



## Campaigning Policy for SMS Elections

### Policy Statement:

This policy aims to maintain a fair and impartial electoral process within the Strategic Management Society by prohibiting campaigning activities during election periods. The purpose is to ensure that all candidates have an equal opportunity to present their platforms and that voters can make informed decisions without undue influence or disruption.

### Scope

The policy extends to elections for officers, board members, and leaders of interest groups and communities and applies to all individuals, including staff, members, and volunteers, during the elections process.

### Prohibited Activities

During the specified election period, individuals subject to this policy are prohibited from engaging in the following activities:

- **Solicitation of Votes:** Individuals should not actively seek or campaign for votes in any form, including but not limited to face-to-face discussions, written materials, electronic communications, or social media platforms.
- **Public Endorsements:** Individuals should not campaign on behalf of, publicly endorse, or promote any candidate during the election period including but not limited to face-to-face discussions, written materials, electronic communications, or social media platforms.
- **Use of Organizational Resources:** Utilizing SMS resources, including email systems, emails lists, social media accounts, Member Circle, or any other platform, for campaigning or endorsement purposes is prohibited.



*Special Note for Volunteer Leaders or others serving in positions of authority:*

Volunteer leaders should be aware that, by virtue of their leadership position, personal opinions expressed may be construed as official or organizational support or could unduly influence other members. Those in leadership positions should refrain from commenting on or providing opinions regarding candidates for election.

## Candidate Election Statements\*

All candidates for elected position will be invited to submit an election statement of up to 250 words, which will be considered the definitive and sole election statement by and on behalf of the candidate. This statement will be posted during the election process and will be available for review during voting.

Candidates may include their qualifications for the role, their history with SMS, and any beneficial initiatives they would propose or put forth for implementation. Candidates should refrain from negative or disparaging commentary within the statements, and the SMS reserves the right to edit or decline any statements that may contain or be construed to contain such commentary.

*\*Election Statements are required SMS Board of Director President-Elect position. Elections statements are optional for all other positions.*

## Enforcement

Any violations of this policy should be brought to the attention of the Governance & Nominating Committee of the SMS Board. The SMS will promptly respond to any action violating this policy. Violation may result in appropriate disciplinary action, which may include but is not limited to warnings, temporary suspension from the election process, or disqualification from candidacy.

## Review and Amendments

This policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness and relevance. Amendments may be made as necessary at the discretion of the SMS Board of Directors.

By adhering to this policy, the organization seeks to maintain the integrity of its electoral process and provide a fair and unbiased environment for candidates and voters alike.