



JOIN STUDENT SENATE

STUDENT SENATE CAMPAIGN GUIDE

SPRING 2025 ELECTIONS

IMPORTANT DATES

Declaration Period: Begins at 9:00am on Thursday, February 20, 2025 | Ends at 5:00pm on Thursday, March 6, 2025

Eligibility Confirmation: Friday, March 7, 2025

Campaign Period: Through Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 5:00pm

Elections Dates: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 at 8:00am through Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 5:00pm via URInvolved

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 or the Student Senate Coordinator at info@rhodysenate.org.

Senate Elections Committee

Email: elections@rhodysenate.org

Phone: 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) 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 submit signatures in person. Fill out your declaration form through the [Student Senate Declaration Google Form](#).

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 Senate meeting is a good way to make a great first impression and helps current Senators get to know you. Senate meetings are every Wednesday at 6:30pm in the Senate Chambers.

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 log into URInvolved and vote on the ballots you are eligible for!

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



JOIN STUDENT SENATE

STUDENT SENATE ELECTION RULES

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 5:00 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

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	