



# JOIN STUDENT SENATE

## STUDENT SENATE CAMPAIGN GUIDE

### SPRING 2024 ELECTIONS

#### IMPORTANT DATES

Declaration Period: Ends at 4 pm on Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Eligibility Confirmation: Thursday, February 29, 2024

Campaign Period: Through Friday, March 8, 2023

Elections Dates: Monday, March 4 and Friday, March 8, 2024 via the URI Campus Labs website

Do you want more information about the Elections? Thinking about running and would like some advice? Reach out to the Elections Committee at [elections@rhodysenate.org](mailto:elections@rhodysenate.org) or the Student Senate Coordinator at [info@rhodysenate.org](mailto:info@rhodysenate.org).

Senate Elections Committee

E: [elections@rhodysenate.org](mailto:elections@rhodysenate.org)

T: 401.874.2261

Memorial Union Rm. 201, 50 Lower College Rd., Kingston, RI 02881

#### HOW TO GET INVOLVED

Wondering how to run for election to the URI Student Senate? This guide will outline some basic tips on how to conduct your campaign. If you have questions that aren't answered by this guide, or would like some advice, contact the Elections Committee ([elections@rhodysenate.org](mailto:elections@rhodysenate.org)) to set up a meeting with a current member of Senate.

Step 1: **Decide if you are interested in running for the ticketed position of President and Vice President.** The President and Vice President represent the Student Senate at various University functions and engage with University leadership representing the student body and bringing forth the student voice.

**OR**

**Decide which Student Senator representative seat to run for.** There are 44 seats on the Student Senate; each represents a specific demographic at URI. You must belong to the demographic that the seat represents in order to qualify for election. You may run for multiple seats that you qualify for.

Below is a short description of the different representative seats on the Student Senate. To find out what seats are currently open, check the Student Senate's website under the Elections page or call the office for the most up-to-date list at 401.874.2261.

**On-Campus Housing Representatives** – represent the interests of students living on the physical campus of URI (i.e., residence halls, apartments, suites). The representatives make up the On-Campus Housing Caucus and meet with Housing & Residential Life to work on issues relating to on-campus living.

**Off-Campus Housing Representatives** – represent the interests of students living in the nearby off-campus neighborhoods (i.e., Narragansett, Bonnet Shores, Pt. Judith, Eastward Look, etc.). The representatives make up the Off-Campus Housing Caucus and meet with the Commuter Housing Office to work on issues relating to off-campus living and commuting.

**At-Large Representatives** – represent the general interests of the student body as a whole. These positions are open to any student, and all students can vote for them. The representatives work on the issues that affect the student community as a whole.

**Academic College Representatives** – represent the interests of students within the eight (8) academic colleges. Each college elects one (1) representative, who also serves as the liaison to the respective college. These representatives work with Deans and departments of their college to enhance student life and address college-specific problems.

**First Year Representatives** – represent the interests of URI First Year Students (Freshmen and Transfers). A new set of first year representatives are elected by the incoming class each fall semester. Some of the issues and programs addressed by the First Year Reps. are orientation, URI 101, and University College. *This election occurs in the fall semester.*

Step 2: **Declare your candidacy.** Sign up for elections in the Student Senate office during the declaration period. Check the Elections Schedule for the dates of the declaration period or visit the website under the Elections page. Be sure to bring your student ID to the Student Senate office when you sign up. You will have to read and sign a copy of the election rules and fill out your declaration form to be officially on the ballot.

Step 3: **Create a platform.** All candidates should write a platform to introduce themselves and talk about why they are running for election.

Step 4: **Talk to the voters in your constituency.** The students who can vote for you are the students who make up the constituency groups represented by the seats on Student Senate. For example, all students living on campus can vote for the On-Campus Housing Representatives. There are many ways to advertise your candidacy to potential voters, such as:

- Talk to your friends, classmates, & roommates / others in your residence hall
- Ask your friends to spread the word
- Write a letter to the editor in [The Good 5 Cent Cigar](#)

When putting up flyers, be sure to check with an RA in the residence halls, a building manager in the Memorial Union, or a staff person from offices in the academic buildings.

Step 5: **Go to Student Senate meetings & introduce yourself.** The Student Senate is made up of people from every constituency and they vote in elections too! They're also a great resource because they know people in the residence halls, various colleges, and other student groups. Introducing yourself at a Student Senate meeting is a good way to make a great first impression and helps current Senators get to know you as a potential new member.

Step 6: **Remind people about Election Day!** Don't forget to remind everyone when and where the elections are occurring. Encourage prospective voters to visit the Student Senate website to find learn about the Student Senate's role at the University, read candidate platforms, and learn how to vote. Students do NOT need to register to vote! Just come up to the Memorial Union on Election Day and show your student ID to receive ballots!

Step 7: **VOTE!** Remember to vote for yourself, as well as others on the ballot.



