

Undergraduate Student Government Spring 2026 Election Packet



Thank you for your interest in joining the Undergraduate Student Government at the Storrs Campus of the University of Connecticut. The Undergraduate Student Government (USG) is one of the largest student organizations on campus, with an annual budget of over \$2.1 million. The primary duties of USG include allocating that money to different student groups and representing the student body to the administration, town, and state. USG also spearheads and assists in the development of initiatives to benefit the student body.

In this packet, you will find a description of USG as a whole, a description of the different positions that you can run for, rules and regulations governing the elections for those seats, and a series of forms that you must complete in order to appear on the ballot. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to reach out to the Chief Justice at chiefjustice@usg.uconn.edu

Table of Contents

[Open Positions for the Spring 2026 Election](#)

[Spring 2026 Elections Timeline](#)

[About USG](#)

[Open Position Descriptions](#)

[President](#)

[Vice President](#)

[Comptroller](#)

[Chief Diversity Officer \(CDO\)](#)

[Senator](#)

[Applicable Policies](#)

[Campaigning and Advertising](#)

[Eligibility to run](#)

[Write-in requirements](#)

[How to get on the Ballot](#)

[Intent to Run Form](#)

[Signatures, Budgets, and Rosters](#)

[Misc. Information](#)

[Voting Period](#)

[Election Violations](#)

[Changes to this packet](#)

Open Positions for the Spring 2026 Election

- Student Body President and Vice President (must run as a joint ticket)
- USG Chief Diversity Officer
- USG Comptroller
- Student Senator (open seats indicated below)
 - Open Academic Senate seats - 36
 - ACES - 3
 - CAHNR (including RHAG) - 4
 - Business - 5
 - Education - 2
 - Engineering - 6
 - Fine Arts - 2
 - CLAS - 10
 - Nursing - 2
 - Pharmacy - 2
 - Open Multicultural and Diversity Senate seats - 10

Spring 2026 Elections Timeline

12 p.m., Monday, January 19, 2026

- Election Packet released

11:59 p.m., Monday, February 9

- [Intent to Run Form Due](#)

11:59 p.m., Thursday, February 12

- Petition of Peers due

6:00 p.m., Monday, February 23

- USG Debate (Only for President/VP, Comptroller, and CDO)
- Student Union Theatre

12 p.m. (noon), Tuesday, March 3 to 12 p.m. (noon), Thursday, March 5

- Election Voting Period

11:59 p.m., Friday, March 6

- Budgets due
- Campaign Rosters due

11:59 p.m., Monday, March 9

- Deadline to file Election Violations

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 1

- Orientation Caucus for new Senators
- Student Union 104

6:30 p.m., Wednesday, April 8

- Swearing in new Senators
- Student Union 304

Virtual information session(s) may be scheduled and further campaign materials shall

be released before and after the Intent to Run form is due. Stay up to date about such information through the [USG website](#), social media, and email. Please contact the Chief Justice with any questions.

Important Calendar Dates

January 2026

Monday, 01/19/26 - [Intent to Run Form](#) and Elections Packet Released

February 2026

Monday 02/09/26 - [Intent to Run Form Due](#)

Thursday 02/12/26 - Petition of Peers Due

Monday 02/23/26 - USG Debate (Only President/VP, Comptroller, and CDO)

March 2026

Tuesday 03/03/26 - Election Voting Period opens at 12 p.m.

Thursday 03/05/26 - Election Voting Period Closes at 12 p.m.

Friday 03/06/25 - Budget and Campaign Roster due at 11:59 p.m.

Monday 03/09/25 - Election Violation deadline 11:59 p.m.

Tuesday 03/10/25 - Judiciary reviews cases, notifies candidates of violations.

Wednesday - Thursday 03/11-3/12 - Election Violation Hearings

Friday 03/13/25 - Certify Election Results

Contact: Ella Bennett at chiefjustice@usg.uconn.edu

USG Elections Packet

April 2026

Wednesday 04/01/26 - Senate Orientation Caucus at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday 04/08/26 - Swearing in Senators at 6:30 p.m.

About USG

The Undergraduate Student Government is broadly organized into three branches: executive, legislative, and judicial. The executive branch consists of the President, Vice President, Chief Diversity Officer, Comptroller, Chief of Staff, and any other persons that may be appointed to carry out the tasks of the Undergraduate Student Government.

The President is responsible for guiding the direction of the organization and nominating persons to fill different positions, including the student-held positions on University administration task forces and committees.

The legislative branch is led by the Speaker and their Senate Leadership team. Senators are members of the legislative branch and vote on crucial matters that come before the Undergraduate Student Government. Additionally, Senators must each sit on at least one committee where they assist with the various initiatives that the committee undertakes.

