

Marist College Election Commission:

Representative Information Session Fall 2018

Keep this handout as a reference for important dates and to ensure you are not in violation of any campaign regulations

Candidate Qualifications

- Full time undergraduate student
- Greater than or equal to 2.5 GPA
- Must not be on academic probation
- Must attend one of three mandatory info sessions

Position Descriptions

- Distance Representative
 - Is any Marist undergraduate student who resides outside the Tri State area which is defined as New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut.
 - Advocates on behalf of students who come from communities beyond the Tri State area.
 - Meets with constituents at least three times per semester, and voice issues brought up at these meetings to SGA.
 - Attends SGA meetings and present or vote on legislation.
 - Potentially serves on committees addressing issues that affect their constituents.
- Transfer Representative
 - Is any Marist undergraduate transfer student student.
 - Ensures that the unique needs of transfer students are being met by SGA. They should formally meet with other transfer students at least three times per semester to gain insight that may be brought back to SGA.
 - Attends SGA meetings and can present and vote on legislation.
 - Serve on committees addressing issues that affect students who have transferred to Marist.

- Former-Resident Representative
 - Is any Marist undergraduate student who previously resided on campus and has since moved out of Marist housing.
 - Represents the needs of students who have decided to attend Marist while residing in the greater Poughkeepsie area. They shall meet with the Commuter Student Council as well as their constituents at least three times per semester.
 - Attend SGA meetings and can present or vote on legislation.
 - They may be asked to serve on committees addressing issues that affect students who have moved off the Marist campus.
- Commuter Representative
 - This may be any Marist undergraduate commuter student.
 - The purpose of this position is to ensure that the needs of commuter students are being met by SGA. They should meet with their constituents as well as the First Year Program Commuter Coordinator at least three times per semester.
 - They will attend SGA meetings and present or vote on legislation.
 - They may be asked to serve on committees addressing issues that affect students who commute to the Marist campus.
- North End Representative
 - This may be any Marist undergraduate resident of Tom and Mary Ward Hall, Building B, Building C, Building D, Foy Townhouses, Lower New Townhouses, or Upper New Townhouses.
 - The purpose of this position is to voice issues, geographical and otherwise, faced by students who live on the North End of campus, and bring forth resolutions. They should meet with North End residents at least three times per semester and with the Residence Hall Presidents of their respective constituency every other week. They will attend SGA meetings and present or vote on legislation.
 - They may be asked to serve on committees addressing issues that affect students who live on the North End of the Marist campus.
- South End Representative

- This may be any Marist undergraduate resident of Champagnat Hall, Marian Hall, Midrise Hall, Leo Hall, or Sheahan Hall.
- The purpose of this position is to voice issues, geographical and otherwise, faced by students who live on the South End of campus, and bring forth resolutions. They should meet with South End residents at least three times per semester and with the Residence Hall Presidents of their respective constituency every other week.
- They will attend SGA meetings and present or vote on legislation.
- They may be asked to serve on committees addressing issues that affect students who live on the South End of the Marist campus.
- East Side Representative
 - This may be any Marist undergraduate resident of all residence halls on the East side of Route 9 including Upper and Lower Fulton, as well as Upper and Lower West.
 - The purpose of this position is to voice issues, geographical and otherwise, faced by students who live on the East Side of campus. They should meet with East Side residents at least three times per semester and with the Residence Hall Presidents of their respective constituency every other week.
 - They will attend SGA meetings and present or vote on legislation.
 - They may be asked to serve on committees addressing issues that affect students who live on the East Side of the Marist campus.

How to Declare Candidacy

- Each candidate must submit a Declaration of Candidacy form to the Elections Commission
 - Upon doing so, they will be given petition forms
 - Please see the office hours listed below and visit the SGA office to get the appropriate forms
- Candidates must collect a proportional amount of petition signatures for their potential constituency:
 - Distance Rep: 150

- Transfer Rep: 30
- Former-Resident Rep: 10
- Commuter Rep: 30
- North End Rep: 110
- South End Rep: 130
- East Side Rep: 100
- Each signature must include each respective student's clearly printed name, year of graduation, and housing assignment.
 - During signature collection, candidates are permitted only to speak of issues pertaining to their candidacy
 - Candidates are not permitted to hand out campaign materials
 - The same signature should not appear twice on one petition, but students may sign more than one petition
 - No candidate may run for more than one position
 - **Petitions are due Sunday, September 16th at 11:59 pm**
 - Petitions may be given directly to the Director, or dropped off in the mailbox (labeled Erin Eldridge) in the SGA Office
- All verified candidates must also submit a biography in adherence with the same deadline as the petitions. The biography must include the candidate's name, class, desired position, reason for running, and description of involvement on campus.
 - Biographies should be accompanied by a picture of the candidate's smiling face!
 - Aim to write about 200 words or so
 - Email to maristsgaelections@gmail.com
 - **Please label email subject as "Biography: 'your full name'"**
- Candidates will be notified via email before 12:01 am Monday, September 17th of their verification status and from there, the campaigning may begin!

