

Running for President at the National Model U.S. Congress

Thank you for your interest in serving as the President for National Model Congress! We are delighted by your pursuit of office and wish you the best of luck in the election. We want to make sure that the election process in the United States is clarified before we explain the NMC process. Please read the following sections and direct any questions to the Elections Supervisor at Roderick@dougryanconsulting.com.

The United States Election Process

How to get on the Ballot – “In order to get on the ballot, a candidate for president of the United States must meet a variety of complex, state-specific filing requirements and deadlines. These regulations, known as ballot access laws, determine whether a candidate or party will appear on an election ballot. These laws are set at the state level. A presidential candidate must prepare to meet ballot access requirements well in advance of primaries, caucuses, and the general election.”¹

Primary Election – “Prior to a general election, there is a selection process to determine which candidate will appear on the ballot for a given political party in the nationwide general election. Political parties generally hold national conventions at which a group of delegates collectively decide upon which candidate they will run for the presidency.”²

General Election – “During the general election, Americans head to the polls to cast their vote for President. But the tally of those votes—the popular vote—does not determine the winner. Instead, Presidential elections use the Electoral College. To win the election, a candidate must receive a majority of electoral votes.”³

The National Model U.S. Congress Process

How to get on the Ballot – At NMC, our process follows certain aspects of U.S. tradition and law. To be placed on the primary ballot, file an online application for President. An application is necessary to measure your qualifications for serving on our volunteer staff. NMC reserves the right to deny an applicant to preserve the conference simulation.

Primary Election – The two major Political Parties will have a Primary Election. The candidates selected at the Democrat and Republican Party Conventions, as well as any candidates running as Independents or affiliated with a third party, will be on the ballot on Election Day.

General Election – Eligible voters shall consist of all registered students attending the respective NMC conference. The popular vote will determine the winner. The candidates will need to select a running mate by the end of the day that the primary election is held.

¹ Jerrick Adams et al., "Ballot access for presidential candidates," Ballotpedia, , accessed February 23, 2017, https://ballotpedia.org/Ballot_access_for_presidential_candidates.

² "The Voter's Self Defense System," Project Vote Smart, , accessed February 23, 2017, <https://votesmart.org/education/presidential-primary#.WK8OefkrLIU>.

³ "Presidential Election Process," Presidential Election Process | USA.gov, , accessed February 23, 2017, <https://www.usa.gov/election>.