

**Student Government Association
Georgia College & State University
2025-2026 Senate Elections Guidelines**



1. Introduction – What is Senate?

Senate is an elected group of students whose primary responsibility is to be the voice of students at GCSU – to other students, the university, and the community. Senators serve by creating and voicing their opinions on two different types of documents:

Bills – a document which allows the transfer of money from the SGA fund to an RSO's fund for special events, projects, or other miscellaneous needs that reflect the best interests of students

Resolutions – a document that expresses the Senate's opinion on a topic. This can be anything from asking the administration to make a change to recognizing individuals for their contributions to the student body.

During Senate, Senators present and vote on these documents in order for them to be passed. Resolutions are sent to the University President, Cathy Cox, for review and discussion with the SGA President.

Senators also serve on committees, which are a body that prepare bills and resolutions for target issues such as public safety, infrastructure, transportation, or a number of other things.

2. The Election Process

In order to run for Senate, a candidate must meet the following requirements:

- a. Be a registered full-time student and have a cumulative GPA of 2.75.
 - i. Note: Freshmen are exempt from this during their first semester of college since they do not have a GPA yet.
- b. Be in good standing with the university (in reference to conduct and academic probation).
- c. Attend a mandatory candidate session with the Elections Committee.

The tentative timeline is as follows:

- Sign-Up: Aug 18 – Aug 25
- Campaigning: Aug 26 – Sep 1
- Voting: Sep 2 – Sep 4

3. Campaigning Policy

Candidates are permitted to campaign for office through a number of methods. It is important to understand what methods are permitted and restricted to prevent facing fines or disqualification.

- a. Chalking Policy



Candidates are permitted to use chalk on **FLAT, CONCRETE SURFACES**. No chalk should be used on steps, brick surfaces, benches, fountains, private property, streets, trash cans, walls, and any other objects or areas that are not a flat sidewalk surface. **LIQUID CHALK IS PROHIBITED**

Chalk markings cannot include any speech that attacks or disparages another individual or group based on sex, race, religion, national origin, handicap, or sexual orientation. Sexually explicit and obscene materials as well as material referencing drugs or alcohol is prohibited. Chalk markings cannot reference selling or soliciting goods or services.

Failure to comply may lead to disqualification and possible conduct charges.

b. Posting Policy

This includes flyers, banners, or any other type of physical material. All physical material must be approved through the Department of Campus Life at studentactivities@gcsu.edu. Posting rules are different depending on the location you intend to post, but some are true regardless of the location.

- Posters must be posted on bulletin boards owned by the university.
- Materials should not be stapled or taped to trees, light poles, telephone poles, trash cans, bus shelters, bike racks, or exterior walls of buildings.
- Owner permission is required for off-campus posting.
- Posts cannot exceed 3ft by 3ft in size.
- Posts cannot be made of hardwood except as a frame to hold an approved banner.
- Candidates are forbidden from destroying or defacing another Candidate's posting.
- Material cannot include false or misleading information about Candidates or staff members.
- A full posting policy, including specific policy for each building, can be found at <https://tinyurl.com/gcsuadvertising>, or by searching "GCSU Advertising Policy".
- Candidates may be fined \$25 PER INCIDENT.

c. Social Media Campaigning Policy

Social media posts do not need to be approved beforehand. However, social media material should not include any violations of the Bobcat Code or Election Code, including attack posts on other students or Candidates.

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NO MATERIAL, INCLUDING CHALK, PHYSICAL POSTS, OR DIGITAL POSTS CAN BE UP BEFORE THE APPOINTED CAMPAIGNING PERIOD OR AFTER 5:00 PM ON THE DAY FOLLOWING THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE ELECTION RESULTS. POSTINGS NOT REMOVED BY THIS TIME ARE SUBJECT TO A \$10 FINE PER INCIDENT.

Candidates are responsible for cleaning up their campaign materials before 5:00 PM the day following the announcement of the election results.