with the Y&G Media Program **the week of March 15th**

Decorum

- Candidates must abide by the Spirit of Youth & Government when it comes to social media, or activities with other delegations.
- At all times Candidates and Advisors are expected to uphold the Core Values of the YMCA. (Caring, Honesty, Respect, and Responsibility)
- Any candidate found in violation of any of the rules stated above will be immediately disqualified from running for the office of Youth Governor.

Enforcement of Election Rules & Regulations

California YMCA Youth & Government defers to Officers and Elections program volunteer staff to interpret and implement these rules and regulations as they see fit. Delegates are candidates for office at the discretion of Officers and Elections program volunteer staff and California YMCA Youth & Government Core Staff. We reserve the right to disqualify candidates for any reason.

Enforcement of election rules and regulations may be appealed to a member of the California YMCA Core Staff designated by California YMCA Youth & Government's Board Chair. Decisions by said member of Core Staff are final and can not be appealed.