

INFORMATION FOR ALL JUDGES

Ethics and Standards

Honest, accurate, and efficient elections are essential in a democracy. The Student Member of the Board of Education election not only seeks to comply with all requirements of the law, but also presents an educational civic opportunity for students to experience the election process. The election officials will demonstrate personal standards of conduct reflecting the highest ethical goals.

Election officials may not advance the cause of either candidate while working on Election Day. It is their responsibility to conduct a fair, accurate, and impartial election process. Election officials, while at the polling place may not wear badges or ribbons supporting a candidate, or engage in any other activity that might lead others to believe the election official was favoring a candidate (Article 33, Section 10-202). When not engaged in their official duties, election officials have the same rights as all other citizens to freely express their political views so long as the official does not identify himself or herself as an election official when expressing those views (Article 33, Section 2-301(b)(2)).

Important Information

Many of the procedures in the Student Member of the Board of Education election are governed by the protocols established by the Montgomery County Board of Education and the Special Elections Committee (SEC) of the Montgomery County Region of the Maryland Association of Student Councils (MCR). All questions and problems with the elections should be referred to the Student Affairs Office, 301-670-1419. On Election Day, **polls may not open before 7:00 a.m. and must be closed by 4:30 p.m.**

The supervising staff member (assigned by the principal in each school) is ultimately responsible for the procedures and logistics of the election in his/her school. This supervising staff member, usually the student government advisor, must monitor the polling place at all times.

Students may earn service learning credit while serving at the polls. The MCPS Student Service Learning form should be completed by the judges and must contain quality reflection statements tying educational instruction and volunteer service.

On Election Day, all judges must wear name badges or buttons that identify them as official judges. The badges should be the same for all judges and may be as simple as using "stick on" name tags.

Equipment

Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) will be using a secure web-based voting system. Schools will also be receiving critical election documents for the election. All schools are responsible for the proper return of materials issued to them.

Voters with Disabilities

- Be courteous and respectful.
- Common sense will provide an answer to most questions.
- Don't underestimate people with disabilities. Physical disability DOES NOT equal lessened mental capability.
- Be considerate of extra time it may take for a person who is disabled to get things done, and give unhurried attention to a person who has difficulty speaking.

- Always speak directly to the voter, and not to a companion, aide, or sign language interpreter. Remember that any disabled voter may be accompanied by and receive assistance from another person of their choice in the voting booth.
- Ask before you help. The person may not want any assistance. Don't insist – take “no” for an answer. On the other hand, don't be shy about offering assistance. Your courtesy will be appreciated.

Voters Who Are Blind

A voter who is blind may use an assistant to vote. The assistant would read any required oaths to the voter out loud and, if the voter agrees to the oath, write “voter unable to sign” on the signature line on the voter assistance form (see documents).

Voters with Mobility Impairment

Schools with physically challenged students should be sure that the polling area is set up to accommodate students in wheelchairs or on crutches.