

ELECTIONEERING GUIDELINES FOR CANDIDATES



Purpose and Authority

These Electioneering Guidelines are issued by the Returning Officer under the [Governance Rule](#). They set out the requirements governing electioneering conduct for candidates.

In accordance with the Governance Rule, the Returning Officer determines the manner in which an election is conducted and will decide all matters relating to the conduct of the election.

General Conduct

Freedom of speech is supported in accordance with the principles set out in the University's [Code for the Protection of Freedom of Speech and Academic Freedom](#).

The University expects all candidates to:

- campaign positively and in good faith;
- act respectfully toward other candidates and members of the University community; and
- behave consistently with community and University values and not engage in conduct that has the potential to bring the University into disrepute.

These requirements apply equally to candidates and any person acting on their behalf.

Compliance with University Policies

All candidates and their supporters must comply with applicable laws, these Guidelines and University policies including:

- [Student Code of Conduct](#) / [Staff Code of Conduct](#) (as applicable);
- [Campus Access Policy](#);
- [Health and Safety Guidelines](#);
- [Privacy Policy](#); and
- [Digital Technology Conditions of Use Policy](#).

Candidates are responsible for ensuring that any person acting on their behalf complies with the applicable requirements.

Election Integrity

Candidates and their supporters must not:

- exert undue influence, pressure, or coercion on any elector;

- misrepresent voting procedures, eligibility, or the role of the Returning Officer; and
- engage in behaviour that may compromise the secrecy, security, or proper administration of the ballot.

In particular, candidates and their supporters are prohibited from soliciting votes from voters by means of providing a mobile electronic device (including but not limited to laptops, tablets, iPads and phones) to enable voting in the presence of the candidate or their supporter.

On Campus Campaigning

Campaigning on University premises must:

- comply with the [Campus Access Policy](#);
- not disrupt teaching, research, or administrative activities;
- not occur in restricted areas without approval; and
- not obstruct access to facilities or services.

Posters and banners may only be displayed on designated noticeboards unless prior approval is obtained in accordance with the [Campus Access Policy](#).

Electronic Communications and Data Use

Candidates must ensure that all electronic campaigning (including email and social media):

- clearly identifies the sender;
- does not imply endorsement by the University;
- complies with privacy obligations;
- does not involve use of mailing lists or personal information that is not available to all staff or students (as the case may be); and
- is not excessive, intrusive, or spam-like.

Use of University branding, logos, or official communication channels must not suggest institutional endorsement.

Campaigning emails (that is, emails which promote or endorse one or more particular candidates) may only be sent by candidates, and not by others on their behalf.

Prohibition on Inducements

Candidates must not offer any gift, benefit, or inducement intended to influence an elector's vote. This includes (but is not limited to) the provision of goods, services, or incentives.

Complaints and determinations

Any complaint regarding electioneering conduct should be submitted to the Deputy Returning Officer in the first instance via elections@newcastle.edu.au.

The Returning Officer will make a final determination on all matters relating to the conduct of the election in accordance with the Governance Rule.

Compliance and Enforcement

Failure to comply with these Guidelines may result in action by the Returning Officer, including:

- directions to cease or modify conduct;
- removal of campaign materials;
- exclusion of campaign communications; and
- referral for action under applicable University misconduct or disciplinary processes.

Further information

Contact the Deputy Returning Officer,
Legal and Governance Services
E: elections@newcastle.edu.au