

Appendix D: Policy on Elections

POLICY ON ELECTIONS

Adopted 6/2018

Amended 10/2018

Georgia PTA Board of Directors

All candidates for office, whether slated or running from the floor, shall adhere to this policy.

I. Election Committee

A. The Board of Directors shall elect the Elections Committee consisting of five (5) members, no two (2) from the same district, in odd numbered years preceding the election Convention Leadership Training (CLT).

B. The election committee shall:

1. Not wear campaign materials or discuss qualifications of the candidates on the day of the election. Violators will be removed from the committee by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.

2. Report violations of the Policy on Elections to the elections committee chair, who will communicate with the president and executive committee. Candidates shall have an opportunity to respond to any allegation made against them. Substantiated violations of this policy may result in the candidate not being allowed to distribute their campaign materials, having the violation reported to the voting delegates or the disqualification of the candidate. In the event that the elections committee recommends disqualification due to a violation of the elections policy the board of directors shall make the final decision.

II. Campaign Guidelines

A. Candidates who intend to be nominated from the floor of convention shall submit their intention in writing including a copy of their resume to the GPTA Nominating Committee Chair. The intent to run from the floor shall be postmarked no later than 45 days prior to the opening session of convention. Mailing by United States Postal Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested, is required for all intent to run from the floor notices. If requested by the nominating committee, candidates shall show proof of intent to run.

B. In the event the intent to run from the floor is received by the nominating committee chair, the President will be notified of a contested election. The Georgia PTA Policies and Procedures be made to stipulate that no member of the Georgia PTA staff shall serve on any local unit, council or district board of directors. The nominating committee chair shall notify a slated candidate of any candidate who has filed an intent to run within 5 days' receipt of the notification of intent to run.

C. No campaign materials may be distributed at convention prior to the conclusion of the first general session.

D. Nominees are allowed to make one (1) campaign speech of no more than two (2) minutes in the general session where nominations take place. No additional functions are permitted as a campaigning event with the exception of the candidate's forum.

E. No campaign materials will be permitted in the voting area as designated by the election committee.

F. No campaign materials will be on or in the general area of registration.

G. No campaign materials shall be allowed in any non-campaign area as designated by the Election Committee.

H. No individual shall distribute campaign materials in any non-campaign area as designated by the Election Committee.

III. Campaign Literature

A. Campaign literature shall consist of one (1) two-sided 8-½ x 11 sheet of paper.

B. Slated candidates shall send one (1) hard copy of their campaign materials to the nominating committee chair which shall be received 30 days prior to the opening general session.

C. Candidates from the floor shall send one hard copy of their campaign materials to Georgia PTA headquarters to the attention of the State President 45 days prior to the opening of the first general session

D. Nominees from the floor shall furnish sufficient copies (500) of their approved official biography {one (1) one-sided 8-1/2" x 11" sheet of paper} for distribution to the convention delegates.

E. No state office resources, including home, work, and email addresses; PTA rosters of any kind; mailing labels; lists obtained from PTA workshops or field visits; telephone lists; state office telephones or equipment will be used by any candidate.

F. Biographies of the slated nominees will be in with the convention packet.

G. Biographies of all the nominees from the floor may be distributed by the candidate at the close of the first general session.

H. The format of campaigning literature will consist of only one two-sided 8-1/2" x 11" sheet of paper. No other campaign paraphernalia will be allowed.

I. The Georgia PTA logo and tagline shall not be used on personal correspondence or communication related to the campaign, biographical, or campaign literature.

J. Georgia PTA's email system, stationery, mailing and phone list, shall not be used for campaigning. Candidates with a Georgia PTA email address may not use this email address to solicit support.

K. A nominee for a position shall not be eligible to serve on any committee overseeing the election.

IV. Candidates Forum

A. In the event that there are candidates from the floor, there shall be an opportunity for the voting delegates to meet all candidates.

B. The following are guidelines for the candidates' forum:

1. The elections committee shall be responsible for the development of questions for the candidates' forum. Potential questions may be solicited from the Georgia PTA Board of Directors and/or the convention delegates.
2. The parliamentarian shall moderate the forum. The moderator shall draw questions for each round of candidates.
3. The order of candidates shall be: a) President Elect b) 1st Vice President c) 2nd Vice President d) Secretary e) Treasurer
4. Each candidate running for office shall answer the same questions.
5. Candidates shall be given two (2) minutes to answer each question.
6. Candidates for the office of president elect may, in addition, be given the opportunity to give a two (2) minute opening and closing statement.

V. Violations

A. All candidates are responsible for adherence to the Policy on Elections by themselves and by campaign volunteers working on their behalf.

B. The elections committee shall confiscate all campaign materials distributed inappropriately.

C. Violations of the Policy on Elections shall be reported to the elections committee chair, who will communicate with the president and executive committee. Candidates shall have an opportunity to respond to any allegation made against them. Substantiated violations of this policy may result in the candidate not being allowed to distribute their campaign materials, having the violation reported to the voting delegates or the disqualification of the candidate. In the event that the elections committee recommends disqualification due to a violation of the elections policy the Board of Directors shall make the final decision.

VI. Voting and Balloting

A. Electronic or paper ballots shall be made available.

B. Electronic or paper ballots shall list, in alphabetical order, the names of candidates for each position.

C. On the electronic or paper ballot, the name of each candidate shall be followed by the nominee from the floor.

D. Each delegate shall receive an official electronic or paper ballot upon presentation of voting credentials.

E. The elections committee shall oversee the tabulation of electronic or paper ballots.

F. No campaigning shall be allowed within the voting area.

G. The parliamentarian and chair of the elections committee shall present the results of the election in writing to the president.

H. The president shall inform the candidates in writing on the election results prior to announcing to the general meeting.

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