

Virginia Government Simulation Election Manual

Article I Election Rules

Section 1: Definitions

Ambiguous terms are defined as;

- A. Constitutional Officers refers to those in the positions of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, or Attorney General.
- B. Student Participants refers to those competing in any aspect of VGS, including legislators, journalists, and lobbyists.
- C. Election Procedures refer to the processes of registrations, petition collection, ballot verification, speaking procedures, and electronic voting.
- D. Party Officers refers to the Majority Leader, Minority Leader, Majority Whip, and Minority Whip.

Section 2: General Rules

The Committee on Rules and Elections will oversee the enforcement of this legislation

- 1. All constitutional offices will be elected by popular vote of all participants of the VGS in that given year
 - a. Experience and other requirements
 - i. All who wish to run for constitutional offices must have participated in the VGS for at least 1 year previously.
 - ii. Those who wish to run must register by October 31st, this, however, does not guarantee your place on the ballot.
 - iii. To secure your name on the election ballot you must submit a petition of at least 10 signatures to the Attorney General by the end of the day prior to election day
 - 1. All signatures must be from current student participants.
 - iv. Constitutional officers must be comprised of delegates from different institutions.
 - 1. Elections must therefore be conducted in this order: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, then Attorney General.
 - v. If a person of one institution is elected to a position, all candidates representing that institution are then disqualified from other positions.
 - b. Campaigning rules

- i. Campaigning will begin as soon as VGS is called into session and will end after the election speeches on the last day of the VGS.
- ii. If candidates choose to spend their personal funds to campaign, they are limited to spending no more than \$100.
- iii. Every candidate who reaches the ballot will be given the opportunity to speak in a randomized order at a joint session on the last day of the VGS.
 - 1. Speeches must be no longer than five minutes.
 - 2. Candidates will give their speeches to the members independently and will not be present for their opponents speeches.

c. Oversight

- i. The Attorney General and a faculty member shall serve as overseers of the election procedures
 - 1. The faculty member will be chosen by the faculty committee in future years following the 2025 Fall Session.
 - ii. The Attorney General will handle all parts of the election process including registrations, receiving and verifying petitions, creating and verifying the final ballot, running the chamber during the joint session for campaign speeches, running the electronic election, and announcing the final results.
 - iii. All the actions of the Attorney General will be overseen by and verified by the appointed faculty member.

d. Election Process

- i. The ballot shall be executed via electronic anonymous ranked choice voting, and requires a 50% plus one majority.
 - 1. In the event that a candidate does not receive a majority of first-choice votes, the lowest ranked candidate will be eliminated, and their votes will be redistributed according to the voters' second choices.

e. Removal Process

- i. A call for removal can be issued and acted upon if an officer commits an extreme breach of the Code of Conduct as determined by a two-thirds majority.

f. Order of Succession

- i. If the Governor is removed, resigns or is otherwise incapacitated, the Lieutenant Governor will become the Governor.

- ii. If the Lieutenant Governor or Attorney General is removed, resigns, becomes the Governor, or is otherwise incapacitated the other will assume the role while retaining their responsibilities.

2. Committees

a. Roles

- i. VGS committees will have one Chair and one Clerk per committee.
- ii. Clerks will succeed the Chair if they are incapacitated from fulfilling their role. The Chair will assume the Clerk's responsibilities if the Clerk is incapacitated from fulfilling their role.

b. Requirements

- i. Committee Chairs must have at least 1 year of prior experience in VGS to be admitted to the ballot.
- ii. Clerks require no prior experience.

c. Election Process

- i. The correlating committee will utilize a roll call vote conducted by a faculty member to elect Committee Chairs and Clerks. Whoever receives a majority of 50%+1 or more wins.

3. Party Elections

a. Roles

- i. VGS's Republican and Democratic caucuses will elect one Leader and Whip per party.
- ii. The Whip will succeed the Leader if they are incapacitated from fulfilling their role. The Leader will assume the responsibilities of the Whip if they are incapacitated from fulfilling their role.
- iii. The majority party in the house will nominate a speaker candidate separate from the majority leader who will be put forward as speaker. For the formal election the Minority leader will serve as the minority parties candidate for speaker.

b. Requirements

- i. Party officers must be comprised of delegates from different institutions.

1. Elections must therefore be conducted in this order:
Majority/Minority Leader, then Minority/Majority Whip

- a. If a person of one institution is elected to a position, all candidates representing that institution are then disqualified from other positions in that party. Representatives from the same institution may be chosen in different caucuses, if one is a Democrat and one is a Republican.

c. Election Process

i. The ballot shall be executed via electronic anonymous ranked choice voting, and requires a 50% plus one majority. This will be administered by a faculty member assigned to the committee.

1. In the event that a candidate does not receive a majority of first-choice votes, the lowest ranked candidate will be eliminated, and their votes will be redistributed according to the voters' second choices.