Campaign Materials

- Candidates may begin their campaign Monday, September 17th at 12:01 am given they have received verification from the Elections Commission (Class A)*
- Each candidate must track all spending on campaign materials on a campaign finance sheet that will be given to them by the petition deadline. The sheet must be turned in (by the same means as petitions) by 11:59 Friday, September 21
- Candidates may only post on approved social media sites to promote their campaign (Class C)*
 - These sites include Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter
 - Accounts used to promote campaigns must be followed by a board member of MCEC for monitoring purposes
- Candidates may post on personal pages, such as class facebook groups, at most once every other day during the campaigning process. During the voting period (**September 24th-September 26**), they may post on aforementioned pages as often as once every day.
- All campaign materials (flyers, posters) **MUST** be approved by the Elections Commission and subsequently by Student Activities (Class C)*
 - Campaign material submissions for approval may begin as soon as the candidate's petition is verified, but posters and flyers must not be displayed until the campaign period has begun.
 - The Commission will do its best to ensure expedient approval of all materials. That being said, the sooner they are submitted, the more likely they are to be approved on a convenient timeline for you!
 - All flyers must include the following aspects before they are submitted to the Commission:
 - Online voting at <https://sga.marist.edu/elections/vote>
 - Voting period: Monday, September 24th 8:00 am to Wednesday, September 26th 3:00 pm
 - Your contact information: name and email
- All flyers and campaign materials **MUST** adhere to the following rules

- Flyers may only be placed on approved announcement venues (such as bulletin boards). They must also receive proper RA/RD approval for resident hall postings. Limit one flyer per floor (Class C)*
- **Harassment or cyberbullying of any form will under no circumstances be tolerated in this election. Candidates will be monitored by members of the Elections Commission (Class A and immediate expulsion pending review)***
- Inappropriate campaign materials (provocative imagery, sexually suggestive wording or imagery, promotion of illegal behaviors) will be immediately removed by the Elections Commission and the candidate will be censured based on their connection to materials (subject to varying censures)
 - Freedom of speech does not mean speech without consequences. Be funny, be creative, but be smart.
- You may **not** use the Marist College logo or SGA logo on any campaign materials (Class C)*
- Campaigning at social events or athletic functions is permissible as long as all candidates have equal opportunity to participate (Class B)
- Candidates are required to attend all election-related events sponsored by SGA. The Director of the Elections Commission retains the right to disqualify those not in attendance (Class B)*
- Voting and solicitation is not to be conducted in the SGA office (Class B)*

Important Dates

Petition Deadline: Sunday, September 16th 11:59 pm

Turn in to mailbox in SGA office or directly to Erin Eldridge

Biographies should be emailed to maristsgaelections@gmail.com

Speech Night: Monday, September 17th 9:15pm-11:15pm Cabaret

More info provided after Petition submission

Meet the Candidates: Wednesday, September 19th 12pm-1pm Dining Hall

Voting Period: Monday, Sept 24 8:00 am – Wednesday, Sept 26 3:00 pm

Announcement Night: Wednesday, September 26th 9:15pm-10:30 Caberet

*Class Censures

Section 3.5.2 CLASS C Censure

Class C is the lowest order of censure handed out by the MCEC. The MCEC can decide to limit or hold the approval of campaign documents for the Candidate at the advisory of the Complaint Council. This is the only level of Censure that can be adjusted in severity at the discretion of the MCEOC. *Carries weight 1.*

Section 3.5.3 CLASS B Censure

Class B is the second magnitude of censure handed out by the MCEC. The MCEC can decide to limit or hold the approval of campaign documents for the Candidate, as well as limit candidate's ability to appear at MCEC sanctioned events (Section 4.) at the advisory of the council. *Carries weight 2.*

Section 3.5.4 CLASS A Censure

Class A is the highest magnitude of censure handed out by the MCEC. The MCEC can decide to limit or hold the approval of campaign documents for the Candidate, limit candidate's ability to appear at MCEC sanctioned events (Section 4.), or expulsion from the Campaign at the advisory of the council. *Carries weight 3.*

Erin Eldridge

Director of the Elections Commission

Election inquiries: maristsgaelections@gmail.com

Personal inquiries: erin.eldridge1@marist.edu

Please reach out to me with any and all questions you have about elections or being involved in SGA. We hope that you will decide to run and be an engaged member of the Marist community!

I can offer neither advice nor counsel, nor comment on the machinations of the student body. My loyalty is to the rules and regulations of the Elections commission and to the Student Government as a whole, regardless of who does or shall ever hold the highest offices.

- Erin Eldridge, Director of Elections Commission, '18 – '19