

WASC State Officer Candidate Information

2024-25 Term

Please complete the online application posted to
<http://www.wyoasc.org>!

General Information:

- Each candidate must be either a sophomore or a junior during the 2024-25 school year.
- Candidates must receive written approval from their student council adviser AND school principal in order to run for office. A letter of recommendation from each is required.
 - ◆ You will upload these to the online application form posted to the WASC website
- Each school may sponsor only one (1) candidate.
- Candidates are not allowed to run as a ticket. **Each candidate is prohibited from discussing the campaign plans with anyone** - outside of their own council - **prior to the start of state convention.**
 - ◆ Please refrain from making social media posts, etc. to initiate your campaign prior to the start of state convention.
- Each candidate must sign the WASC Code of Conduct.

In order to help candidates plan for a strong, realistic campaign, the following information is provided regarding the realities of the executive board operations.

We want you to have a positive and exciting experience if you run for a WASC office. We suggest that you ask your adviser and/or Patty Mitchelson - WASC Executive Director - about any ideas or concerns you have in planning your campaign.

1. **Funds for WASC are limited.** ALL WASC funds are generated through registration fees for Summit meetings, State Convention and Summer Leadership Conference (SLC). Our funds are budgeted to meet our projected expenses and **do not allow for** additional items. We are a non-profit organization. **Please do not promise new initiatives that will require funds that we do not have.**
2. The WHSAA calendar is filled with athletic events and activities. **Please do not promise a longer convention or another convention** because both time and funding would be prohibitive.
3. All officers will abide by the WASC Code of Conduct.
4. The board holds approximately three or four meetings annually - one in December or January, one in the spring and/or summer, one on the Sunday prior to Summit meetings, and one on the Sunday prior to the State Convention. There will be some virtual meetings as well. One of our board meetings will require travel to the upcoming convention host site (2025 = potentially in Cheyenne). Furthermore, our board meetings will either be located in Casper, Riverton or Cheyenne.

1. Your attendance at these meetings is mandatory. In the event that you cannot travel to the site of the board meeting, we can arrange for a conference call to allow for your participation - advanced notice is required.
5. We encourage students to carpool with adult members (parents or school advisers) whenever possible - or use school transportation to board meetings. Mileage is **not** reimbursed.
6. Officers are required to attend all board meetings, the VISION Conference (2025 = Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, June 27-29, 2025, SLC (July 13-16, 2025) - as either a Level I or Level II delegate or be accepted through the application process to be a JC, Summit Meetings (third week of September 22-Casper, September 23-Riverton), and the WASC State Convention (November 2025).
7. If a pre-trip before the VISION Conference is planned, WASC officers must pay their own expenses for the pre-conference trip. Their transportation and conference registration are covered by WASC funds. Furthermore, your SLC registration fees are paid for by WASC.
8. Communication among board members depends heavily on e-mail. You should have an e-mail account that you check regularly for WASC information. We ask that you provide us with your personal email address, as many school districts restrict who can email you from outside of your school district.
9. **A WASC office is more than “another line on your resume.” It is an amazing experience, but has a serious commitment of time and energy. If you are not able to meet the requirements of the office, abide by the WASC Code of Conduct and/or attend the events listed above, please do not consider running for an office.**

Please direct any questions you have about the responsibilities or procedures to:

Patty Mitchelson
WASC Board Member
patty.mitchelson@swcsd2.org

2024 Election Procedures -

The following is crucial for schools that plan to have a candidate for office.

1. All candidates for office must complete the Officer Candidate Application in its entirety by **THURSDAY, October 31, 2023**. Late applications will not be accepted.
2. Only one (1) candidate may run from each school. Candidates must be official voting delegates to the convention. Please read the WASC Constitution (posted on www.wyoasc.org) to be perfectly clear on procedures and expectations. Ignorance or failure to comply with election guidelines will result in disqualification.
3. In the event that no one has filed for an office (such as no candidates for vice president) by November 1, 2024 - all candidates will be notified and at that time they can choose to run for another office.
4. The candidate essay, written by the candidate on their application form, will be reproduced and distributed to schools in the registration packets. This is an initial impression of the candidate, so please proofread and be genuine.

5. No candidate can send out pre-convention mail-outs or campaign via email or social networking sites, and any other mass-messaging tool (i.e. - cell phones - texting - Twitter - etc.). Campaigning before the start of convention is prohibited. Candidates who violate this rule will be disqualified.
6. Candidates are **not** allowed to discuss their campaign plans with anyone outside of their own council. Therefore, running on a “ticket” is prohibited. Discussing your plans to run for a specific office and joining with other candidates is considered “pre-campaigning” and is prohibited.
7. Because, as a candidate, you will be on stage and because it is important to let your appearance make a great first impression, candidates must adhere to the candidate dress code:
 - Ladies - Pants suit, knee length (or longer) dress or skirt with appropriate top or jacket. No bare shoulders or midriffs.
 - Gentlemen - Dress slacks or khakis, collared shirt (tie optional). No hats.
 - Please dress accordingly for both days of the convention should you proceed through the primary election (to be held Monday evening).
8. Candidates will have a brief meeting Monday morning before the start of the convention. Candidates will be introduced by the current state officers and give their primary speech during the first general session on Monday morning. You will then participate in a question and answer session Monday afternoon/evening.
9. Candidates for secretary should have some background in desktop publishing, canva or journalism.
10. The key to success is meeting people. Campaigning on Monday must be limited to before the morning session, breaks, and the dinner hour. Campaigns cannot interrupt the general sessions, interschool sharing, or workshops.
11. A candidate’s school delegation can wear buttons, stickers and/or t-shirts supporting the candidate.
12. Every candidate will receive an email from the executive director by November 2, 2024 confirming his/her candidacy. If you do not receive an email, please contact the executive director immediately.
13. Elections will be held as follows:
 1. There is a primary and a general election.
 2. Primary candidates will send in an electronic poster to be shown on the screen in the main gym. If you have questions about your posters, PLEASE INQUIRE ABOUT APPROPRIATENESS BEFORE SENDING IT IN. Please send your digital poster to Patty Mitchelson at patty.mitchelson@swcsd2.org no later than **TUESDAY, November 5, 2024.**
 3. Primary election speeches will be no longer than three **(3) minutes** and will be delivered Monday morning. Speeches are timed. Jolene Whitley will raise her hand when you have 30 seconds remaining. Should your time expire while you are still speaking, Mrs. Whitley will yell “time.” You are to stop speaking and return to your seat on the stage.
 4. General election speeches will be no longer than **90 seconds** and will be delivered Tuesday morning. Mrs. Whitley will raise her hand when you have 15 seconds remaining. Should your time expire while you are still speaking, Mrs. Whitley will yell “time.” You are to stop speaking and return to your seat on the stage.

5. Candidates are encouraged to be on stage - alone - for their speeches. However, if you need someone to hold an appropriate prop, that person may be on stage with the candidate, but cannot speak or beat box.
6. Speeches are encouraged to be of a professional nature. Time for the speech includes set-up time. Each candidate in the general election will be asked an extempore question by the current officers prior to the election on Tuesday.
7. The primary election will be held on Monday night. Two candidates for each office will advance to the general election.
8. The general election will be held Tuesday morning.
9. Please ensure that you keep your campaign positive. At no time should a candidate ever demean their opponent(s). Negative campaigning will result in the disqualification of the candidate.