The judicial branch is led by the Chief Justice and a number of Associate Justices. The Judiciary is responsible for resolving conflicts within the Undergraduate Student Government such as funding appeals and sanction hearings. The Chief Justice and the judicial branch oversee USG elections in conjunction with the Communications Director and their team.

Open Position Descriptions

President*

The President of the Undergraduate Student Government:

- Represents the needs of the student body in a positive, professional, and ethical manner.
- Collaborates with students, student organizations, and their leaders to seek input for informed decision making.
- Maintains effective working relationships with administrators, staff, and faculty.
- Has a thorough understanding of applicable governing documents.
- Complies with all rules, regulations and procedures of the Department of Student Activities and the University of Connecticut as they relate to the position and to the operation of the organization.
- Ensures the overall effectiveness of USG and progress towards goals.
- Builds an Executive Board to help achieve the vision and mission of USG.
- Make all appropriate appointments.
- Attends biweekly Undergraduate Student Senate meetings.
- Attends appropriate USG Advocacy Committee meetings.
- Supervises and meets regularly with USG Advocacy Committee Directors.
- Maintains visibility, transparency, and open communication with the student body.
- Schedules, posts, and maintains weekly office hours.
- Maintains visibility, transparency, and open communication with members of USG.
- Checks the presidential email account regularly and promptly replies to all correspondence.
- Speaks at major university events, including the annual Convocation ceremony.

The President is a paid position and is expected to attend Senate meetings held from 6:30 p.m. to adjournment on alternating Wednesdays. The President should expect to work roughly 20 hours per week, including over breaks, and hold a set number of office hours per week.

Vice President*

The Vice President of the Undergraduate Student Government:

- Assists the President with all administrative duties and assumes duties of the President in their absence.
- Represents, in cooperation with the President, the needs of the student body in a positive, professional, and ethical manner.
- Collaborates with students, student organizations, and their leaders to seek input for informed decision making.
- Maintains effective working relationships with administrators, staff, and faculty.
- Has a thorough understanding of applicable governing documents.
- Complies with all rules, regulations and procedures of the Department of Student Activities and the University of Connecticut as they relate to the position and to the operation of the organization.
- Promotes USG's outreach with the students through oversight of the Communications team.
- Fosters a collective organizational culture through recruitment and retention of members.

The Vice President is a paid position and is expected to attend Senate meetings held from 6:30 p.m. to adjournment on alternating Wednesdays. The Vice President should expect to work roughly 20 hours per week, including over breaks, and hold a set number of office hours per week.

Comptroller*

The Comptroller of the Undergraduate Student Government:

- Holds primary responsibility over the finances of USG.
- Crafts the budget of USG.
- Works in conjunction with the Funding Director to curate the Tier-II Funding Policies.
- Meets with Tier II leaders to assist them with navigating USG policies.
- Oversees and decides Exemptions for Tier-II funding.
- Keeps track of USG's inventory, including Tier-II RSO inventory and oversees student inventory staff.
- Works with USG professional staff to take care of all bookkeeping needs.
- Reviews timesheets for USG employees.
- Manages the payroll process for all USG employees.
- Works with USG student and University professional staff to maintain vendor relationships, oversee all purchasing processes, and keep financial

records.

- Works with appropriate Student Activities Staff regarding the financial needs of the organization.

The Comptroller is a paid position and is expected to attend Senate meetings held from 6:30 p.m. to adjournment on alternating Wednesdays. The Comptroller should expect to work roughly 20 hours per week, including over breaks, and hold a set number of office hours per week.

Chief Diversity Officer (CDO)*

The Chief Diversity Officer of the Undergraduate Student Government:

- Calls and presides over all meetings of the Diversity and Outreach Commission, with regularity as determined by the Chief Diversity Officer.
- Has the power to call a special session of the Governing Board with 24-hour notice should a situation requiring immediate action arise at any time.
- Keeps a record of statistics pertaining to diversity competency within the Undergraduate Student Government.
- Must be party to all employment actions of the Undergraduate Student Government.
- Works with the Chief Justice and the Communications Director during election periods with the specific intent to broaden USG's visibility to underrepresented groups on campus.
- Gives a State of Diversity during Student Senate in the fall and spring semesters.
- Attends all meetings of the Student Senate.
- Responsible for the upkeep of a positive Undergraduate Student Government work environment.

The Chief Diversity Officer is a paid position and is expected to attend Senate meetings held from 6:30 p.m. to adjournment on alternating Wednesdays. The Chief Diversity Officer should expect to work roughly 20 hours per week, including over breaks, and hold a set number of office hours per week.

