

Chapter 2.20

ELECTIONS AND CAMPAIGNING

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2.20.010 -- Purpose.

To establish guidelines for the holding of elections to the Board of Directors and to regulate the campaigning for office. [May 18, 2009; October 27, 2006; December 4, 2004; February 1999. Policy B-2].

2.20.020 -- Scope

All members. [October 2018; May 18, 2009; October 27, 2006; December 4, 2004; February 1999. Policy B-2].

2.20.030 -- Policy

As much as bylaws inform board election criteria and process, they also leave room for interpretation. Within the construct of organizational rules, boards often evolve their processes in keeping with the cultural norms and leadership skills in place. While that often promotes efficiency, it also can produce stagnation and expose the organization to unnecessary risk.

Dynamic organizations continually seek and promote opportunities to cultivate new ideas and leadership. IIMC's mission and core values statements, especially regarding diversity and inclusivity, promise members leadership that reflects their interests, backgrounds and training.

Good governance calls for an ongoing process of board recruiting, board education and board assessment. Some associations delegate board elections to a nominating committee. Others employ a board development or governance committee that works on an ongoing basis to identify – and address — any knowledge and skills gaps that may exist on the board. Through that committee, the board ensures that its composition and performance are aligned with organizational needs.

IIMC and its Board Structure via Open Election Process

IIMC operates with an Elected Board -- where an organization with members allows those members to elect the Board. We see this structure most often with associations. Most 501(c)(6) nonprofits, as well as trade associations, credit unions and labor unions, use this model. With elected boards, members with a desire to serve declare their candidacy and “run” for a seat. Therefore, these boards consist of people who think they have the time, commitment and skills to serve.

A. Identify and encourage members to develop leadership skills

One of the fiduciary responsibilities of a Board member and Executive Committee is to ensure that organizational leadership is strong, responsible, forward-looking and responsive to the needs

of the institution and its members. The Board carries out this responsibility by continually identifying and encouraging members to acquire the leadership skills necessary to become effective Board and Executive Committee members. In doing so, the Board and Executive Committee must look beyond their immediate circles of acquaintances and associates and actively seek out and encourage members who might not, in the day-to-day course of dealings, fall within their work or social circles.

B. Invite members to run for office

The Board has a duty to develop future leaders through continuing education and mentoring that encourages diversity of the Board. Board members should advise and encourage members to run for office. Board members are encouraged to make direct invitations to potential members with the understanding that it is an invitation and not an endorsement of their candidacy. Encouragement from organizational leaders can make a difference and ensures good leaders are not lost to organizations because they are not actively invited to contribute their time and talents.

C. Ensure that elections are open and fair

The Board must ensure that the election process remains open and fair. Favoritism – whether real or perceived -- is contrary to the goal of openness and fairness in elections. The Board, and individual Board members, shall not endorse, or campaign (openly or privately) for any candidate. Upon request by a candidate, the Board or individual Board members shall provide opportunities for campaigning or electioneering to all candidates for office. Therefore, campaigning openly or privately for a candidate is not allowed. Members of the IIMC Election Committee are not permitted to campaign openly or privately for any candidates.

2.20.040 -- Nominations

A. A list of offices that are or will become vacant shall be published beginning in the October, issues of the *News Digest*, E-Briefings and on the IIMC Website. **A nominations packet for office will be accepted for a fifteen (15) day period starting January 1. The deadline for submitting the nomination packet is 5 pm Pacific Time on January 15 unless that day is a holiday or weekend and then nominations are due the next business day.** Nominations packets received after the closing date will be returned unopened to the candidate.

B. Candidates for office shall submit to IIMC on or before the closing date the following:

1. A completed nomination form. (Available from headquarters or on the website.)
2. A recent, high-quality photograph. (Digital pictures are required.)
3. A statement of qualifications for office, not to exceed 200 words.

C. Candidates agree and understand that the above information will be published as received in the *News Digest* and on the IIMC Website.

D. Candidates for Regional Director are required to include a letter of support from their municipality. Candidates for Vice-President are required to include a letter of support from their municipality.

E. All candidates for office must be members in good standing with IIMC.

F. All candidates will receive notification by IIMC when their nomination packet has been verified.

[**November 16, 2024**; November 11, 2023; July 14, 2021; May 18, 2009; October 27, 2006; December 4, 2004; February 1999. Policy B-2].

2.20.050 -- Process of Determining Election Results

When there are three (3) or more candidates for either Region Director or Vice-President, the successful candidate will be elected by Plurality Vote. A plurality vote is the largest number of votes to be given any candidate when three or more choices are possible; the candidate receiving the largest number of votes has a plurality.

2.20.060 -- Election – Region Directors

If there is one Region Director candidate, no election is held, and the candidate is declared elected. If there are two or more candidates, IIMC conducts a Region election. Regions that have established region and/or bylaws for nominations or an established rotation process for the Region Director position shall move their nominee forward after completing their selection process. IIMC shall conduct the election within regions and/or states that do not have established rules or are not able to put forward a nominee. If a region has an established rotation for states and the state has not selected a nominee, then only members of that state may vote. Region Members who are Full Members, Additional Full Members, Associate Members, Retired Members and Honorary Members are eligible to vote for Region Director. Election results are announced at the Annual Business Meeting.

