



Development &
Alumni Relations

2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES

HOWARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ALUMNI RELATIONS

FOR QUESTIONS ABOUT ELECTIONS EMAIL HUAEELECTIONS@HOWARD.EDU

PREPARED BY KALEAB F. DEBEBE, MBA

2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



Table of Contents:

About These Guidelines	3
The Composition and Duties of the Election Committee.....	3
The Election Process	4
Duties of the Candidates	6
Rules of Campaigning.....	6
Other Campaigning.....	7
Campaign Staffs.....	8
Contacting the Elections Committee.....	8
Campaign Materials.....	8
Endorsements.....	9
Violations and Appeals Process	9
Nominating Committee / Violation Board.....	10
Penalties	11
Appellate Ethics	11
Appendix One: HUAA Elections code.....	12

2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



About These Guidelines:

- a. These guidelines were developed by the Department of Alumni Relations at Howard University to govern the Howard University Alumni Association (HUAA) Elections. This is a living document and is being constantly revised for efficiency and accuracy. All candidates are responsible for all changes/addendums to the document immediately after the document is distributed. This document will be enforced as outlined by the HUAA Nominating and Election Committees. In addition:
 - i. Candidates for any election shall be responsible for these regulations provided within this document. Ignorance of these regulations shall not be an acceptable defense in response to any offense at any time during the election period, either by candidates or by individuals campaigning on behalf of a candidate.
 - ii. These regulations are subject to interpretation, review, and modification only by the HUAA Nominating and Elections Committees with approval by the Department of Alumni Relations. No other member of the Alumni Association is authorized to officially interpret the Elections Code.

The Composition and Duties of the Election Committee:

- a. The HUAA Elections Committee shall conduct HUAA General Elections, Special Elections, and Referendum and Ratification votes which are provided for in the Howard University Alumni Association Constitution, in accordance with the provisions of this Elections Code.
- b. The members of the HUAA Election Committee
 - i. No member of the Election Committee, nor any election official, shall file in any election or campaign for any office/candidate during any such election that they help conduct.
 - ii. The Elections Committee shall observe campaigning to enforce the Elections Code.
 - iii. The Elections Committee shall consist of:
 1. The Director of Alumni Relations (who will serve as Chair)
 2. DAR Staff Coordinator for HUAA.
 3. The President of HUAA (whom cannot or has elected not to run for the upcoming election)
 4. HUAA Governance Committee
 5. HUAA Officers who have volunteered and selected by DAR
- c. The Election Committee's duties shall include but not be limited to:
 - i. Enforce these regulations and render decision (i.e. disqualification) for any violation.



2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



- ii. Register any campaign material to be distributed by the candidates prior to its distribution.
- iii. Set hours of availability and provide contact information for the purpose of allowing candidates access to the Elections Committee.
- iv. Direct a candidate to take specific action in regard to adhering to the Election Guidelines.
- v. Confiscate all campaign materials in violation of the Elections Code and assess the appropriate penalty.

The Election Process:

a. Election and Tenure:

- i. As detailed in Article VIII of the HUAA Constitution, the officers of the Association shall be a President, a Vice President for Administration, a Vice President for Finance, a Vice President for Membership and Engagement, a Secretary and an Executive Secretary, and such other officers as the Alumni Council from time to time may consider necessary for the proper conduct of the business of the Association. The officers shall be elected biennially in even numbered years by the members of the Association in accordance with Article IX of the HUAA Constitution. The Executive Secretary shall be that person who holds the office of Director of Alumni Relations at the University. The term of office for each officer shall commence on July 1 of each even numbered year immediately following the election to office and shall conclude on June 30 of the next even numbered year. No officer (other than the Executive Secretary) shall serve more than two consecutive terms.
- ii. As detailed in Article IX of the HUAA Constitution, there shall be one (1) Regional Chair to represent each region in Article V. Each Regional Chair shall be elected biennially in even numbered years by the members of each of the seven regions in accordance with Article X. The term of office for each Regional Chair shall commence on July 1 of each even numbered year immediately following the election to office and shall conclude on June 30 of the next even numbered year. No elected Regional Chair shall serve more than two consecutive terms.

