

BCC Fall 2026 By-Election



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This document contains all relevant details pertaining to the Bethune College Council Fall 2026 By-Election for the First Year Representatives position. If you have any questions, please email bethune.elections@gmail.com.

Section 1: Elections Timeline

Nominations: Friday, September 18 @ 12:00 pm - Friday, September 25 @ 12:00 pm

- First-year students affiliated with Bethune College (including Lassonde) will self-nominate for the First Year Representative position by completing this [nomination form](#) by Friday, September 25 @ 12:00 pm.

Mandatory All-Candidates Meeting: Friday, September 25 @ 5:00 pm

- Candidates must attend this meeting. If a candidate cannot attend they must provide prior written notice to bethune.elections@gmail.com and schedule a make-up meeting with the CRO before campaign period begins. Failure to do so will result in the candidate's immediate disqualification.

Material Pre-Approval: Friday, September 25 @ 6:00 pm - Sunday, September 27 @ 8:00 pm.

- Candidates may submit any election materials they would like pre-approved over the weekend before campaign period begins.
- It is strongly recommended that you have the CRO approve campaign materials so that you are less likely to run into issues later.
- Please allow at least one business day for election materials to be approved after the weekend, during the campaign period.

Campaign Period: Monday, September 28 @ 12:00 am - Sunday, October 4 @ 11:59 pm

- Candidates will promote themselves and their campaigns to the community.
- No campaign material may be posted/distributed outside these dates.
- Please see Section 2 for specific campaign rules and penalties.

Debate: Tuesday, September 29th @ 6:00 pm

- Candidates will participate in a live debate where they will answer pre-determined questions by the CRO and additional questions from the audience. The debate will take place in the Bethune JCR and will be live streamed on Instagram. The debate is optional, but highly recommended.

Voting: Monday, October 5 @ 12:00 am - Thursday, October 8 @ 11:59 pm

- First-year students affiliated with Bethune College (including Lassonde) will be able to vote through YUConnect.
- All physical posters must be taken down by the last day of voting period.

Ratification: Friday, October 9 @ 6:00 pm



- During this meeting, all candidate violations and penalties will be discussed and voted on by the Council, if any. The CRO will then move to ratify the two candidates with the highest votes, if any.

Section 2: Rules and Penalties

Note: Percentages listed in brackets next to each infraction are the minimum deductions that will be applied to a candidate's vote count. Deviations from this rule are subject to the Council's interpretation on a case-by-case basis.

2.1 Infractions resulting in disqualification (-100%)

1. Failing to attend the Mandatory All-Candidates Meeting, without providing prior written notice to bethune.elections@gmail.com and scheduling a make-up meeting with the CRO before campaign period begins.
2. Posting physical or digital content or acting in a way that is deemed tasteless, harmful or degrading towards another candidate or towards the Bethune College Council.
 - Acts deemed degrading or harmful **by persons affiliated with a candidate** toward another candidate or toward the Bethune College Council will result in a penalization as deemed appropriate by the CRO and BCC. **(-35%)**
3. Ripping down or defacing another candidate's posters or digital content.
4. Campaigning with or promoting another candidate running in the election (i.e. slates and parties).
 - Slates and parties refers to campaigning for yourself with another candidate. For example, if I am running for the First Year Representative position and my friend is also running for this position, I would be in violation of slates and parties if I put up posters, social media content, or verbally ask others to vote for myself and my friend.
5. Emailing constituents using YorkU-sanctioned, Bethune registered, or CNS registered listservs.



- You are not allowed to mass-email or individually email any constituent regarding the elections or your campaign because they have not provided consent to receiving these emails.

2.2 General Campaigning Infractions

1. Using any Bethune College Council or Bethune College Head Office materials, **with the exception of the Bethune College Dragon Logo and publicly released media by BCC or Head Office. (-10% per material used)**
 - Including, but not limited to, printers, stationary, privately owned media by BCC or Head Office, etc.
2. Campaigning in the Bethune College Council Office or Bethune College Head Office in any way, including verbally or through affiliated social media platforms. **(-20%)**
 - Including, but not limited to, Bethune College Council, Bethune Athletics, and Bethune College Head Office social media platforms on Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, YUConnect, etc.
3. Posting or distributing campaign material (physically, digitally) before the official Campaign Period begins **(Monday, September 28 @ 12:00 am). (-15% per material reported, per day)**
4. Posting or distributing campaign material where the main focus of the photo is on current Bethune College Council members or other candidates in the election. **(-15%)**
5. Posting on eClass or making verbal announcements during class without obtaining written permission from your course instructor in advance and forwarding this to bethune.elections@gmail.com. **(-15% per announcement, per class)**
6. Distributing or providing any incentives to constituents in exchange for votes or coercing constituents before, during, or after the Election Period. **(-25% per report)**
 - Including, but not limited to food, beverages, buttons, stickers, and money.
6. Passing around any device (laptop/tablet/phone) to constituents to vote. **(-30% per report)**