If a state/province/country in a region's rotation cycle has more than one qualified candidate vying for an IIMC Board position, IIMC will run an election for the IIMC members from the state/province/country.

The Election will be held for an 8-day period in the month of March, beginning on the first Monday of March and ending on the second Monday of March.

- A. Upon close of voting, the Executive Director shall immediately forward the results to the Election Committee Chair for the Election Committee to confirm the results. After results are confirmed, the Executive Director shall: (1) communicate the results with the Region Director candidates; (2) communicate the results with the membership; and (3) post the results on the website.
- B. At the Annual Business Meeting, the Elections Chair shall announce the election results including the number of ballots, the number of ballots submitted by the deadline, the percentage of members in the region voting, the number of ballots qualified and counted, and the number of votes each candidate received.

[November 22, 2025; May 17, 2025 November 16, 2024; November 11, 2023; May 21, 2022; August 2016; November 23, 2013; November 2012; May 18, 2009; October 27, 2006; December 4, 2004; February 1999. Policy B-2].

2.20.070 -- Election – Vice-President

If there is one Vice President candidate, no election is held, and the candidate is declared elected. If there are two or more candidates, IIMC conducts an election. Election of a Vice-President shall be conveyed to all Full Members, Additional Full Members, Associate Members, Retired Members and Honorary Members

The Election will be held for an 8-day period in the month of March, beginning on the first Monday of March and ending on the second Monday of March.

- A. Upon close of voting, the Executive Director shall immediately forward the results to the Election Committee Chair for the Election Committee to confirm the results. After results are confirmed, the Executive Director shall (1) communicate the results with the Vice President candidates; (2) communicate the results with the membership; and (3) post the results on the website.
- B. At the Annual Business Meeting, the Elections Chair shall announce the election results including the number of ballots, the number of ballots submitted by the deadline, the number of ballots qualified and counted, and the number of votes each candidate received.

[**November 22, 2025**; November 16, 2024; November 11, 2023; May 21, 2022; August 2016; May 17, 2014; November 23, 2013; November 2012; May 18, 2009; October 27, 2006; December 4, 2004; February 1999. Policy B-2].

2.20.080 -- Campaigning Period and Electioneering

- A. Electioneering is defined as the act of campaigning to influence the result of an election in favor of a particular candidate. Electioneering includes but is not limited to: information and material relating to a candidate or their positions distributed through official IIMC channels either by hard mail, voice or email; candidate brochures, biographies, letters and emails of support, news releases, photographs, websites, videos; posts on IIMC and Regional social media platforms including but not limited to Facebook, YouTube, Messenger, Instagram, Tik Tok, X, Snapchat, etc.; virtual campaign events including town hall or meet and greets.
- B. **A member's campaign period is January 16 to March 1. There is no campaigning after March 1.**
- C. Candidates are allowed to discuss their candidacy by emails to the members, except to Region XI due to the European General Data Protection Regulation which prohibits these types of emails. Access to members' email addresses will be overseen/provided by the Executive Director to comply with the anti-spamming laws.
- D. All election materials from candidates or anyone acting on behalf of the candidates must be submitted to IIMC staff before distribution to IIMC members. Materials include, but are not limited to, items defined in paragraph A of this section. If the information provided does not meet IIMC standards of propriety, the Executive Director will submit the information to the Election Committee for their final recommendation.
- E. Candidates are only allowed to share campaign material on IIMC and Region social media platforms as listed in letter A above, provided the materials and posts have been submitted in advance to and approved by IIMC staff.
- F. Neither Executive Committee members, Region Directors, IIMC Election Committee members, declared IIMC Vice-President or Region Director candidates, nor IIMC Foundation Board members, by group or individually, shall endorse or provide assistance to any candidate, and shall not be mentioned in any election materials. Photographs of presentations by an Executive Committee member and/or Region Director are prohibited.
- G. All Candidates campaigning for any position have the right to use the IIMC logo in their campaign materials, subject to authorization under the existing policy, for each specific use of the logo.
- H. Upon request by a candidate, IIMC encourages all state/provincial organizations to provide equal access to all candidates for office.

- I. Candidates shall not serve as facilitators, instructors, or aid in facilitating sessions for continuing educational activities such as Athenian Dialogues, seminars, and IIMC or Region approved or hosted continuing education events during the Campaign Period.
- J. These requirements apply to official IIMC social media platforms and materials distributed through IIMC only and not to candidate personal social media pages.

[**November 16, 2024; November 11, 2023;** May 21, 2022; October 27, 2018; May 2017; November 12, 2016; May 18, 2009; October 27, 2006; December 4, 2004; February 1999. Policy B-2].