

RESPONSIBILITIES OF YOUTH LEGISLATURE STATE OFFICERS

All state officers are required to attend the State Officer Training in August. No state officer may miss more than three (3) State Board meetings without a valid excuse.

Governor

1. Attend the YMCA Youth Governor's Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference is usually held the second week of June, but dates will be provided to Governor candidates as soon as they are available to the state office.
2. Set the tone for Youth Legislature by delivering an opening address to all delegates.
3. Assist the program staff with the planning of functions at Youth Legislature.
4. Preside over the Thursday afternoon opening session.
5. Sign or veto each bill passed by the House or Senate.
6. Close Youth Legislature with a State of the State Address, summarizing the accomplishments of the conference and reporting his/her action on bills passed by the conference.
7. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

Secretary of State (selected by the program staff by application)

1. Act as Commissioner of Elections.
2. Ensure that all elections are adhering to election guidelines.
3. Schedule candidates' intent speeches.
4. Preside over the Lobbying Program.
5. Preside over the Delegation Council.
6. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

Chief Justice (elected by the Supreme Court)

1. Preside over sessions of the Supreme Court.
2. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

Speaker of the House

1. Preside over sessions of the House of Representatives.
2. Determine the docket after committee meetings.
3. Preside over the Joint Session at the end of the conference.
4. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

Speaker pro tempore of the House

1. Preside over sessions of the other House of Representatives.
2. Determine the docket after committee meetings.
3. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

President of the Senate

1. Preside over sessions of the Senate.
2. Determine the docket after committee meetings.
3. Preside over the Joint Session at the end of the conference.
4. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

President pro tempore of the Senate

1. Preside over sessions of the other Senate.
2. Determine the docket after committee meetings.
3. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

President pro tempore of the Senate

1. Preside over sessions of the other Senate.
2. Determine the docket after committee meetings.
3. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

House and Senate Floor Leaders

1. Preside over sessions of the House and Senate when the presiding officer is absent.
2. Serve as parliamentarian for the respective chamber.
3. Assist in determining the docket after committee meetings.
4. Serve as a State Y&G Officer and assist with training and other statewide activities.

ELECTION OF STATE OFFICIALS

Each district will have the option of nominating candidates for the state offices of Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate at its Pre-LEG session. The candidates selected at Pre-LEG will run against each other for the aforementioned state offices at Youth Legislature. Those elected will serve in their official capacities during the next year's session of Youth Legislature

Election Procedures at Pre-LEG:

Each district can nominate a maximum of one (1) candidate for every three (3) schools in the district. Districts with between one (1) and three (3) schools can nominate one (1) candidate for each office, districts with between four (4) and six (6) districts can nominate two (2) candidates for each office, districts with between seven (7) and nine (9) districts can nominate three (3) candidates for each office, and so forth.

Each Youth & Government club may cast two (2) votes for the candidate(s) of its choice. Votes may be cast for the same candidate or split between two candidates. Each delegation will be allowed to select one representative to cast their club's votes and deliver them to the program staff member running the elections.

Election Procedures at the Youth Legislature Conference:

Voting stations will be made available to all delegates Friday night after the Governor's Banquet to cast their ballots for the next conference's Governor, Speaker of the House and President of the Senate.

Only members of the House will cast votes for Speaker of the House and only members of the Senate will cast votes for President of the Senate. All delegates will cast votes for Governor in the general election.

The election of Governor will be determined by the following process:

- Each member of the Delegation Council, comprised of one (1) representative from each participating club, will cast two (2) votes upon hearing speeches from each of the candidates. Votes may be cast for the same candidate or split between two candidates. This vote distribution will account for **15 percent** of the final vote.
- The vote distribution from the general election of all delegates will account for **85 percent** of the final vote.
 - Delegates will rank the candidates in order of preference.
 - If a candidate surpasses 50 percent of the delegates' first-choice votes, he/she will be the winner of the general election and that vote distribution will account for 85 percent of the final vote.

