

District Campaigns and Elections

1. District Nominating Committee

- A. The district nominating committee and its timetable are governed by [Article XI, Section \(b\) of the District Administrative Bylaws](#).
- B. The district governor is not a member of the district nominating committee.
- C. One committee member, preferably a past district governor, is appointed as chair by the district governor.
- D. No committee member may be nominated or run from the floor for a district office at the election at which the committee's report is presented.
- E. Each committee member must be a member in good standing.
- F. Each division within the district is represented on the committee.
- G. Committee members participate by conference call, e-mail, or other means of communication when distance impedes participation.
- H. No member served on the district nominating committee the previous year.
- I. International officer and director candidates, members of the Board of Directors, and region advisors do not serve on the district nominating committee.
- J. Committee members with a personal relationship with a candidate abstain from discussion and voting regarding that candidate.
- K. Committee members shall not participate in any campaign or endorse any candidate for district office.
- L. The district nominating committee interviews all known candidates for each elected position.
- M. All candidates are interviewed by at least two committee members jointly or individually.
- N. Candidates are evaluated using standard criteria the chair provides to the district nominating committee members.
- O. District executive committee members shall not take any action to endorse or officially support any district officer candidate.

2. Candidate Qualifications

- A. Candidate qualifications are defined in [Article VII, Section \(d\) of the District Administrative Bylaws](#).
- B. The district nominating committee ensures that each candidate meets the candidate qualifications, understands the duties and responsibilities of the office and is committed to fulfilling them, has the skills and abilities to perform successfully as an officer, and would accept the nomination.
- C. To be nominated or elected, all candidates for district governor, lieutenant governor education and training, lieutenant governor marketing, and division governor must sign the Toastmasters International Officer Agreement and Release Statement and provide a copy to the district nominating committee.
 - I. The district makes all reasonable effort to have all other district officers sign the statement.
 - II. All signed forms are sent to and kept at World Headquarters.

3. Selection and Voting

- A. The district nominating committee members have equal opportunity to express their perspectives during candidate selection; exercise independent judgment during the selection process, considering the experience, abilities, and qualifications of each candidate as well as the best interests of the district and Toastmasters International; and consider all candidates for each district office.
- B. The district nominating committee chair casts his or her vote along with the other members of the committee for each nomination, but does not attempt to influence the other members of the committee.
- C. Committee members cast their votes in written form, and the committee nominates one or two candidates each for the offices of district governor and lieutenant governor education and training and one or more candidates for the office of lieutenant governor marketing and all other elective district offices.
- D. To be nominated, a candidate must receive a majority vote of the district nominating committee.
- E. Nominating committee deliberations and votes are confidential and may be shared only with the district governor, World Headquarters, and the Board.

4. Committee Results

- A. Committee results are governed by [Article XI, Section \(b\) of the District Administrative Bylaws](#).

- B. The committee report, distributed to the district council, at the discretion of the district governor, includes a statement from each nominee outlining the nominee's qualifications and abilities to perform the duties of the office.
- C. The names of floor candidates are not published with the district nominating committee report or in any other district publication.
- D. The committee chair or the district governor notifies nominated candidates and reconfirms their willingness to be nominated and their commitment to fulfill the duties of office.
- E. The committee chair or district governor notifies candidates who were not nominated and advises them of their eligibility to seek office as floor candidates.
- F. Additional qualified candidates may be nominated from the floor at the district's annual meeting.

5. District Campaign Communications

- A. A campaign mailing is any message, unsolicited by the recipient, which promotes or publicizes a candidate.
- B. Unsolicited subscriptions to information by or about a candidate are not permitted.
- C. Communications by the district in connection with a candidate's presentation at a district conference and internal communication among campaign team members are not considered campaign mailings.
- D. District candidates shall only send two mailings, which are only sent to club presidents, club vice presidents of education, and members of the district executive committee:
 - I. The first mailing is sent between January 1 and March 31.
 - II. The second mailing is sent between the announcement of the district nominating committee results and the district's annual meeting.
- E. A candidate may have a website to promote his or her candidacy.
 - I. Candidates' websites may be linked or referenced only on the candidate's home club site and in campaign mailings.
 - II. A blog may be included on a candidate's website. Automatic notices are allowed.
- F. A district candidate may create campaign profiles on social media for the purpose of promoting his or her campaign.

- I. Campaign profiles are separate from any existing social media profiles the candidate has.
- II. Candidates may link from existing social media profiles to their campaign profiles and campaign site.
- G. District candidate websites and social networking campaign profiles of both successful and unsuccessful candidates are closed down within 10 days following the election.
- H. District candidates may use the Toastmasters trademarks, including the logo and the names “Toastmasters” and “Toastmasters International,” on campaign materials and websites.

