



NATIONAL SOCIETY OF BLACK ENGINEERS

**NATIONAL CAMPAIGN
PRACTICES CODE**

**Version 3.0
JAN 2019**



National Campaign Practices Code

The Campaign Practices Code (herein referred to as the Code) outlines all guidelines listed in the National Constitution and National Bylaws pertaining to the conduct of members seeking election to the National Executive Board, Professionals Executive Boards, or seeking support for a particular ballot measure. This document shall be made available to all candidates running for a position on the National Executive Board, Professionals Executive Boards, and all members promoting a ballot measure.

Campaign Conduct

- Campaigning shall be defined as the dissemination of printed material, commercial ads, and public speeches and displays regarding any candidate or ballot measure.
 - The actions of any office holder of the Society, done in the course of discharging his/her duties, shall not be considered campaigning.
- Campaigning may not begin until the applicant has received official notice from the National Parliamentarian that he/she is a Candidate or that the amendment proposal has been accepted as a ballot measure.
- For Professionals, Campaigning may not begin until the applicant has received official notice from the National or Professionals Parliamentarian that he/she is a Candidate or that the amendment proposal has been accepted as a ballot measure.
- No Candidate shall use any Society resources for campaigning purposes unless all candidates have equal access to these resources and such access is announced in this Code or by a ruling of the Elections Committee. Failure to obey this provision shall be grounds for disqualification.
 - Examples of violation of this rule include but are not limited too:
 - Using WHQ staff, resources, or supplies
 - Sending email messages or announcements via NSBE sponsored listservs
 - Postings on www.nsbe.org or any of its affiliate web pages unless approved by the National Parliamentarian.
 - Utilizing members of the National Executive Board, Professionals Executive Board, National Advisory Board, Regional Executive Board or Regional Advisory Board for campaign funding, supplies, or resources. This includes passing out information or wearing paraphernalia bearing the name of a candidate or proposal. This includes all social media outlets (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, etc.)
- All campaign materials shall bear the name of the candidate who has published it. Failure to obey this provision shall be grounds for disqualification.



- All campaign material for or against a national ballot item (i.e. Constitutional proposal) shall bear the name of the person or persons who have published it. Failure to obey this provision will result in the disposal of the material and possibly jeopardize the item remaining on the ballot.

Campaigning at the Annual Convention

- The following events or locations are off limits for active campaigning
 - Senators' or Delegates' Workshop (inside the room)
 - Senators' Lounge
 - All activities devoted to senators or professional delegates only

Campaigning on Election Day

- Prior to the opening of the polls, the poll watchers shall remove all campaign materials from within the polling room.
- Any campaigning within the polling room while the polls are open shall be grounds for disqualification.
- Any attempt by a candidate to subvert or unethically influence the election shall be grounds for disqualification.
- Any actions of candidates that impede an election official in the discharge of his/her duties shall be grounds for disqualification.
- Any deliberate violation of any ruling of the Elections Committee shall be grounds for disqualification.
- A plea of ignorance shall not be considered a valid defense to an infraction of any ruling as specified in this Code or as a ruling of the Elections Committee.
- Disqualifications shall only be based on rules specified in this Code or on rulings of the Elections Committee.

Rulings of the Elections Committee

- The Elections Committee shall be empowered to issue supplemental rulings elaborating or clarifying the election guidelines as specified in the Code.
- All rulings shall be posted outside the Elections WHQ. All candidates shall be assumed to have read the ruling within twenty-four hours after its posting.
- The National Parliamentarian shall be the only official of the Society empowered to offer official advice to candidates on matters pertaining to the Code.



Financial Disclosure

- A financial disclosure statement shall be an accurate and complete accounting of all campaign expenses and campaign income (including the sources of any income) of any candidate.
- Each candidate must file with the National Parliamentarian a financial disclosure statement prior to the close of the closing session. Candidates incurring no election expenses must still file a financial disclosure statement.

Disqualifications and Other Penalties

- General
 - No candidate may be subjected to a hearing twice for a violation stemming from the same act.
 - The term "grounds for disqualification" shall mean that the Elections Committee may use the act or acts so specified as reasons for disqualification, but they shall have the discretion to decide whether to initiate or continue disqualification proceedings. Specification of an act as grounds for disqualification does not mean that disqualification is automatic, even if a candidate is found to have committed such an act; nor shall any elections officer be required to recommend disqualification in such a case.
- Hearing
 - All meetings of the Elections Committee shall be closed to the public, but an accurate transcript of all transactions shall be kept by a Secretary appointed for this purpose by the Elections Committee, except that the candidate being discussed can attend the meeting.
 - At the hearing, the candidate may present whatever evidence desired to the Elections Committee.
- Recommendation of Disqualifications
 - If the Elections Committee determines that an election violation has occurred, it may disqualify the candidate or impose another penalty as is appropriate. Other penalties which may be imposed are reprimand, censure, or suspension for a specified period of time.
 - Any penalty imposed by the hearing committee may be overturned by a two-thirds vote of the membership of the National Executive Board.
 - The minutes of all hearings pertaining to the impositions of penalties shall be made available to the National Executive Board.



Campaign Practices Certification

This section is to certify that all candidates seeking office have read and will uphold the guidelines provided in the Code. In addition, there are basic principles of fair practices, decency, and honesty that every candidate has an obligation to observe and uphold; in order for the NSBE senate and delegates to exercise their right to a free and clear choice.

THEREFORE:

- I shall recognize and uphold the National Campaign Practices Code and encourage my campaign committee to do the same.
- I shall not use or tolerate the use of character defamation, whispering campaigns, libel, slander, or scurrilous attacks on any candidate or their personal or family life.
- No campaign material shall contain content that misrepresents, distorts, or otherwise falsifies the facts, nor should it use malicious or unfounded accusations that aim at creating or exploiting doubts, without justification, as to the personal integrity or character of opposing candidates.
- I shall defend and uphold the right of every qualified senator to full and equal participation in the voting process and will not engage in activity aimed at intimidating senators from voting.
- I shall not permit or appeal to negative prejudice based on race, sex, sexual orientation, religion or national origin.

*To submit this certification please check the box on the Candidate Application Form found online (www.nsbe.org/nebapplication)

** Professionals: Please certify that you have read and understand the Campaign Practices Code by checking the box on the [Candidate Application Form](#) found which can be linked from the [PEB Candidates Handbook](#). (<http://www.nsbe.org/Professionals/Resources.aspx>)