***-Please note that the positions with asterisks have academic requirements in order to run for the position. Please see the policy linked in Applicable Policies under Eligibility to Run for more information.**

Senator

Senators in the Undergraduate Student Government:

- Represent the interests and advocate on behalf of the specific represented constituency or as well as the student body as a whole.
- Actively seek the views and input of the student constituents.
- Establish and maintain frequent contact with their constituent population
- Motivate and involve constituents on issues pertinent to students' quality of education and quality of life at UConn.
- Work with fellow Senators to advance legislation reflecting the interests of their constituents and the entire student body.
- Be an active and enthusiastic member of the Senate and USG as a whole.
- Attend and actively participate in all required USG training and development programs.
- There are three different kinds of Senate seats:
 - **Residential Seats** mean you represent the **residential area** in which you live on campus or you represent the interests of **commuter/online students**. These seats are up for election in the fall elections. Undergraduate students are only able to vote for a residential seat if they live in the area the seat represents or if they are a commuter voting for a commuter seat.
 - **Academic Seats** mean you represent the **school or college** that you are a member of. These seats are generally up for election in the spring, with any vacancies being filled by the fall elections. Undergraduate students are only able to vote for Senate seats in their school or college.
 - **Multicultural and Diversity Seats** are filled by members of communities that feel they are not being well represented in Student Government. **Any member of any community may run** for a Multicultural and Diversity Seat. These seats are up for election each Spring and are voted on by the entire student body.

Senator is an unpaid position expected to attend weekly Senate and Caucus meetings held from 6:30 p.m. to adjournment on alternating Wednesdays and attend the weekly meetings of one of USG's advocacy committees. Senators may be academically compensated by taking a 1 credit POLS class with no additional attendance requirements.

Applicable Policies

- [USG Constitution](#): Article VII, Section II (pg. 19)
- [USG Bylaws](#): Bylaw XVIII (pg. 42)

Campaigning and Advertising

I. General Campaigning on Campus

In accordance with University guidelines, candidates may engage in in-person campaigning on campus in both outdoor and indoor spaces, including academic buildings and classrooms, subject to applicable University policies.

Permitted activities include, but are not limited to:

- A candidate enrolled in an in-person class announcing their candidacy during that class **with the permission of the course instructor**
- Creating and maintaining campaign-related social media accounts
- Campaigning in outdoor campus spaces not governed by Residential Living & Education

II. Campaigning in Residence Halls (Political Canvassing)

General Rule

Canvassing in or around residence halls and apartment facilities managed by Residential Living & Education is prohibited by default and is permitted only if approved in advance in accordance with Residential Living & Education's Political Canvassing Policy.

Required Approvals

Candidates seeking to campaign in residence halls must obtain all of the following approvals before engaging in any activity:

1. Approval from Residential Living & Education
 - Candidates must submit a Political Canvassing Application to the Residential Living & Education Office (Holcomb Hall).
 - Applications must be completed and received **at least three (3) business days (Monday–Friday)** prior to the desired canvassing date.
 - Applications must be submitted to **livingoncampus@uconn.edu**.
2. Written permission from the presiding Residence Hall Director
 - Permission must be obtained in writing.
 - Written permission must be forwarded to the Chief Justice.
3. Confirmation by the Chief Justice

- No campaigning may occur in a residence hall unless the Chief Justice has received and confirmed documentation of both approvals listed above.

Approval by the Chief Justice **does not substitute for** approval by Residential Living & Education or the Residence Hall Director.

III. Posting Campaign Materials in Residence Halls

Eligibility

Candidates for student government office are eligible to post campaign materials in residence halls only in accordance with Residential Living & Education Posting Policy.

Application Requirements

- All posting applications and materials must be submitted to Residential Living & Education at least fifteen (15) business days (Monday–Friday) prior to the intended posting date.
- Applications must be submitted via livingoncampus@uconn.edu using the appropriate Posting Request Application.

Internal Election Approval

- All campaign flyers must be submitted to the Chief Justice for content approval before being distributed or displayed.
- Approval by the Chief Justice is supplemental and does not override or replace Residential Living & Education approval.

Candidates are strongly encouraged to submit materials as early as possible due to Residential Living & Education processing timelines.

IV. Distribution of Items & Solicitation

Distribution of Campaign Items

- Any distribution of physical campaign materials or items must be cleared in advance by the Chief Justice.
- Distribution must comply with all Residential Living & Education policies and may not occur in residence halls unless explicitly authorized.

Prohibited Activities

The following activities are **strictly prohibited** in residence halls and apartment facilities:

- Door-to-door campaigning or solicitation
- Solicitation for donations, goods, or services
- Any activity that constitutes solicitation as defined by Residential Living & Education policy

V. Dining Halls & Common Areas

Campaign tabling or solicitation in dining hall foyers is governed by Dining Services and Student Union Event Services policies. Candidates wishing to table in dining areas must independently secure all required approvals through the appropriate University offices. Posting flyers on dining hall walls is prohibited.