b. Election Dates:

- i. The Department of Alumni Relations will determine the schedule for the nomination process, the convening of the HUAA Election Committee to determine the candidates, the distribution of the



HUAA
Howard University
Alumni Association



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY

Development &
Alumni Relations

HOWARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
REVISED JANUARY 2026



2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



ballots and the returning of the ballots. The schedule will be set such that the election of the **2026 – 2028** officers will be completed by the beginning of the fiscal year on **July 1, 2026**.

- ii. The Department of Alumni Relations maintains administrative discretion in determining the official date of elections. The Election Committee can propose the start date of an election if unforeseen circumstances arise that would warrant such a change. The Department of Alumni Relations has the final authority.

c. Voting:

- i. The Election will be conducted via electronic ballot, facilitated by ElectionBuddy. Ballots will be marked in the manner designated by the Department of Alumni Relations. Individuals eligible to vote can vote only once.
- ii. If an eligible alumna/us has not received a ballot, it is incumbent upon the alumna/us to immediately contact the Department of Alumni Relations at (202)-250-5122 or via email HUAselections@howard.edu to verify their email address and to certify their eligibility to vote. Only HUAA members who earned degrees as determined by the Department of Alumni Relations will be eligible to vote.
- iii. A unique access key is provided to each eligible Alum via email or text and can only be used once. Please note that this information is coming from ElectionBuddy.
- iv. A voter can cast his/her ballot from **March 23, 2026, to April 8, 2026**, at 11:59 PM Eastern Time.

d. Ballots:

- i. Positions for the ballot used during the actual election will be alphabetically listed (Last Name, First Name, M.I.).
- ii. No phrases, slogans, nicknames, or slate names may be attached to a candidate's name on the ballot. The name that will appear on the ballot must be the name that appears on the candidate's name in the Alumni database.

e. Voter Qualifications:

- i. A voter must be a degreed alumna/us.

f. Election Results:

- i. Results of all elections will be verified and validated by ElectionBuddy.
- ii. After receipt of the elections results verification and votes DAR will make the information public via email and post it on the website.

g. Votes Required to Win:



Development &
Alumni Relations

HOWARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
REVISED JANUARY 2026

2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



- i. Election winners are determined by a simple majority of votes from voters. A run-off election shall be held, if necessary, if there is a tie for the majority of votes or no majority of votes is met for any one position.

h. **Recounts:**

- i. Should a candidate wish to call for a recount of the vote, he/she must enter into a contract with the Howard University Alumni Association stating that if the outcome of the election changes the Alumni Association will cover the financial costs of the recount. **However, should the outcome of the election not change, then it is the candidate's responsibility to cover any charges incurred in recounting the ballots.**

i. **Election Contests / Administrative Error:**

- i. A candidate may contest an election no later than twenty-four (24) hours after the official results are posted by filing a written appeal with the Elections Committee stating the basis on which the election is being contested.
- ii. If prior to the Elections Committee certification, it is discovered that the winning candidate was not qualified because of an error in the certification provided by the Department of Alumni Relations, the current HUAA President will declare the post vacant.

j. **Run-Off Elections:**

- i. Run-off elections shall be conducted in the same manner as general elections with the following exceptions:
 - ii. Candidates need only to receive a simple majority in run-off elections.
 - iii. No write-in votes shall be accepted in a run-off election.
- In the event of an exact tie in a run-off election, the election shall be decided by a coin toss to be held in the presence of the Howard University Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations. The Elections Committee shall administer the coin toss using a coin of the Director of Alumni Relations for choosing, which may be inspected by the candidates prior to the toss.
- iv. In run-off elections, those names to be placed on the ballot shall be those of the candidates involved in the tie. If deemed necessary, the coin toss might be conducted virtually.

k. **Position Specific Requirements/Qualifications:**

- i. Qualifications to run for President and Vice President for Administration of the Association are as follows: An earned degree from the University; Graduated at least three (3) years prior to the election; Served in an Association leadership position on the Executive Committee for two (2) years immediately prior to



Development &
Alumni Relations

HOWARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
REVISED JANUARY 2026



2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



assuming office; and must be a Sustaining Member of the Association.

