

JOINT ELECTIONS COMMISSION

Policy Commission

[Docket No. JEC-2024-2]

Final Rule 2: Petitioning

I. Signature collection rules and restricted zones

A. The JEC charter and bylaws allows the Policy Commission to establish restricted zones for campaigning and petitioning.

1. Pursuant to this clause the Policy Commission prohibits the collection of signatures either in-person or virtually in all GW owned or managed Residence Halls and Libraries.

a) Except that signatures may be collected on the basement level of Thurston Hall outside the entrance of the dining hall, the 1st floor of Shenkman hall in the lobby located outside of Shenkman Market and at the top of the stairs leading down to the dining hall, and in the District House Dining facility.

B. Additionally, all petitioning candidates must follow the instructions of all GW faculty, staff, contractors, and GWPD officers when petitioning in any university owned or managed space, including all university property on the Foggy Bottom and Mount Vernon campuses.

C. Failure to adhere to the restricted zones and/or the instructions of all GW faculty, staff, contractors, and GWPD officers is punishable by one (1) penalty point per violation in accordance with the violation procedures outlined in the JEC charter and bylaws.

II. Petitioning forms

A. All virtual petitions will take place using Engage.

1. To request a virtual petition a candidate must email the JEC at its official email address and allow 24 hours for a petition to be created and the access link to be provided to the candidate. Candidates requesting that an Engage petition be created for them must send the statement of candidacy form with their request so that the JEC may create their Engage virtual petition.
2. Candidates may begin requesting virtual petitions 3 days prior to the start of candidate registration, to do so a candidate must submit their statement of candidacy form to the Commission email with a request for a Engage virtual petition, the Commission will email the candidate back the virtual petition which will become automatically active at the start of the official petition period as set by the Commission. All requests for Engage virtual petitions may take up to 24 hours for a response.

III. Online dashboard for virtual petitions

- A. It is the responsibility of the candidate to ensure that they have the requisite number of signatures before the end of candidate registration. Furthermore, it is the responsibility of the candidate to keep track of how many in-person signatures the candidate has received. It is the responsibility of the policy commission to maintain a count of virtual signatures and to provide this to the candidates in a timely manner.

1. In furtherance of this responsibility, the Policy Commission will publish a dashboard accessible on the commission's website that shall be updated at least once every 24 hours that will publicly list how many unique virtual signatures each candidate has received. If a candidate wishes to know how many virtual signatures they have received it is their responsibility to view the dashboard.

- a) This shall fulfill the commission's responsibility regarding the timely production of signature counts noted in the JEC charter and bylaws.

IV. Validity of Signature Lines and Engage virtual signature form submissions

- A. Valid signature lines on paper petitions or Engage virtual signature form submissions for virtual petitions for non-delegated races must contain the following information to be deemed valid by the Policy Commission. Should a signature line or Engage form submission lack the following information that signature must be ruled invalid and not counted towards the signature count for a candidate's petition.

1. Student's full name, a lack of first and/or last name shall disqualify a signature
2. Full valid 8 numerical digit GWID number (with or without the preceding G), having more or less than 8 numerical digits shall disqualify said signature
3. Student's class year (expressed by year of completion of program or by class standing [freshman, sophomore, 1st year, etc.]

4. Student's School within GW
5. A signature or affirmation of intent to sign
6. All portions of a signature line or Engage virtual signature form submissions shall be filled out and signed or affirmed by the student whose name appears in the signature line or Engage form submission.

V. Validity of Petition

A. Valid petitions must have been conducted in the following manner in order for it to be deemed valid. It should be presumed that a petition was collected in a valid manner unless there is evidence, testimony, or formal complaint that alleges a petition was collected contrary to this rule. Petitions that conform with this rule and any other validly adopted rules of the commission as well as the JEC charter and bylaws and have the requisite number of signatures, less any invalid signature lines or invalid Engage virtual signature form submissions, shall be deemed valid by the Policy Commission, and petitions that do not conform deemed invalid.

1. All paper petition pages or Engage virtual signature form submissions shall contain the following information prior to signatures being collected in order to be valid.
 - a) The candidates name listed clearly at the top of the signature page
 - b) The office or seat that the candidate is seeking
2. Additional information required for for all pages of paper petitions prior to signature collection

(1) The name of the authorized agent or candidate collecting all signatures for that page (It is permissible to submit partial pages should an authorized agent only collect enough signatures to fill a portion of a page)

VI. Statement of Candidacy and Petition Submission

A. The JEC will publicize via the Commission Instagram account when they will accept in-person submissions of physical signature pages. These will all occur before the close of the petitioning period. Alternatively, candidates may scan and submit their petition forms via email to the official JEC email address prior to 11:59 pm on the day that candidate registration closes. If a candidate chooses to submit their petitions this way, the JEC may request the physical copies at a later date for JEC records purposes. Engage virtual signatures will submit automatically at the close of registration. ALL CANDIDATES MUST SUBMIT THEIR STATEMENT OF CANDIDACY FORM EITHER IN PERSON OR VIA EMAIL BEFORE 11:59 pm on the day candidate registration closes.

VII. Severability clause

A. If any provision of this rule is held invalid or unenforceable as such, such invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect any other provision of this rule and such other provisions shall continue in full force and effect.