



**University of Maryland, College Park  
Student Government Association (SGA)  
Elections Commission**

**March 11, 2026**

**Case: 1. 03/04/26 RollTerps v. JusticeUMD**

**Petitioner: RollTerps**

**Respondent: JusticeUMD**

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On Monday, March 9th at 3:00 PM, the SGA Elections Commission convened to deliberate whether JusticeUMD was responsible for their alleged violations of campaigning before the start of active campaigning, violating Article V, Section 2, Subsection A, Parts 1a and 2. With a unanimous vote, the Commission has ruled that JusticeUMD is responsible. The Commission has determined the following point penalties and sanctions:

- 60-point penalty
- Loss of two days of active campaigning time at the beginning of the active campaigning period (see exception for Academic Candidates attending Legislative Town Hall)
- Must restart their Instagram page from 0 followers

The Commission ultimately ruled that the aforementioned violation occurred based on the preponderance of the evidence.

Please refer to the report on the following page for an in-depth description of the Commission's rulings.

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**Elections Commission**

*Head Elections Commissioner* – Leonard Fomin

*Deputy Commissioner of Publicity* – Sofia Perez

*Deputy Commissioner of Campaigning* – Emilio Difilippantonio

*Deputy Commissioner of Candidacy* – Hannah Resnick

*Deputy Commissioner of Election Education* – Maahe Kunvar

*Staff Advisor* – William R. Post

## FINAL REPORT:

### Reported Violations by Petitioner:

1. **Prior Existence:** JusticeUMD previously ran in the 2025 SGA elections, which violates the 2026 bylaws requiring tickets to be formed solely for the current election cycle
  - a. *The Elections Commission clarifies this assertion by the petitioner in the following section.*
2. **Advocacy Identity:** The ticket's members are widely known for their campus advocacy as "Justice," conflicting with the rules that a ticket must exist only for the purpose of the current election.
3. **Early Campaigning:** JusticeUMD actively campaigned before the start of the election cycle by using its Instagram account to post political messages that could impact how and whether those who saw the post voted in the SGA election.

### SGA Rule in Violation:

- Article II, Section 2, Subsection A, 1.a-c
- Article V, Section 2, Subsection A, Parts 1a and 2

### Final Decisions/Rationale:

- According to Article II, Section 2, Subsection A, Part 1c, a ticket's "existence is based on the SGA Election Cycle." The Elections Commission interpreted this to mean that tickets are allowed to exist in several SGA elections, but not in the time between elections. The 2026 JusticeUMD ticket is considered the same as the 2025 JusticeUMD ticket due to both tickets having the same Ticket Chair, Instagram account, ticket name, stylization, and goals. Thus, the use of the JusticeUMD Instagram account from the 2025 election also reflects on the 2026 JusticeUMD ticket, resulting in the 2026 JusticeUMD ticket being responsible for the aforementioned violations.
- The JusticeUMD Instagram account was used to make a political post in coordination with several other student organizations on October 21st, 2025, which is in violation of Article V, Section 2, Subsection A, Parts 1a and 2, which define active campaigning and declare when active campaigning is allowed to occur.
- Under Article VI, Section 2, Subsection B, Part 1b.iii, JusticeUMD is found responsible for the Class B violation of "campaigning prior to the official start of campaigning." Regardless of how imminent or distant the election cycle is, any active campaigning constitutes an unfair advantage for the given ticket or individual candidate, as they are directly or indirectly persuading students to vote for them. Any activity on a social media account, unless explicitly permitted under passive campaigning, is construed as influencing the outcome of the election, as it inevitably attracts individuals to take an interest in the account. The sole purpose of a ticket's or an individual candidate's social media is to build a base and garner electoral support. Tickets or individual candidates who accrue followers

outside of the active campaigning period create an unequal campaigning environment for other tickets, as they have had more exposure and influence on the student body.

### Sanctions:

- 60 points
  - This is within the prescribed range of points for Class B violations
  - JusticeUMD didn't seem to intend to garner support among voters, but rather aimed to spread awareness about an issue affecting students
  - JusticeUMD used their ticket's Instagram account, with several hundred followers, to make a major political statement well outside the Election Cycle, going beyond simply actively campaigning before the start of active campaigning by being active during a period during which they were not allowed to be active
  - The Elections Commission determined that a value of 60 points was appropriate for this violation. The 60-point amount was assigned as the violation falls under Class B, which carries with it a value between 50 and 99 points, as outlined in the rules. The Elections Commission weighed both intent and impact when deciding upon this point value. While there was no intent to impact the election cycle, the Elections Commission understood that the impact of a ticket posting political content in-between election cycles could have a significant impact on the voting body. Additionally, as the Ticket Chair was the owner of the Instagram account, and the rules regarding active campaigning have not changed through election cycles, the Election Commission understood that this was the actions of the Ticket Chair themselves. Due to the lack of intent, the Elections Commission ruled not to assign a higher point value, but due to the impact on student voters, the Elections Commission understood it was necessary to assign a point value higher than the minimum.
- Loss of the first two days of active campaigning ([see exception for Academic Candidates](#))
  - JusticeUMD was given an unfair advantage by engaging voters before the start of campaigning, so to mitigate this advantage, their campaign period will be shortened.
  - The Elections Commission determined that JusticeUMD will lose two days of active campaigning as a sanction, as laid out by the sanctioning maximums and minimums in the rules. As JusticeUMD had active campaigning time outside of the allowed period, which is forbidden by the election rules, the Elections Commission determined that it would be an unfair advantage to allow them the full active campaigning time during the election cycle. Other tickets or individual candidates were not active during the time period between election cycles, and as such would be at a disadvantage if JusticeUMD retained the full active campaigning time. The only appropriate course of action to ensure fairness across the cycle is to remove active campaigning time from JusticeUMD. The Elections Commission decided on a period of two days rather than three days, understanding that a lack of intent is a mitigating factor to not sanction to the maximum, but also understanding that a sanction is necessary for a fair election.

- Note: In light of the Academic Town Hall occurring on the second day of campaigning (Tuesday March 24th), the Elections Commission will grant an exception to this sanction for the academic candidates who will be in attendance.
- Must restart the Instagram account at 0 followers
  - JusticeUMD must restart its Instagram account at 0 followers, either by removing all followers or starting a new account and deleting or archiving the previous account
  - JusticeUMD may not contact any followers of the JusticeUMD account to notify them that they are being removed, as this would allow them to maintain an outreach advantage from a previous election over other tickets
  - The Elections Commission additionally advised the Ticket Chair that it is necessary to restart the JusticeUMD Instagram page. While it is acceptable for a ticket to be re-run in multiple election cycles, it is not acceptable for said ticket to use prior Instagram accounts that have already accrued a follower base, as that constitutes an unfair advantage in the election process. The Elections Commission strives to ensure that no ticket has an unfair advantage throughout the election cycle, and as such, instructs JusticeUMD to either wipe their Instagram of all followers or begin a new Instagram account. This will ensure that there is no ticket beginning with an unfair advantage in the election.
  - Pursuant to Article VI, Section 2, Subsection A. (7) , the Elections Commission is permitted to issue sanctions that result in “loss of specific campaign privileges”. Given that access to Instagram followers is a campaign privilege, the Elections Commission is entitled to issue a sanction that will restore the equity of all tickets and individual candidates are entitled to prior to the start of active campaigning.

Remaining budget cap of ticket:

- \$1,000.00 (Mixed Ticket Max)

Total points of ticket:

- 60 points