# JOIN STUDENT SENATE

## STUDENT SENATE ELECTION RULES

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*Hello candidates!*

*Congrats on beginning your candidacy to the URI Student Senate. Below are our election rules. Please sign and date this document to confirm that you have read these rules and agree to uphold them throughout the campaign.*

1. All candidates must follow health and safety guidelines including appropriate safe distancing, wearing of face coverings, and abiding by any and all group size limitations enacted by the State of Rhode Island, the University of Rhode Island, and other authoritative bodies.
2. Candidates for the URI Student Senate *must* furnish twenty-five (25) signatures of URI Student Senate constituents in order to appear on the ballot; for President/Vice President fifty (50) signatures are required. These signatures must be freely, willfully, and knowledgeably given by constituents. These signatures are due by 4 pm on the last day of candidate declarations and must be turned in via hard copy to a member of the elections committee in the Student Senate Office (MU 201).
3. Candidates may appeal a lack of signatures to a member of the elections committee in order to appear on the ballot. The decision of the elections committee is final.
4. Candidates are required to disclose any members of their campaign staff. Campaign staff members may be required to attend a meeting with the elections committee.
5. Candidates shall refrain from interfering or tampering with the campaign or campaign materials of another candidate.
6. The personal conduct and campaign of candidates shall represent the good spirit and integrity of the URI Student Senate.
7. Posting advertisements may be used on campus, provided that their usage does not harm University or private property nor interferes with the operation of the University. On the days of the election, no person may campaign in classrooms, computer labs or other public gather spaces (dining halls, auditoriums, lounges, Quad, etc.). **All flyers and posters are entirely the responsibility of their candidates** and must be disposed of properly following the election period.
8. No student activities tax funds may be used in any way to influence the outcome of the election.
9. Flyering of parked cars and door-to-door solicitation in residence halls or other common residential facilities is not permitted. Posting of campaign materials inside buildings is only permitted if prior permission from the building director/operator/supervisor, including residential life staff, is granted and **must be taken down prior to the election period.**

Candidates may not physically campaign in, or in the immediate vicinity of, the Student Senate Office (MU 201) or official Student Senate events, but they *may* sign up to speak at a public forum and address the Student Senate at a regularly scheduled meeting.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_





# URI STUDENT SENATE

## Declaration of Intent

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ URI ID #: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Campus Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Local Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Home Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Street \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ URI Email: \_\_\_\_\_@uri.edu

**Candidacy:** I do hereby declare my candidacy for the Senator position of:

- President/Vice President \_\_\_\_\_ (ticket)  
 Candidate Name for President and Vice President (**candidates will submit a joint Declaration of Intent**)
- At-Large
- Off-Campus  On-Campus \_\_\_\_\_ (Residence Hall)
- College:
- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Arts & Science | <input type="checkbox"/> Business                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Education & Professional Studies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering    | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Life Sciences | <input type="checkbox"/> Health Science                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Nursing        | <input type="checkbox"/> Pharmacy                    |   |

**Candidate Platform Statement:** This will be posted and displayed throughout the URI Student Senate Election Commission media outlets regarding your potential candidacy in the Student Senate election. For all candidates in **150 words or less**, describe your ideas and initiatives you would like to put in place if you were elected to the URI Student Senate.

**Candidate Acknowledgements:**

- I shall follow health and safety guidelines including appropriate safe distancing, wearing of face coverings, and abiding by any and all group size limitations enacted by the State of Rhode Island, the University of Rhode Island, and other authoritative bodies.
- To the best of my knowledge, I fulfill the requirements for the office, as stipulation in the Constitution of the Student Senate, Inc. of the University of Rhode Island.
- I have read, understand, and will abide by the Constitution of the Student Senate, Inc. of the University of Rhode Island and agree to abide by all policies, procedures, and practices as held and implemented by the Student Senate, Inc. and of the University of Rhode Island.
- I authorize my name on the Student Senate election ballot.
- I acknowledge that although as a student at the University of Rhode Island my education records are confidential and protected from disclosure by both Federal (FERPA) and associated University and State Privacy Laws, as an active participant in the URI Student Senate, I understand that my actions and any records, regardless of format, created as a result of my elected, appointed, hired, or volunteered position or role (or candidacy) in the URI Student Senate will be released to the public upon request. While the University will make publicly available Student Senate records to the extent that they are directly related to Student Senate business, it will not disclose information from other records that are protected from public disclosure by Rhode Island or federal law.
- By signing this document, I grant my permission for the Advisor to the Student Senate, Inc. to ascertain my eligibility and good standing with the University of Rhode Island.
- I understand that my name being placed on the ballot is contingent upon meeting all my eligibility requirements as stated in the URI Student Senate Constitution.
- I further understand that it is my responsibility to clear any eligibility discrepancies with the Advisor to the Student Senate Inc., by **4:00 pm on Friday, March 1, 2024.**

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

<b>STUDENT GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATIVE USE ONLY</b>	
GPA: _____	College: _____
Holds: _____	Hours Enrolled: _____





# URI STUDENT SENATE

## Signatures in Support of Declaration of Intent

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Position: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signatures:** by signing below, I support the candidate identified for the indicated seat on the URI Student Senate.

Print Name and Signature	Print Name and Signature
1	14
2	15
3	16
4	17
5	18
6	19
7	20
8	21
9	22
10	23
11	24
12	25
13	