CUSA 2026 Presidential By-Election Nomination Guidelines

Introduction

These guidelines are meant to provide information regarding the 2026 Presidential By-election, and provide further explanation of various processes and requirements that are set out in the Electoral Code (hereinafter referred to as the Code). These guidelines provide information and rules that are meant to supplement those that are set out in the Code, and in no way replace any provisions of the Code. It is the responsibility of all prospective candidates and candidates to familiarize themselves with the Code, and all other relevant policies.

Nominations

Nomination Period: November 2, 9:00am to November 9, 5:00pm, EST.

Nominations can be sought by prospective candidates during the nomination period. Only nomination packages submitted through the official CUSA 2026 Presidential By-Election Nomination Form, with all fields complete, will be considered. In accordance with S. 30 of the Code, prospective **Presidential candidates must obtain a minimum of 100 and a maximum of 200 nominations from eligible Carleton undergraduate electors, regardless of their Faculty.** It is the candidate's sole responsibility to ensure they have obtained at least the minimum number of eligible nominators, and failing to do so will result in the nomination being rejected. Therefore, candidates are encouraged to obtain more than the minimum number of nominations to account for any that may be deemed invalid, without exceeding the maximum of 200 nominations.

As per S. 33–37 of the Code, all nominators must provide their name, Carleton email address, and student number. Prospective candidates are responsible for ensuring that all nominators have provided informed consent and that their information is accurate. Students may nominate more than one candidate for the same office. Nominations that cannot be verified will not count towards the minimum required number.

CUSA x elections

Presidential Candidate Eligibility

In accordance with S. 8(a) of the Code, prospective Presidential candidates must meet the eligibility requirements established for the office of President. To be eligible to run in this by-election, prospective candidates must have been eligible to run in the preceding General Election, including being a registered student-at-large in both the current and preceding academic terms. Incumbent and former CUSA Presidents are not eligible to run.

Please note: *The Candidate elected in this Presidential by-election will not be eligible to run for President again, including in the upcoming 2027 General Election, as incumbent and former Presidents are prohibited from seeking re-election under S. 8(a)(i)–(ii) of the Code.*

Campaigning is not permitted during the nomination period. The solicitation of nominations is permitted, and such an act is not considered to be, on its own, campaigning. However, candidates may not use the solicitation of nominations as a campaigning mechanism, nor exceed the maximum number of nominators. Any solicitation of nominations beyond the 200 maximum may be considered campaigning prior to the campaign period and may be subject to penalties under the Code.

Following the closure of the nomination period, prospective candidates will be informed of the status of their nomination following the validation period of November 9–13, 2026. **A mandatory all-candidates meeting will be held on November 10, 2026 at 9:00pm (Location TBD).** Following the meeting, all confirmed candidates will be required to sign the Candidate Declaration (Schedule II) and any required Candidate Code of Conduct prior to the beginning of the Campaign Period (November 16), as per the Electoral Code. Failure to attend the meeting, or an approved alternative, or sign the required documents will result in the cancellation of the candidate's nomination.

The Campaign Period will run from November 16 to November 25, 2026, including the voting period of November 23–25, 2026. Presidential candidates are subject to a

maximum campaign expense limit of $800.00, inclusive of applicable taxes, as prescribed by S. 39 of the Code.

Authority

These guidelines are issued by the Chief Returning Officer under the authority of S. 20(f) of the Code, and shall be considered regulations/procedures for the good administration of this election.

Issue date: October 27, 2026.