- ii. Qualifications to run for Vice President for Finance, Vice President for Membership and Engagement, and Secretary of the Association are as follows: Earned a degree from the University; graduated at least three (3) years prior to the election; served in an Association leadership position - either locally, regionally, or nationally - for two (2) years immediately prior to assuming office; and must be a Sustaining Member of the Association.
- iii. Qualifications to run for Regional Chair of the Association are as follows: the candidate must have an earned degree from the University; have graduated at least three (3) years prior to the election; and been a member of an Association constituent unit in the representing region for at least two (2) years immediately prior to assuming office. Region I-VI: Must reside in the Region during the entirety of term and two years prior to taking office. Region VII: Must be a member of a school-based, interest-based club or Professional association/club during the entirety of the term and two years prior to taking office.

I. Rulings of the Election Committee

- i. Candidates must adhere immediately to all rulings and directives issued by the Elections Committee. Any candidate that fails to adhere shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Election Committee and possible disqualification.

Duties of the Candidates:

Rules of Campaigning

- a. Campaigning is defined as an operation or series of operations energetically pursued to accomplish a purpose; any group, individual, or organizations seeking to gain, encourage, or incite public attention for support of any slate or candidate. The Elections Committee reserves the right to be the judge of what additionally constitutes campaigning.
- b. No candidate or their supporters may remove, deface, destroy, or obscure the campaign material of any other candidate.
- c. Off-campus campaigning on public property must comply with applicable municipal, state, and federal laws.
- d. All e-mail advertising for a specific candidate during the campaign period must include a disclaimer at the bottom of the e-mail that reads, "Please reply to sender if you do not wish to receive further e-mail from this candidate. If you still receive e-mail from this candidate, please contact the



Development &
Alumni Relations

HOWARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
REVISED JANUARY 2026

2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



Election Committee at HUAAelections@howard.edu."

- e. The candidate or the candidate's staff will not send e-mail to any recipient who chooses to be removed from the candidate's mailing list until the election has concluded. Any candidate who sends e-mail to a recipient who has chosen to be removed will be subject to disciplinary action by the Elections Committee.
- f. Listservs may be created by a campaign for the purpose of campaigning or informing a campaign staff and/or supporter. E-mails sent to any previously established non- personal listserv are not permitted.
- g. Websites created for the purpose of campaigning may not be accessible online prior to the campaigning period.
- h. Each candidate shall be responsible for the removal and disposal of all displayed campaign materials within forty-eight (48) hours of the announcement of election results, with the exception that candidates proceeding to run-off elections have until seventy-two (72) hours following the announcement of run-off election results.
- i. There are no slates in the Howard University Alumni Association Elections. Any campaign material listing for more than one candidate holds joint responsibility for all candidates listed. It is imperative to run it through the election committee for review and approval. Therefore, material produced with multiple candidates must have permission from and be approved by all candidates listed.
- j. All candidates shall conduct themselves according to the Howard University Code of Conduct.
- k. Any candidate or member of the candidate's staff who violates departmental or University regulations, municipal, state, or federal law in an action related to campaigning shall be subject to disciplinary action by the Election Committee and the appropriate authorities.
- l. The use of campus affiliated media outlets is acceptable; however, all correspondence between the candidate and media outlet must be presented to the Elections Committee prior to publication or broadcast.
- m. The presidential debate will be planned by the Department of Alumni Relations
- n. Notice of all rallies, parties, debates, fundraisers, etc. must be submitted to the Elections Committee, in writing, three (3) business days prior to the event. The Elections Committee will be the sponsor for all campaign-related requests for university facilities; however, the candidates shall be responsible for any damages or misuse of facilities.
- o. Campaign Material Submission Deadline. All campaign materials must be submitted to the Elections Committee for review and approval no later than: Wednesday, March 11, 2026, at 5:00 PM Eastern Time. This deadline applies to all campaign materials, including but not limited to:



