



**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 requires one prior year of experience in a YMCA Youth and Government Program and prior participation in an appointed or elected officer position or YMCA national conference.

**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 Senate leadership roles.

**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 House leadership roles.

**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 recommend amendments or 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 authors 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. At Conference, the State Auditor, along with the Commissioner of Public Lands, will preside over the National Issues Forum. Eligibility for the State Auditor requires active participation in the Task Force program before or during the year that they run for the given position.

**State 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. At State Conference beginning in 2027, the State Treasurer will preside over a State Budget Committee. Eligibility for the State Treasurer requires active participation in the Task Force program before or during the year that they run for the given position.

**Commissioner of Public Lands:** The Land Commissioner will work together with the State Auditor and State Treasurer to plan and oversee Task Force which occurs in the months leading up to Conference. At Conference, the Land Commissioner along with the State Auditor will preside over the National Issues Forum. Eligibility for the Land Commissioner requires active participation in the Task Force program before or during the year that they run for the given position.

**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 arguments presented. Eligibility for the Chief Justice requires one prior year of experience in the judicial program before running for office.

## **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.

**Chief Lobbyist:** The Chief Lobbyist is appointed by the State Director. The Chief Lobbyist trains and oversees all lobbyist participants. The Chief Lobbyist serves as a manager of the Lobbyist Corps in addition to participating in lobbying activities at Conference.

## **Responsibilities of an Officer**

All executive officers will be responsible for but not limited to the planning of and presiding over Conference, observing other state conferences, preparing and updating materials for the program, 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 required 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 for the state program. Their conduct throughout their school delegations and at the state level must follow conference codes of conduct. 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**

Primary eligibility criteria is detailed in section "Elected Executive Officer Positions." All other qualifications for candidates are listed in the Youth & Government Constitution.

All high school delegates at the Annual State Conference in Santa Fe will vote for the elected executive officer positions. The Media Director and Chief Lobbyist will be appointed by the State Director at or after the State Conference, and before the Officer Retreat. Any officer positions not filled by election at Conference will follow special election procedures outlined in the Youth & Government Constitution.

## **Spending Limits**

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

**\$200 Limit:** Governor

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. Spending is considered actual money spent for the purpose of the campaign, not the initial market value. Material donations for the sole purpose of campaigning will be included in the total spending limit, but tools (such as printers, paint, writing utensils, etc.)

previously bought for purposes unrelated to the campaign will not add to the spending limit. You will have to turn in the receipts to the Secretary of State at the beginning of Conference so they can verify that 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 negative campaigning,
- No stickers,
- Nothing that makes noise,
- No campaign materials may be posted at the hotel or distributed to hotel rooms,
- Do not make campaign promises that pertain to Conference logistics or any branch area outside the purview of your declared position,
- No campaigning at pre-conference events including (but not limited to) Orientation, Regional Trainings, and YAGreat Night,
- No campaigning in the voting area,
- No social media campaigning or creating a social media campaign account before the executive officer declaration deadline (February 5th). Previous campaign accounts may continue to exist, but may not remain active. All officer candidates must create new campaign accounts, regardless of previous social media campaigning.
- Social media campaign pages must follow and be followed by the state program social media accounts.

Campaigning includes distributing material to delegates related to a candidate's run for office, distributing material which includes links to online campaign material, or actively approaching an individual with unprompted communication on the candidate's campaign-related information (e.g. position sought, campaign-related social media handles). The definition is not limited to these examples. Networking is not considered campaigning and delegates may truthfully answer questions related to their office-seeking during pre-conference events, but may not prompt such questions or information themselves.

Failure to comply with any of the rules listed above will result in the issuing of an infraction to the executive officer candidate. The candidate and their advisor will be notified if such an infraction is issued through an email including the reported action which explicitly broke one of the above listed rules. The first two infractions will act as warnings, and a third infraction will result in the **disqualification** of the candidate running for office.

If forbidden campaigning occurs due to the actions of someone other than the officer candidate, the officer candidate will receive a warning from the Secretary of State, which is

not considered an infraction. However, two of these warnings will lead to the issuing of one infraction for the officer candidate regardless of the person who committed the action.

Rule-breaking must be reported to the Secretary of State in writing to submit an official infraction report. This report will include the name of the individual who witnessed and reported the violation, the name of the officer candidate whom the infraction will be issued to, the explicit rule(s) (detailed above) broken, and a brief description of the scenario to ensure accountability. If an officer candidate receives an infraction, they may appeal to the Secretary of State to potentially revoke the infraction. Further investigation may be conducted to determine whether the infraction will stand.

### **Social Media Guidelines**

All the same behavioral expectations outlined in the Youth & Government Constitution and Code of Conduct 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 will face potential disqualification. This behavior does not align to the values of the program, and therefore will not be tolerated.

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

### **Debate Night**

Debate Night occurs during Conference, and will focus on the candidates for Governor, Lt. Governor, Speaker of the House, and Chief Justice, though all candidates will be introduced. During Debate Night, candidates for the offices mentioned will be given time to present a 1 minute speech and the incumbent officer will ask the candidates one position-specific question. The Secretary of State will then ask candidates additional questions submitted in advance by program participants so people in the program can know the candidates better and know who they are voting for. All candidates must arrive 30 minutes early so the Secretary of State can make any announcements, review campaign rules, and so you can get settled.

Write-in candidates will be accepted after the candidate declaration deadline until 3 pm on the day of the Debate Night 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.

**It is recommended that you initially draft your speech to roughly 250 words. Candidates should practice timing this draft to ensure you utilize most of the allotted one minute without exceeding the time limit. To guide the content of your remarks, candidates are strongly suggested to address the following topics within their speech:**

<b>Tell us a bit about yourself</b>	This should cover your name, delegation, years of participation in YAG, and what you are passionate about.
<b>What is the description of your desired position and what are the requirements embedded in it?</b>	Summarize the core responsibilities and eligibility criteria of the office and what you may think are important duties not explicitly outlined in the roles description
<b>Why are you qualified for this specific position?</b>	Highlight your relevant YAG experience, leadership roles, and the skills you possess that directly apply to the duties of the office.
<b>What are some of the changes that you would personally like to see happen within your desired position?*</b>	Describe your vision for the position and outline achievable, high-level goals.

**\*Candidates may not make campaign promises that are outside the authority of their position. For instance, elected officers do not have unilateral authority to make decisions about Conference logistics, or any branch area that is not their direct responsibility.**