VI. Distribution of Campaign Materials in Mailboxes

Candidates or recognized student organizations seeking to distribute political materials in residence hall or apartment mailboxes must obtain prior approval from the Associate Director of Residential Living & Education.

Approval must be obtained before any materials are placed in mailboxes.

Candidates are reminded to take precautions and exercise good judgment to ensure the safety and health of those on campus. Reckless behavior and discourteous behavior in general shall be penalized. A candidate's personal conduct, as well as that of their campaign, should preserve the spirit and integrity of USG election rules and processes. If you have questions about appropriate campaign activities and guidelines, please contact the Chief Justice.

Candidates may print copies through USG's Organization Support Services in the Student Union (Room 218) at no charge — 500 copies to each president/vice president ticket, 300 copies to each Comptroller and Chief Diversity Officer candidate, and 100 copies to each Senator candidate. Please contact the Director of Organization Support Services for more information.

Eligibility to run

All fee-paying Storrs undergraduate students in good academic standing are eligible to run for the positions listed above. If you have questions about your eligibility, please contact the Chief Justice.

The President, Vice President Comptroller, and Chief Diversity Officer roles have academic requirements in order to run for these positions. Please see the [Student Leader Eligibility Policies](#). If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to our advisor Krista O'Brien at krista.obrien@uconn.edu.

Write-in requirements

Any candidate running a write-in campaign for a Senate seat must receive at least 10 write-in votes to be eligible for a position.

Any candidate running a write-in campaign for President/Vice President, Comptroller, and Chief Diversity Officer must receive the same number of write-in votes as the number of petition signatures required to get on the ballot.

How to get on the Ballot

Intent to Run Form

[The Intent to Run Form](#) indicates that you want to run for one of the available positions. By filling it out you are promising to follow the rules and procedures listed above, and will therefore be on the ballot come the voting period.

If you plan on running for a position, the Intent to Run form must be filled out by **11:59 p.m. on Monday, February 9.**

Signatures, Budgets, and Rosters

Signatures

Every candidate running in these elections must collect a certain amount of signatures in a petition in order to fill out the ballot. The amount of signatures you need to be on the ballot is as follows:

- President/Vice President tickets: 100 signatures
- Chief Diversity Officer or Comptroller: 50 signatures

Signatures are collected through **Microsoft Excel**. The required number of signatures must be submitted by **11:59 pm on Thursday, February 12** to chiefjustice@usg.uconn.edu in order to be confirmed as an eligible candidate. Please **do not submit a PDF** and only email chiefjustice@usg.uconn.edu a **Microsoft Excel** document. It is recommended that you obtain more than the required number of signatures in the case that some prove to be ineligible. In order to collect a valid signature, one must attain a **student's name, netID and PeopleSoft**.

For more information on the signature requirements please visit our [Petition of Peers outline](#).

Budgets

All campaigns for President/Vice President, Comptroller, and CDO will be required to submit budgets for any campaign-related expenses. President/Vice President tickets shall be allowed to spend up to \$300, and Comptroller/CDO shall be allowed to spend \$200.

USG reserves the right to waive these funding levels for uncontested elections

and extenuating circumstances.

[Submission form for the budget.](#)

[Sample Campaign Budget.](#)

Campaign Rosters

All campaigns for President/Vice President, Comptroller, CDO, and Senate seats will be required to submit campaign rosters with the other UConn students campaigning on their behalf, if any. Any actions taken by these members will be representative of the campaign at large and therefore, violations by members of a campaign staff can result in cases filed against the respective candidates.

USG reserves the right to waive this requirement for uncontested elections and extenuating circumstances.

[Submission form for the campaign rosters.](#)

[Sample Campaign Roster.](#)

Misc. Information

Voting Period

The voting period will open at **12 p.m. (noon) on March 3 and close at 12 p.m. (noon) on March 5**. During this period, all undergraduate students will be able to vote for President/Vice President, CDO, Comptroller, and MCD Senate seats. Additionally, undergraduate students will vote for the Senate seats that represent their **academic constituencies**.

If contested, the candidates with the most votes will win their race. If you have any questions about the election period or what happens if election rules are violated, please contact the Chief Justice.

Election Violations

Allegations of election violations must be submitted to the Judiciary by 11:59 P.M on Monday, March 9. Additional information about election violation submissions can be found in Bylaw XVIII, Section 1.b. Specific questions about violations should be directed to the Chief Justice (chiefjustice@usg.uconn.edu) via email.

Election Violation Submission Deadline: 11:59 p.m. Monday, March 9.

Changes to this packet

This election packet is subject to change without notice; please refer back to it frequently over the course of election season. Thank you.