HUAA
Howard University Alumni Association



Development &
Alumni Relations

HOWARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
REVISED JANUARY 2026

2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



- Flyers and posters
- Email communications
- Social media graphics and posts
- Campaign websites or webpages
- Apparel (shirts, hats, buttons, etc.)
- Videos and digital advertisements

p. Campaign materials submitted after March 11, 2026, at 5:00 PM ET will not be reviewed or approved. No new campaign materials may be introduced after March 11, 2026. Materials distributed without approval or after the deadline will constitute a violation of the Elections Code and will result in penalties.

Other Campaigning:

- a. Before a candidate embarks on an activity not expressly mentioned in these regulations including broadcasts and webcasts, they must obtain approval, in writing, from the Elections Committee prior to the start of that activity. The candidate is restricted from proceeding with the activity until approval has been obtained. The Elections Committee will have a maximum time of two (2) business days to rule on the activity in question and notify the candidate of the ruling.
- b. Campaign materials can be submitted to the Election Committee starting March 2, 2026.
- c. Further violations and violation explanations can be found in Appendix 1 on page 12 of this document.

All campaign materials must be submitted to and approved by the Elections Committee prior to distribution. Candidates are strongly encouraged to submit all materials no later than three (3) business days before voting opens. Once voting has begun, the Elections Committee will deny approval of new materials to ensure fairness. Materials distributed without approval, or after approval windows have closed, constitute violations of the Elections Code.

Campaign Staffs

- a. A candidate may form a campaign staff prior to the campaign period in order to research a platform and help the candidate prepare for the campaigning period.
- b. A candidate or a candidate's representative must ask people to join his/her campaign staff on an individual basis.
- c. A candidate or campaign staff may not reserve meeting space in any Howard University facility without the approval of the Elections Committee.
- d. The candidate will be held responsible for the actions taken by his/her supporters.



HUAA
Howard University
Alumni Association



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY



HOWARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
REVISED JANUARY 2026

2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



Contacting the Elections Committee:

- a. Candidates or campaign managers may contact the Elections Committee during the set of office hours or hours of availability for the purpose of consultation pertaining to the election guidelines. As an exception, the Election Committee may be contacted anytime via email at HUAelections@howard.edu.

Campaign Materials:

- a. Campaign materials are defined as anything distributed, displayed, posted or broadcasted for the purpose of soliciting votes for a candidate.
- b. All printed and online campaign materials must be registered and approved by the Elections Committee. Campaign materials such as clothing and other items difficult to email must be sent to and approved by the Elections Committee prior to distribution or reproduction. Any materials not registered shall be confiscated, and the candidate shall be subject to disciplinary actions regardless of the origin of the campaign materials.
- c. No candidate shall employ a trademarked symbol or any copyrighted material as campaign materials, with the exception that Howard University trademarks and copyrights may be used provided that the Elections Committee has secured approval from the Appropriate Office. The HUAA logo and/or HUAA Constituent Units logo may NOT be used unless you are currently in a HUAA leadership position. In this case, the candidate must also present the materials, for review and approval by the Election Committee.
- d. The Elections Committee has the power to remove or order the removal of any materials that are in violation of the Elections Code.
- e. All candidates are required to provide digital photos of campaign T-shirts, hats, jackets, and other clothing to the Elections Committee. The Election Committee reserves the right to define the category to which items belong.
- f. Campaign materials cannot contain vulgar nor slanderous language. The Elections Committee reserves the right to define "vulgar" and/or "slanderous" and deny approval of any materials deemed as such.

