

# Missouri State 4-H Council Elections

## Selection Process

Applications will be reviewed by a professional committee appointed by the State 4-H Leadership & Civic Engagement Specialist. A separate committee will conduct interviews with potential candidates. The interview committee will be appointed by the State 4-H Leadership & Civic Engagement Educator and consist of current and past State 4-H Council Members who are not eligible for another term. Members of both committees will make slate recommendations to the State 4-H Leadership & Civic Engagement Educator and Specialist who will create the slates. A slate will be created for the Board of Directors and for each Regional Representative position. All positions for State 4-H Council will be voted on during Missouri 4-H Week.

## Campaigning

Candidates are expected to campaign for their positions. Campaigning may begin on April 17th. Candidates may not speak negatively about any other candidate for State 4-H Council or encourage others to speak negatively about any candidate. Candidates will be allowed to endorse other candidates. (ex. A candidate for the Board of Directors may encourage youth to vote for themselves and another candidate for the Board of Directors.)

## Stop period

All campaign activities must cease starting at 12:00AM (midnight) on May 24<sup>th</sup>. Campaign activities will resume at the start of State 4-H Congress registration.

## Campaign presentations

During State 4-H Congress, all candidates will give a presentation. All presentations should be 2-4 minutes in length. Presentations must be submitted for approval by May 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:00PM to Megan Kershner at [mkershner@missouri.edu](mailto:mkershner@missouri.edu). Candidates for the Board of Directors will give their presentation to the entire body during an assembly and be livestreamed through the Missouri State 4-H Council Facebook page. Regional Representatives will give their presentation during a regional meeting. Any candidates running for both Board of Directors and Regional Representative will be allowed to give their presentation twice or give a short introduction in place of their Regional Representative speech.

## State 4-H Congress

Candidates are responsible for completing their State 4-H Congress registration before the deadline. Campaigning will continue during State 4-H Congress. Campaigning at State 4-H Congress will **only** be allowed outdoors with the following exceptions: candidate presentations, and the dining center. Candidates who currently serve as Civic Engagement Ambassadors will **not** be allowed to campaign for any office during Teen Conference.

## **Materials & expenses**

Any items distributed while campaigning must remain under \$1 per person and unit. All campaign expenses must remain under a total of \$200. Candidates who receive any physical donations must include those items in their campaign expense report and account for the items within their \$200 limit. All candidates must submit all expenses to Megan Kershner via email no later than 5:00PM on May 26<sup>th</sup>.

While candidates may pass out materials prior to the stop period, candidates are not allowed to distribute any campaign materials during or after the stop period (including State 4-H Congress).

## **4-H Personnel**

4-H faculty and staff may not endorse specific candidates. Any social media page representing a county or regional 4-H program must represent all candidates equally. When posting regarding Regional Representative elections, they will only need to post their respective region.

**Any violations of these rules may result in the disqualification of a candidate. Violations will be reviewed by the State 4-H Leadership & Civic Engagement Educator, who will determine if the candidate will be issued a warning or disqualified.**

## **Voting**

4-H'ers ages 8-18 (program age) may vote for the State 4-H Council. Youth may vote for both the Board of Directors and their region's Regional Representative. Voting will take place through 4-H Online and/or Qualtrics. Voting will open at 8:00AM Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup> and close on Friday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at 1:00PM.

Voting for the Board of Directors will be open to all 4-H'ers across the state. The Board of Directors will be selected by popular vote. Each member will vote for 5 candidates. The candidate with the most votes will be the President, second most votes will be vice president, the following three will be State Representatives.

Voting for Regional Representatives will be limited to youth whose primary club falls within that region. (ex. If a youth lives in the Southwest region, but their primary club is in the West Central region, they will vote for a West Central Regional Representative.) The Regional Representatives will be selected by popular vote. If the candidate(s) with the most votes is elected to a higher position, the candidate with the next highest number of votes will fill the position.

Youth who are slated for both Board of Directors and Regional Representatives will hold the highest office to which they are elected. Candidates must receive at least one vote in order to hold an office.

## **Ties**

In the event of a tie for Board of Directors, the current State 4-H Council President will break the tie.

In the event of tie for Regional Representative, the current Regional Representative will break the tie. In the event of the current Regional Representative being on the slate, the current State 4-H Council President will break the tie.

If there is a conflict of interest with the Regional Representative or President and the candidates who they will tie break, the State 4-H Educator in Leadership & Civic Engagement may appoint another State 4-H Council member to cast a tie breaking vote.