

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 March 8th. 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 a specific candidate for Regional Representative.)

Candidates will need to submit a photo, a campaign flyer, and a campaign video. Materials will be shared through the Missouri 4-H website and social media outlets. Materials can include information about the candidate, why 4-H'ers should vote for them, things they'd like to accomplish through the State 4-H Council, etc. All photos, flyers, and videos must be submitted before March 20th to Megan Kershner at mkershner@missouri.edu.

Photos

Candidates will submit a photo. Photos do not need to be professional quality but will need to clearly identify the candidate. Candidates may use their school photo, or a more candid photo.

Campaign flyer

Each candidate will make a campaign flyer to be displayed in various locations during State 4-H Congress and shared through 4-H social media. All flyers should be no larger than 8.5"x11" and contain the candidate's name and position(s) running for. Candidates can use any platform to create their flyer. Examples of programs include Microsoft Word, Canva, or Adobe to create their flyers. All flyers should be submitted as a PDF.

Videos

Candidates should film a campaign video no longer than 90 seconds in length. Videos do not need to be professional quality. All videos should be filmed vertically.

Campaign speeches

During State 4-H Congress, all candidates will give a campaign speech. All speeches should be 3-4 minutes in length. Speeches must be submitted for approval by May 15th to Megan Kershner at mkershner@missouri.edu. Candidates for the Board of Directors will give their speeches to the entire body during an assembly and be livestreamed through the Missouri 4-H Facebook page. Regional Representatives will give their speeches during a regional meeting. Any candidates running for both Board of Directors and Regional Representative will be allowed to give their speech 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 speeches, and the dining center. Candidates for State 4-H Council will be allowed to check-in early for State 4-H Congress in order to campaign during on-site registration. Candidates who currently serve as Ambassadors will not be allowed to campaign for any office during Teen Conference.

Marketing materials

Any items distributed while campaigning must remain under \$1 per person/unit and under \$150 total. While candidates may pass out materials prior to State 4-H Congress, there will be no distribution of marketing materials during State 4-H Congress (including registration time).

Staff

4-H faculty and staff may not endorse specific candidates. Any social media pages representing a county or regional 4-H program must represent 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 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. Voting will open 8:00AM Monday, May 27th and close Thursday, May 30th at 5:00PM.

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 be allowed to vote for up to 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.)

Youth who are slated for both Board of Directors and Regional Representatives will hold the highest office to which they are elected.

Ties

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

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