Endorsements:

- a. The Elections Committee shall be the judge of what constitutes an endorsement. The term "endorsement" shall be defined as approval or support for a candidate by public statement (either written, verbal, video or social media), monetary sponsorship or campaign assistance.
- b. No constituent unit or affiliate HUAA organization may endorse a candidate for office. However, candidates may accept endorsements from other

2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



members or individuals. Additionally, no candidate may accept from any recognized HUAA affiliate its assistance as a recognized HUAA affiliate to obtain for a candidate any university resource to which that candidate would not have access as individual alum. No candidate may accept any recognized HUAA affiliate financial contributions of any type.

Violations and Appeals Process:

- a. The purpose of this section is to ensure that a fair and impartial election has been held. No person, or group of persons, shall prevent this upright purpose from being achieved by violating the provisions of this Elections Code.
- b. These provisions on violations govern the procedure in all cases and proceedings on violation of these Elections Guidelines, and in any appellate review thereof. They shall be construed to secure the just determination of every action.
- c. The term “violation” is further defined in Appendix One (1). Items, which will be considered violations, are outlined in Appendix One (1) also, Section Eight (8) of the Howard University Code of Conduct outlines activities, which will be considered illegal as well.
- d. Procedure for filing charges. Any Howard University Alumni Association member shall have the right to file charges against candidates or groups of candidates. All charges must be presented in writing to the Elections Committee.
- e. A candidate who wishes to report an alleged violation of the Elections Code may do so by filing out a written account of the alleged violation with the Elections Committee within forty - eight (48) hours of the alleged violation. If violation is not filed with the Elections Committee within this time, the allegation will be considered invalid and will not be recognized by the Committee.
- f. Time Limitations. No complaint, with the exception of failure to remove campaign material, shall be accepted later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern standard time on the Monday following the last Election Day. Charges of failure to remove all campaign materials from all University property may be filed until noon eastern time of the Wednesday immediately following the election. Candidates are still subject to actions of the Elections Committee even though the election may be certified.
- g. Service of Charges. For each complaint form filed with the Elections Committee, a copy of the complaint shall be sent at all due and reasonable speed, to the alleged violator and to the member filing the complaint. The Elections Committee shall be responsible for serving all copies. Service of the copies of the complaint shall be via e-mail and may be accompanied by an oral communication of the same.



HOWARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
REVISED JANUARY 2026



2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



- h. Counseling. The Elections Committee shall work under the premise that blatant violations of this Elections Code must be corrected with all due speed so that they do not occur in the future. When the Elections Committee receives a complaint form, a copy of the form will be mailed to the alleged violator via e-mail. The alleged violator must submit a written response to the Committee within forty-eight (48) hours of notification.
- i. Decision. No later than forty-eight (48) hours after the receipt of the alleged violator's response, a majority of the Elections Committee will convene and render a decision. Once a decision has been made, with all due and reasonable speed, the Elections Committee will notify the alleged violator. If the alleged violator wishes to appeal to the decision of the Alumni Elections Committee, they must do so in writing, within forty-eight (48) hours of the receipt of the Committee's decision.

Nominating Committee/Violation Board:

- i. The Nominating Committee shall serve as the violation of appeals board to review appeals made by candidates who have been found in violation. The violation board shall review all appealed decisions to determine if the decision rendered was made in accordance with the provisions of this Elections Code, and to determine if there is evidence of injustice.
 1. If the Violation Appeals Board determines, by a simple majority vote, that a decision was made in accordance with the provisions of this Election Code and that there was no evidence of injustice, the ruling by the Elections Committee will stand.
 2. If the Violation Appeals Board determines, by a simple majority vote, that a decision was not made in accordance with the provisions of this Elections Code and/or that there was evidence of injustice, the ruling by the Elections Committee will be overturned and the case will be returned to the Elections Committee for reassessment.
 3. The Violation Appeals Board shall not have the power to levy penalties against an alleged violator based on an examination of the violations against him/her in accordance with the Elections Code.
 4. The Violation Appeals Board will serve as an appellate body only.
- ii. A Final Appeal can be made to the Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations or their representative.
 1. Only matters pertaining to disqualification or those infractions/violations that would definitively alter the outcome of the election may be appealed from the Elections Committee to the Howard University Vice President for Development and Alumni Relations. Upon consultation with the Nominating Committee, the

2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



Elections Committee reserves the right to define “definitively alter the outcome of the election.” In all other matters, the final decision of the Elections Committee will stand.