7. Failing to comply with the instructions from the CRO regarding the removal or modification of campaign materials **within 18 hours. (-5% per missing item, per day)**
 - If you are unable to comply with the instructions from the CRO within 18 hours for any reason (eg. physical distance from campus), you must provide written notice to bethune.elections@gmail.com before the deadline passes with an explanation and a timeframe for when you will be able to comply with the instructions.

2.3 Infractions Specific to Physical Postering

1. Posters may ONLY be posted on **bulletin boards** in the Bethune College building. **(-5% per poster, per day)**
 - This is excluding the Bethune College Council Office and the Bethune College Head Office, where postering is prohibited. **(-15% per poster)**
 - Bulletin boards in the Bethune College building have already been pre-approved for postering. If you would like to post around the rest of campus, please adhere to these [YorkU Guidelines](#). **(-5% per poster)**
2. Postering during the Voting Period **(Monday, October 5 @ 12:00 am - Thursday, October 8 @ 11:59 pm)**. **(-25% per poster, per day)**
3. Posters MUST be taken down by the last day of voting **(Thursday, October 8 @ 11:59 pm)**. **(-2% per poster, per day)**

2.4 Infractions Specific to Digital Content

1. Posting in Bethune-affiliated social media platforms. **(-20% per post reported)**
 - Including, but not limited to, Bethune College Council, Bethune Athletics, and Bethune College Head Office social media platforms on Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, YUConnect, etc.
2. Campaigning in any way during the Voting Period **(Monday, October 5 @ 12:00 am - Thursday, October 8 @ 11:59 pm)**.
 - Including, but not limited to re-posting or re-sharing previously published campaign content, whether by the candidate or by others acting on their behalf. Candidates are responsible for informing their supporters of this rule. **(-20% per report)**



- Texting, direct messaging, or intentionally telling people to vote for you.
(-25% per report)
- 3. Note: You are permitted to remind constituents to vote in the election in general during the Voting Period.
 - Such reminders must not include your name, photograph, slogan, or any content suggesting to voters that you are running in the election and to vote for you. **(-20%)**
 - Voting Period Terminology (such as telling people voting is open now) shall not be used during campaign period advertisements or posts.

All deductions are stackable and subject to the Council's interpretation.

Section 3: Additional Information and Recommendations

1. Check your email at least three times a day to ensure you do not miss any important updates/communications from the CRO during the elections period.
2. Send an email to bethune.elections@gmail.com with a picture/video of every physical poster you put up and take down.
3. Send an email to bethune.elections@gmail.com with all social media accounts you plan to use during the election.
 - a. **Note:** *I will request to follow you using my personal accounts. You may remove me as a follower once the elections have concluded.*
4. If you believe another candidate has violated any election rule(s), please immediately send an email to bethune.elections@gmail.com with a description of the infraction with proof.
5. If the CRO reaches out to you to report that you have violated any election rule(s), you MUST comply with instructions from the CRO at that point (e.g. removal or modification of campaign materials) and email bethune.elections@gmail.com once completed with proof. Failure to do so **within 18 hours** will result in additional deductions. **(-5% per item, per day)**
 - a. Candidates may communicate with the CRO prior to the ratification meeting to clarify circumstances surrounding a deduction, provide context, or share any information they wish Council to consider.



- b. In efforts to maintain anonymity during the ratification meeting, the CRO will explain the violation reported and any candidate statement without sharing names or any personal information that may allude to a specific candidate. This is to ensure as much impartiality as possible from the Council during discussions and voting.
 - c. Once all candidate violations and penalties have been discussed and voted on by the Council, if any, the CRO will then move to ratify the two candidates with the highest votes, if any. At this point, all deductions associated with each candidate will be revealed along with their original vote count and new vote count after deductions.
6. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please email bethune.elections@gmail.com. Remember, it is better to ask questions early to avoid as many problems later. Good luck!