



# New Mexico Youth and Government

*A Program of the YMCA of Central New Mexico*

## Candidate Packet



## **Elected Executive Officer Positions**

**Governor:** The Governor assembles and presides over an executive cabinet, signs or vetoes bills, oversees conference planning, among other things. The Governor delivers the State of the State address at the Opening Session of the Youth & Government conference and sets an agenda of issues that they would like to see addressed by the Youth conference. The Governor will have the ability to recommend actions on legislation in the House and Senate. Eligibility for Youth Governor is one prior year of experience in a YMCA Youth and Government Program.

**Lieutenant Governor:** The Lieutenant Governor will chair the Senate chamber during the session. It is their job to make sure there is good and fair debate when discussing bills in the Senate chamber. They must also appoint members of their committees, President Pro Tempore, and clerks.

**Secretary of State:** The Secretary of State oversees the elections for executive officer positions as well as participates in the Governor's Cabinet. The Secretary of State will run debate night and assist with ensuring a fair election process. They are also responsible for collecting any receipts of campaign materials and making sure all rules in the candidate packet and Youth Constitution are being followed.

**Speaker of the House:** The Speaker of the House will chair the House chamber during the session. It is their job to make sure there is good and fair debate when discussing bills in the House chamber. They must also appoint members of their committees, Majority Floor Leader, and clerks.

**Attorney General:** The Attorney General's responsibility is to make sure all bills that are introduced in the House and Senate are constitutional. If constitutionality is in question, the Attorney General will pull the Bill for a ruling on constitutionality before the bill is heard. The Attorney General will assign members of their cabinet to represent the State, and one to assist the bill author(s) in presenting the case to the Supreme Court. The decision of constitutionality will be made by the Supreme Court. This process is called Judicial Review.

**State Auditor:** The State Auditor will work together with the Land Commissioner and State Treasurer to plan and oversee Task Force which occurs in the months leading up to conference. The State Auditor has the opportunity to participate in the Governor's Cabinet or another branch, with a specific focus on government oversight and the proper use of government appropriated funds by state and local agencies. They may help delegates during the drafting process of their bills.

**Treasurer:** The State Treasurer will work together with the Land Commissioner and State Auditor to plan and oversee Task Force which occurs in the months leading up to conference. The State Treasurer has the opportunity to participate in the Governor's Cabinet or another

branch, with a specific focus on Appropriations. They will keep a real-time update of any money being used from the state fund during the conference. Lastly, they may help delegates during the drafting process of their bills to ensure maximum feasibility in accordance with the New Mexico State funds.

**Commissioner of Public Lands:** The Land Commissioner participates in the Governor's Cabinet, mainly focusing on the appropriations of bills. They will make sure that all appropriations are feasible. The Land Commissioner may help delegates with any issues they have with appropriations. They also have the opportunity to participate in the Governor's Cabinet or another branch, with a specific focus on government oversight and the proper use of government appropriated funds by state and local agencies. They will also work with the State Auditor and State Treasurer to plan and oversee Task Force which occurs in the months leading up to conference.

**Chief Justice:** The Chief Justice will run the Judicial Branch and will identify the case and case law to be used at conference. The Chief Justice will preside over appellate hearings from the competing teams who debate the case in question. The Chief Justice and Co-Justices will rule in the favor of the respondent or the petitioner based on the quality of the debate.

## **Appointed Executive Officer Positions**

**Media Director:** Media Director is appointed by the State Director. The Media Director oversees all media branches as well as other media delegates. The Media Director serves as a manager of the media branches in addition to contributing content to the Media.

Appointed positions that work under the Media branch:

Video Director

Social Media Director

Editor-in-Chief for the Newspaper

## **Responsibilities of an officer**

All executive officers will be responsible for but not limited to the planning of conference, presiding over the conference, observing other state conferences, preparing materials for the conference, and providing training workshops for all delegates.

The executive officers of Youth & Government are highly involved in planning the Youth & Government conference throughout the year. As an elected officer, you will be expected to attend planning meetings beginning in summer the year you are elected. You will be required to attend Orientation, Training, and the State Conference.

All executive officers represent the YMCA and Youth & Government, and as such, are expected to be respectful and serve as leaders in the program as well as in their school delegations. Officers must act and dress professionally while at Youth & Government events. Officers must bear in mind the leadership role and influence that they have in Youth & Government when posting on social media.

It is a time commitment and a responsibility to be a leader in this program. This commitment should not be undertaken lightly; therefore it is required that all candidates and their parent/guardian read and sign the Candidate Permission Form. It is a very rewarding experience to be an officer and is a great way to serve and give back to your community.

## **Election Details**

The Governor must have been in the program for at least one year prior to running for office. You can run for any other officer position with different experience levels. All other qualifications for candidates are listed in the Youth & Government Constitution.

All delegates at the Annual State Conference in Santa Fe will vote for the elected executive officer positions. The media director will be appointed by the State Director. Any officer positions not filled by election at the conference may be appointed by the State Director.

## **Spending Limits**

Lieutenant Governor, Speaker of the House, Secretary of State, Chief Justice, Land Commissioner, Attorney General, State Auditor, State Treasurer: \$100 Spending Limit

Governor: \$200 Spending Limit

The spending limit does not mean you have to spend that much campaigning for a position, but you cannot spend over that amount. You do not get reimbursed for what you spend campaigning. You will have to turn in the receipts to the Secretary of State at the beginning of conference so they can verify the spending limit has not been exceeded. Campaigning for an officer position is a good way for you to get more votes and meet people in the program. The more people know you, the more likely you will make friends in the program and increase your chances to be elected as an officer.

## **Campaigning Rules**

- No stickers
- Nothing that makes noise
- No campaign materials may be posted at hotel or distributed to hotel rooms

## **Social Media Guidelines**

All the same behavioral expectations outlined in the Youth & Government Constitution apply to social media campaigning. If a candidate wishes to make a campaign account they must follow and be followed by the official New Mexico Y&G accounts for accountability. If a candidate is caught posting or sharing inappropriate or vulgar content, they can face potential disqualification.

Social media campaign accounts can be used to promote other candidates alongside yourself but should not be used to demean any competitors.

## **Debate Night**

Debate night occurs during conference. Here you will be given time to present a 2 minute speech and the Secretary of State asks candidates questions so people in the program can know the candidates better and know who they are voting for. If you are running for a position please arrive 10 minutes early, before everyone else arrives so the Secretary of State can make any announcements and so you can get settled.

Write-in candidates will be accepted at the Candidate Forum for any offices (except Governor) that are uncontested or that have no declared candidate. No more than 5 candidates (including those who applied prior to conference) may run for any given office. Write-in candidates will not have their name on the ballot but can campaign to have people write-in their names on the ballot during the election.

For the organization of the speeches, it is recommended to start with writing a 250-500 word speech and then time yourself, ensure that you are filling most of the 2 minute time period without going over. Alongside that, candidates will also be suggested to answer basic questions within their speech. These are just questions that act as guides to help write your speeches. Some of these questions include:

1. Tell us a bit about yourself
2. What is the description of your desired position and what are the requirements embedded in it?
3. Why are you qualified for this specific position?
4. What are some of the changes that you would personally like to see happen within your desired position?