

Standing Rules

Missouri State 4-H Council

Election Rules for State Officer Elections

Candidate Conduct:

The candidates shall not, at any time, make negative comments about, or show disrespect in any way to the other candidates. By the April meeting, the two candidates for each officer position must inform each other whether they are using the podium for their campaign speeches.

Speeches:

The candidates shall be required to give their speeches to the state staff prior to giving it on stage. After approval from the state staff, no changes shall be made to affect the content or context of their speech. Speeches shall be 3-6 minutes in length and no props may be used during speeches.

Statement of Importance:

Prior to candidates giving their speeches, a statement shall be read to inform all voters of the importance of the officers. The statement should emphasize voting for the best candidate, not just the most popular.

Member Involvement:

State Council members shall make no public comments prior to, or during Congress as to which candidate should or should not be elected.

Dress:

Candidates must be in official dress (i.e. green jacket) for speeches.

Campaigning:

Candidates shall campaign only for themselves. Candidates may neither campaign together, nor form parties during Congress. No council member may campaign for a state officer candidate or a regional representative candidate. During regional meetings state officer campaigning will only be allowed in the candidate's home regional meeting.

Gifts:

Candidates may not pass out gifts to Congress delegates prior to, during, or after elections.

Results:

The state officer candidates shall choose whether or not to be informed of the election results prior to the closing assembly.

Enforcement:

These rules shall be enforced by the state adult advisors and Congress Coordinator.

(Adopted 1999 – 2000, modified January 2010, March 2011, and February 2017)

Election Rules for Regional Representative Elections

Campaigning:

Regional Representative candidates shall campaign only for themselves. Candidates may not campaign together, promote more than one candidate, or in any way combine their campaign with any other regional representative candidate or state officer candidate.

Gifts:

Candidates may not pass out gifts to Congress delegates prior to, during, or after elections.

Candidate Conduct:

The candidates shall not, at any time, make negative comments about, or show disrespect in any way to the other candidates.

Speeches:

Length of candidate speeches shall be 3-4 minutes. There will be no questions from the floor.

Enforcement:

These rules shall be enforced by the regional staff.

(Adopted 1999 – 2000. Modified January 2010, May 2016, February 2017)

State Council Elections Policy as Affected by an Extended School Year

This policy only affects 4-H members running for State Council. This policy was put into effect in 2001 and may be subject to revision each year.

If the school year must be extended into the dates of State Congress, 4-H members wishing to run for State 4-H Council (officers or Regional Representatives) may do so following these guidelines:

- ❖ Send an audiotape with a 2-3 minute speech on why they want to serve on the State Council accompanied by a picture. This will be used in the Regional meetings the evening elections are held.
- ❖ All successful candidates will be contacted immediately after the election and will have the option to drive to Columbia for the closing assembly with the permission of their parents/guardians.
- ❖ If the candidate is within driving distance to Columbia they may attend Congress events that don't conflict with school activities. A contract stating the schedule of times attending Congress must be provided and approved by the 4-H member's parents/guardians, County Youth Staff, and State Council Advisors.

This policy applies only to the regular school schedule and not to extra-curricular activities and is only in place for 4-H members running for State Council.

(Adopted 2000 – 2001)

State 4-H Council Alumni Award

Qualifications:

- Must have been a previous 4-H member.
- Must have been out of 4-H for at least 2 years.
- Has had a positive effect on youth in Missouri today.
- Has excelled in the 4-H program as an adult or youth.
- Has a desire and wants to be involved in Missouri 4-H.

Areas of Interest (not necessary but could help as a guideline)

- Has received the “Key Award.”
- Has held a vital position on the Missouri State 4-H Council.
- Has had children involved in 4-H and still participates in the program.
- Is active on the Missouri 4-H Foundation.

(Adopted 2000-2001. Last revision February 2017)

Friend of 4-H Award

The Friend of 4-H Award was established by the State 4-H Council to recognize individuals who have given exemplary service to Missouri 4-H and/or the State 4-H Council.

When recognizing political figures a balance should be made by honoring individuals from each party. This should occur in the same year.