Penalties:

- i. Penalties for candidates: Penalties for candidates are detailed in Appendix One (1).
- ii. Penalties for non-candidates. Upon finding that a non-candidate or candidate has violated any part of this Election Code, the Elections Committee may impose upon the non-candidate(s) one or more of the following penalties in addition to the penalties detailed in Appendix One:
 1. Disqualification from holding any HUAA office, local, regional, or national, for one election cycle, beginning on the date of imposition.
 2. Disqualification from holding any position on any HUAA committee, local, regional, or national, for one election cycle, beginning on the date of imposition.
 3. Disqualification from being appointed to any HUAA position, local, regional, or national, for one election cycle, beginning on the date of imposition.

Appellate Ethics:

- i. If at any time during the appeals process, the integrity of a member of the appellate body can be legitimately questioned or if a direct conflict of interest arises, that is, the member is required to make a decision that directly affects them or a known associate, then in the interest of fairness and the integrity of the process, the member must recuse themselves or may be dismissed from the body with a majority vote.

Appendix One: Howard University Alumni Association Elections Code:

- a. Violations of the Elections Code will not be tolerated. What follows is a listing of what will be defined as a violation of the Elections Code. Each item will be considered a violation, and the consequences outlined in the Elections Code will apply.
 - i. Lists which are acceptable for use will be provided to all candidates by the Department of Alumni Relations.
 - ii. Candidates are responsible for agents acting on their behalf. This is defined as someone campaigning for you.
 - iii. Candidates must submit a signed Candidate Acknowledgment & Certification prior to campaigning. Failure to submit the acknowledgment by the required deadline may result in ineligibility to campaign or appear on the ballot.
- b. Campaign Materials. Violations in the following section may be assessed as a

2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



penalty ranging from (10 to 30 points per instance up to disqualification), at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

- i. Materials are not allowed to be placed in any University mailboxes (physical or electronic) or on university property without permission and approval by the Elections Committee.
- ii. Posters should never be removed by anyone but the proper authorities. Candidates are not allowed to remove or deface posters.
- iii. Any placement of campaign material that is illegal by city, county, state, or federal law is in violation of the Howard University Student Elections Code. The Elections Committee will be charged with the responsibility of filing criminal charges in the instance that this occurs.
- iv. No University facility is to be used to produce campaign material. This includes but is not limited to: The Department of Alumni Relations, any University owned computer, any University office, and the supplies kept in these places. This does not apply to places like the I-Lab. I-Lab policies and procedures will apply.
- v. No HUAA funds may be used for campaigning or for the purpose of elections except for the production of online ballots and/or information as sent by the Department of Alumni Relations.
- vi. Candidates are not allowed to place campaign materials on any University server or use any University- sponsored listserv.
- vii. Campaign literature that has more than one candidate listed holds joint responsibility for violations. For example, a poster taped to a wall is considered a violation by each candidate listed.
- viii. All other violations pertaining to campaign materials shall not be penalized by more than 30 points per instance.