6. District Meetings

- A. District officer candidates, including floor candidates, may speak and give educational presentations at district conferences at a time other than during the district’s annual meeting. The timing of the election of district officers is set by [Article XII, Section 3\(c\) of the Bylaws of Toastmasters International](#).
 - I. All candidates receive equal opportunity.
 - II. The time, place, and length of presentation are identified by the district governor.
- B. Candidates may distribute campaign materials at the district conference and display campaign materials only in the Candidates’ Corner at the district conference.
- C. Candidates may not host a hospitality suite at any district event or contribute to a district hospitality suite.
- D. At district non-election meetings, such as area and division speech contests, candidates may distribute campaign materials, display campaign materials in a Candidates’ Corner where each candidate has equal access, and be introduced as long as all candidates present are introduced.
- E. Candidates may not present at any district non-election meeting.
- F. Advertisements in district publications, such as in newsletters, at conference programs, or on websites, by or on behalf of candidates for district office are not permitted.
- G. District executive committee members shall not take any action to endorse or officially support any district officer candidate.

7. District Proxies

- A. District proxies and voting are governed by the [District Administrative Bylaws, Article X, Sections \(d\) and \(e\)](#).
- B. The district sends a credential or proxy form to each club president and vice president education 30 days before a district council meeting in the district newsletter or in the mailing announcing the meeting.
- C. The credential or proxy form must contain the district number; a description of the event; the date and location of the meeting; space for the club name and number; space for the name of the club president, vice president education, or proxy-holder who attends; space for the signature of the president or vice president education authorizing the credential or proxy; and the date the credential or proxy is signed.
- D. Proxies are valid only for in-person meetings.

8. District Credentials

- A. The credentials chair is, when practicable, a past district governor.
- B. The credentials chair obtains a list of eligible clubs in good standing; a list of current district council members (club presidents, vice presidents education, and district officers eligible to vote); and ballots indicating the office being contested or sequentially numbered for each contest election.
- C. The names of nominated candidates are printed on district ballots; the names of floor candidates are not.
- D. The credentials chair ensures that no campaign materials are in the credentials area and that ballots are numbered sequentially, only issued to current district council members and only for clubs in good standing, and are signed for upon receipt.

9. District Elections

- A. The district governor or a person designated by the district governor explains the election rules and procedures to the delegates.
- B. A candidate speaks on his or her own behalf. If a candidate is not present, an authorized representative may speak for the candidate.
- C. A representative speaker may not be a member of the district executive committee, a member of the nominating committee, the credentials chair, or any other meeting official, unless he or she resigns before the district's annual meeting begins.
- D. The district nominating committee chair shall present its report. In the chair's absence, the district governor designates a person to present the report. The

chair or designee announces the names of the committee members and reads the name and club number of each nominated candidate, in alphabetical order, for each of the offices of district governor; lieutenant governor education and training; lieutenant governor marketing; public relations officer, secretary, and treasurer if elected; and division governors.

- E. For each office, the district governor inquires whether there are additional nominations from the floor.
 - I. Floor candidates or, in their absence, their designees state their eligibility qualifications.
 - II. Floor candidates must be nominated by a member of the district council or their proxy holder.
 - III. Floor candidates for district governor, lieutenant governor education and training, lieutenant governor marketing, and division governor signs the Officer Agreement and Release Statement, which is sent to World Headquarters.
 - IV. When nominations are complete, the district governor declares the nominations for that office closed.
- F. The balloting for each office takes place immediately following the close of nominations for the office. The number of votes that a member may cast is governed by [Article X, Section \(e\) of the District Administrative Bylaws](#).
- G. After nominations for an office are closed, if there is only one candidate for the office, the district governor may entertain a motion to dispense with the secret ballot for the uncontested office or instruct the secretary to cast a single ballot for the candidate.
- H. The district governor informs candidates that they are expected to assign one member to assist or observe the counting of the ballots.
- I. Each election is completed and the winner announced before moving to the subsequent office.
- J. Candidates nominated for one office and not elected to the office may be nominated from the floor for subsequent offices.
- K. Any candidate who receives a majority of the votes cast is declared elected. In the event no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast for a contested office, voting continues with the use of special ballots and without the name of the candidate receiving the fewest votes. Such procedure continues until one of the candidates receives a majority of the votes.

Policies and Protocol
Protocol 9.0: District Campaigns and Elections

- L. Upon adjournment of the district's annual meeting, all election results are final. Results of the election are displayed in the registration area as soon as possible following adjournment of the meeting.
- M. All proxies and ballots are retained for 24 hours following the close of the meeting for review only by the district governor or district credentials chair, as necessary, and immediately thereafter destroyed by the district governor or the district governor's designee.