- If no candidate surpasses 50 percent of the delegates' first-choice votes, another round of voting analysis occurs:
 - The candidate with the fewest first-choice votes will be eliminated with his/her votes being redistributed to the other candidates based on those voters' second-choice votes.
 - If a candidate surpasses 50 percent of the new vote tally, he/she will be the winner of the general election and the current vote distribution will account for 85 percent of the final vote.
 - If no candidate surpasses 50 percent of the new vote tally, this process will repeat until a candidate surpasses 50 percent of the vote.
- The candidate with the greatest percentage of the vote in the combined Delegation Council vote, accounting for 15 percent, and the general election vote, accounting for 85 percent, will become the Governor.

The election of the Speaker of the House and the President of the Senate will be determined by the following process:

- Delegates will rank the candidates in order of preference.
- If a candidate surpasses 20 percent of the delegates' first-choice votes, he/she will become the Speaker/President, and that candidate will get a portion of their second-choice vote applied to the next round of voting analysis based on how many votes that candidate received in excess of the minimum 20 percent required.
- If multiple candidates surpass 20 percent of delegates' first-choice votes, the candidate with the most votes will become the Speaker/President, the candidate with the second-most votes will become the Speaker pro tempore/President pro tempore, and so forth. All candidates who exceed 20 percent of the vote will have a portion of their second-choice votes applied to the next round of voting analysis based on how many votes that candidate received in excess of the minimum 20 percent required.
- If multiple candidates tie while surpassing 20 percent of delegates' first-choice votes, every delegate's next-choice vote is used to break the tie.
- Once both the Speaker/President and the Speaker pro tempore/President pro tempore have been determined by this process, the next candidate will become a House/Senate Floor Leader.
- A second House Floor Leader and a second Senate Floor Leader will be filled by appointment by the Program Staff. An application period will be open throughout the conference and will close midnight on Friday.

Running for State Office

All candidates for Governor, President of the Senate and Speaker of the House must provide a photo and answers to various questions for the Youth Legislature conference binder.

Submitted photos must meet the following guidelines:

- Head and shoulders formal photo
- Plain background
- Sharp picture in either color or black and white
- Males must be dressed in a collared shirt, tie and sport jacket
- Females in business attire

If the candidate does not have an appropriate picture, it is recommended that he/she go to a passport photo photographer who can provide the shot on short notice.

Governor candidates will prepare a commercial video for their candidacy not to exceed one (1) minute in length. The videos may not have any endorsements from MUN or LEG State Officers from that academic year. Videos must be received by the program staff according to prescribed deadlines.

All candidates must have a minimum of one (1) year of Youth Legislature experience. Candidates for Governor must be rising seniors while all other candidates must be rising juniors or seniors.

Candidates must declare their candidacy during Pre-LEG sessions and complete an intent-to-run form online prior to Pre-LEG.

At the conference, each candidate must have a nominator who is not a MUN or LEG State Board Officer from that academic year. The nominator will give a speech Friday morning prior to the convening of all sessions.

Candidates for Governor have open speaking privileges in all committees Thursday night and may give a maximum of two (2) intent speeches in the House and a maximum of two (2) intent speeches in the Senate.

Candidates for Speaker of the House and President of the Senate will serve as committee chairs Thursday night. They may give a maximum of two (2) intent speeches in their respective chambers. They must also serve as members of the House and the Senate, respectively, and sponsor bills. They will have open speaking privileges in both chambers of the House and the Senate, respectively.

No candidate for any office will expend more than \$20. No candidate for any office will distribute handouts of any kind.

Candidates may only hang one (1) standard size poster and only one banner no larger than 3' X 6' in the general assembly room during registration. Banners exceeding that size will be removed. Only the candidate may wear a button to advocate his/her candidacy. Any additional campaign paraphernalia will be confiscated.