



2025-2026 STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE ELECTION PROCEDURES

Congratulations to you on being elected as your region's State Officer Candidate!

As a State Officer Candidate, you may seek the office of State President (and First Vice President), Vice President of Finance, or National Officer Candidate. These positions are elected at State Leadership Conference. Regardless of desire to run for an elected position, all State Officer Candidates will participate in the elections process at the State Leadership Conference, where all State Officer Candidates will receive their title. Until that time, you will be known as State Officer Candidate.

TERMS TO KNOW

SEC – State Executive Council

SEC Candidate – A current State Executive Council member seeking an additional term in the SEC

SOC – State Officer Candidates

SECA – State Executive Council Adviser

SOCA – State Officer Candidate

STATE OFFICER CANDIDATE APPLICATIONS

Each region shall elect a state officer designated as State Officer Candidate. Any elected SOC may be a candidate for the office of State President (and First Vice President), Vice President of Finance, or National Officer Candidate. The SOC may choose to be a general state vice president and not seek an elected office. His or her office will be determined at the upcoming State Leadership Conference. Until the representative's office is determined at the State Leadership Conference, the representative will be known as a State Officer Candidate (SOC).

KNOWLEDGE TEST

All state officer candidates will take an FCCLA Knowledge Test, regardless of plans to run for an elected position. All candidates must report at the specified time on the agenda for testing. Following the test all candidates and their advisers will report for orientation and information relating to holding the state officer candidate position. Test scores will be provided to the Nominating Committee and SOC will be notified of their test score in the candidate letter on Sunday morning of State Leadership Conference.

The knowledge test will come directly from the *Missouri FCCLA Officer Study Guide*, the *Missouri FCCLA Membership Handbook*, the *State Executive Council Handbook*, or the Missouri and National FCCLA websites. All SOC should be familiar with all of the listed documents regardless of officer position.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE INTERVIEW

The nominating committee will consist of no more than five members including alumni, educators, and business associates appointed by the state adviser. The current Missouri FCCLA Vice President of Elections serves as the Nominating Committee Chair, unless running for a new term; in this case, the Chair will be designated by the State Executive Council President in consultation with the State Adviser. All state officer candidates will complete a nominating committee interview regardless of plans to run for an elected position. The interview helps to determine which officer is an ideal fit for each candidate position.

The interviews will take place with the nominating committee on Saturday evening of State Leadership Conference. Each interview is estimated to last no longer than ten minutes and will consist of questions including, but not limited to, personality, situational, and/or questions based on the officer application. There will be a two-minute time limit on each question. Each SOC will also be asked if they wish to seek the offices of state president, first vice president, vice president of finance, or national officer candidate and why. This decision should be discussed and made with the support of the local chapter adviser, parents/guardians, and school administration prior to State Leadership Conference. Additionally, as

part of the interview, all candidates will be required to recite the Opening and Closing Ceremonies and the FCCLA Creed. Speech topics will be published on the Missouri FCCLA website in January. This speech should be prepared ahead of time. Should a SOC plan to run for an elected position, the speech will be presented during the Opening General Session.

If there are current SEC members running as SOC, they will be interviewed first. All candidates will be interviewed in a predetermined order.

The nominating committee may nominate up to six candidates for the four elected positions. The top six candidates must consist of at least two candidates for the office of state president, so that the offices of state president and first vice president will be filled. State officer candidates will be notified of their knowledge test score as well as their position among the top six SOC or among the eight general state vice presidents via formal letter given at the designated meeting area on Sunday morning.

OPENING GENERAL SESSION

During the Opening General Session, all conference delegates will have a chance to see the SOC seeking the elected positions on the State Executive Council. The top six state officer candidates will introduce themselves on stage with their name, choice of candidacy (president candidate, Vice President of Finance candidate, or national officer candidate), chapter name, and region. Following this introduction, the candidate will present a speech of no more than 60 seconds on a provided topic. Rehearsal for Opening General Session will take place on Sunday.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

Meet the Candidates is designed to test SOC public speaking skills, ability to think on your feet, and also provides the chance to have interaction with the voting delegates. The top six SOC will be presented to the voting delegates in the Meet the Candidate Session on Sunday afternoon.

- The voting delegates will be seated at the same table throughout the entirety of the Meet the Candidates session and candidates will rotate from table to table.
- Each round the candidate will introduce themselves and state the position they are running for. They will then converse with voting delegates for three minutes. A list of potential conversation starters will be provided at each table but voting delegates have the freedom to ask what questions they feel will help them learn about the candidate's character or qualification for the elected position.
- Voting Delegates that do not have a candidate at their table will have the opportunity to review all SOC applications that will be provided at each table.
- After three minutes the candidates will rotate to the next table and meet with the delegates at that table. This process will continue until all candidates have rotated through all 14 tables.
- The facilitator will announce for each rotation. After 7 rotations, a 5-minute break will be offered.
- Candidates may not hand out materials during the session. The Nominating Committee and SECA will be stationed throughout the room and at the tables to help ensure voting delegates' questions are appropriate.
- Inappropriate questions or behavior by a voting delegate will be reported to the Leadership and Programs Manager who may dismiss the delegate from the session.

SCORING

Voting will take place on Monday morning. Once polls are closed, all final points will be calculated. The state president candidate with the highest number of votes will receive the office of Missouri FCCLA President, and the state president candidate with the second highest number of votes will receive the office of Missouri FCCLA First Vice President. The Vice President of Finance candidate with the most votes will receive the office. Up to two national officer candidates with the highest number of votes will be selected as Missouri's national officer candidate(s).

If only one national officer candidate is elected, the office of Vice President of Alumni & Associates will be added to the State Executive Council for the term. If the offices of both national officer candidates are vacant, the offices of Vice President of Alumni & Associates and a second Vice President of Competitive Events will be added to the State Executive Council for the term.

The nominating committee will reconvene and determine the remaining state officer positions on the executive council. All SOC will receive a formal letter to notify them of their selected office on Monday evening following the Business and Recognition Session.

MISCELLANEOUS

All state officer candidates will participate in Closing General Session and Installation. Dress code is SOC Attire. SOC Attire consists of a black skirt no more than 2 in. above the knee, a white oxford button up, black blazer, and 2in black pumps. There is no brand specifications for SOC Attire.

Individual(s) elected as national officer candidate(s) will meet with the state adviser and local chapter adviser to receive additional paperwork to complete for the National Leadership Conference after the State Leadership Conference.

TIPS and ADVICE

- Keep speeches on the assigned topic(s).
- Practice with family, friends, and teachers – speeches, situational questions, traditional interview questions, and ice breaker questions. More practice equals more self-confidence when it's the real deal!
- Campaigning is not permitted. Violations in this area are taken very seriously and may result in disqualification. Candidates should be familiar with the campaigning policy approved annually by the State Executive Council prior to State Leadership Conference.
- State officer candidates (and all conference attendees) should follow the dress code explicitly during the conference.
- Further rules, processes, and regulations can be found in the bylaws and handbooks. SOC should read all information provided in mailings and posted online.