- c. Email Blasts/Websites/Social Media. Violations in the following section may be assessed as a penalty ranging from (20 to 40 points per instance up to disqualification), at the discretion of the Elections Committee.
 - i. Candidates, or agents acting on their behalf, are not allowed to use previously established list of services which were not of personal creation. Personal list serves are acceptable but must contain language for opting out of receiving the email.
 - ii. All e-mail advertising for a specific candidate during the campaign period must include a disclaimer at the bottom of the e-mail that reads, "Please reply to sender if you do not wish to receive further



HUAA
Howard University
Alumni Association



HOWARD
UNIVERSITY

Development &
Alumni Relations

HOWARD UNIVERSITY DEPARTMENT OF ALUMNI RELATIONS
REVISED JANUARY 2026

2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



e-mail from this candidate. If you still receive e-mail from this candidate, please contact the Election Committee at HUAEElections@howard.edu." The candidate or the candidate's staff will not send e-mail to any recipient who chooses to be removed from the candidate's mailing list until the election has concluded. Any candidate who sends e-mail to a recipient who has chosen to be removed will be subject to disciplinary action by the Elections Committee.

- iii. No email should combine official HUAA or University business with campaigning or elections information of any kind.
- iv. Any website or social media must follow all the same rules and regulations for any other material distributed or digital.
- v. No candidate shall employ a trademarked symbol or any copyrighted material as campaign materials, with the exception that Howard University trademarks and copyrights may be used provided that the Elections Committee has secured approval from the Department of Alumni Relations. The HUAA logo or HUAA CU logo may NOT be used unless you are a sitting officer. If the usage of the logo is associated with campaigning, the officer must submit a request to the Election Committee for review and approval.

d. Speak Outs/Phone Calls. Violations in the following section may be assessed a penalty ranging from (30 to 50 points per instance up to disqualification), at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

- i. No Candidate should announce candidacy or campaign during official HUAA or University events. This also includes material to be distributed. Campaigning at these events is only acceptable when the event has concluded or during the reception. Any display of or intent to distribute material after an event should be approved first by the Alumni Elections Committee.
- ii. Candidates are not allowed to contact potential voters on their work phone. Only the home phone or listed cell phone number may be used, and candidates should not use any list outside of their own personal one to contact Alumni of the University.
- iii. All other violations pertaining to a candidate, or their agent(s) behavior is punishable by a minimum penalty of 30 points up to disqualification.

e. Non-Listed Violations. Any other violation of this Elections Code is subject to a fine at the discretion of the Elections Committee. Additionally, all other behavior deemed to undermine the integrity of the election process, but may not necessarily be listed in these guidelines, will fall under the

2026 HUAA ELECTIONS GUIDELINES



jurisdiction of the Elections Committee and may be punishable. The Elections Committee reserves the right to define “undermine the integrity of the election process.”

- f. Warnings. The Elections Committee reserves the right to issue a “warning” and not fine a party should extenuate circumstances warrant such an action.
- g. Penalties
 - i. Once a candidate exceeds one-third (1/3) of the point penalty allotment the candidate will be prohibited from developing and/or distributing new forms of PR (i.e. new poster designs, commercials, elections paraphernalia, social media, signs, t-shirts, Facebook announcements/flyers, or any other forms of PR as defined by the Elections Committee)
 - ii. Two-thirds (2/3) of the point penalty allotment they will be prohibited from mailing or further campaigning (i.e., e-mail blasts, post event campaigning, mailings, phone calls, and updates to websites). Any current posted campaign information will be acceptable.
 - iii. The maximum point of penalty allotment, they will be automatically disqualified from the election, and to the extent possible, removed from the ballot. The candidate point allotment is as follows:
 - 1. HUAA Executive Board: 200 points
 - a. President
 - b. Vice-President of Administration
 - c. Vice-President of Membership and Engagement
 - d. Vice-President of Finance
 - e. Secretary
 - 2. All Other Candidates 150 points
- h. Grounds for Automatic Disqualification. At the discretion of the Elections Committee, candidates may be automatically disqualified from the election process if they are found to have “egregiously” violated these guidelines, the Howard University Code of Conduct, the Howard University Alumni Association, or are found to have participated in activities deemed to be unlawful or “grossly unethical.” The Elections Committee reserves the right to define “egregiously” and “grossly unethical.”

