

# **New York State School Counselor Association GOVERNING POLICIES**

## **NOMINATIONS & ELECTIONS POLICIES**

### **Article I: Eligibility for Office**

Members seeking nomination for a NYSSCA office shall meet the following specifications:

- a. Nominees must be members of NYSSCA, as stated in the Bylaws, Article II, and Operational Parameters, Article I, Section A of NYSSCA policies.
- b. Nominees for level vice presidents shall be employed as school counseling professionals at the work setting level for which they are seeking office.
- c. Nominees for regional governors must be employed as a school counseling professional in the geographic region for which they are seeking office or be a retired school counseling professional residing within that region.
- d. Nominees for president-elect and president-elect-elect must be employed as a professional school counselor, director of guidance/student services, counselor educator or a comparable position in the school counseling profession as determined by the NYSSCA Board.

### **Article II: Nominations and Elections Process**

The Governing Board shall maintain direction of the Nominations and Elections process. The immediate Past-President shall chair the Nominations and Elections committee.

- a. The committee chair solicits nominations, distributes nominations packets, and collects those packets by March 1 of each year.
- b. Individuals interested in seeking office shall submit nomination packets.
- c. The Nominations and Elections Committee reviews the packets and submits a list of individuals who meet the requirements for eligibility to the Governing Board.
- d. The chair distributes ballots to all NYSSCA members by mail or by electronic ballot no later than March 20. Ballots (mail or electronic) are due by April 15 of each year.
- e. Votes are cast by mail ballot or electronic ballot.

- f. New Board members are selected by simple majority.
- g. The chair shall inform the current Governing Board and all candidates of election results no later than April 21 of each year.
- h. The chair shall ensure the general membership is informed of election results by June 1 of each year.

### **Article III: Campaign Policies**

To maintain a healthy professional environment, campaigning shall be kept to a minimum and in accord with the following policy:

The goal of the campaign policies is to:

- generate member interest in submitting candidate packets,
- permit creativity in campaigning,
- ensure a fair election for all candidates, and
- increase membership votes in the election.

The Association shall not contribute, budget, nor appropriate organizational funds for support of any candidates for NYSSCA office.

- a. NYSSCA involvement in campaigns shall be limited to the following:
  - 1. written candidacy information shall accompany the ballot.
- b. Candidate involvement in campaigns shall be limited to the following:
  - 1. Candidates shall not accept campaign funds or other campaign support, including in-kind support, from associations, divisions, regions, schools, commercial firms, corporations, or foundations.
  - 2. Candidates shall not use NYSSCA resources such as web sites, listserves, logos, equipment, or supplies to solicit votes or support.
  - 3. Candidates may produce and distribute pins, fliers, brochures, and other materials at their own expense.

### **Article IV: Ballot Policies**

The order of the candidates' names for all positions on the ballot shall be determined by lot. The Nominations and Elections Chair shall choose the lot.

### **Article V: Violations of Policies**

Violation of the Nominations and Elections Policies shall subject candidates to possible invalidation of their eligibility as candidates. Authority to withdraw the said candidate rests with the Nominations and Elections Committee with ratification by the Governing Board.

- a. The Nominations and Elections Committee shall make recommendations to the NYSSCA Governing Board regarding violations of Nominations and Elections policies. The decision of the Governing Board shall be final.
- b. A nominee or candidate charged with violating the NYSSCA Nominations and Elections Procedures shall be given notice via certified mail of the precise nature of the charge by the Nominations and Election Chair within 14 days of receipt of the charge.
- c. The Nominations and Elections Committee may review any charges made by a nominee or candidate against another nominee or candidate, any charges made over the signature of five members in good standing and any election activities that the Nominations and Elections Committee believes may not be in accord with the Election Policies.
- d. A nominee or candidate charged with a violation shall be given the opportunity to present written evidence to defend the charge(s). The Nominations and Elections Chair must receive this evidence via certified mail within fourteen (14) calendar days after notification of charges.
- e. A nominee or candidate charged with violating the Nominations and Election Policies shall be given the opportunity to present evidence through witnesses or otherwise, shall be given the opportunity to question witnesses, shall have the right to appeal, and shall have the right to a hearing before the Governing Board.
- f. If a nominee is disqualified prior to an election, the nominee for the same position with the next highest vote total shall be added to the ballot. If the candidate is disqualified after an election, the candidate with the next highest vote count shall be declared the winner.

### **Article VI: Recount Petition**

- a. A recount of election results may be requested only by the candidate involved in the recount and must be in writing to the President.

- b. The request for recount must be received by the President via certified mail by 4:30 PM EST, no later than fourteen (14) calendar days after notification of results.
- c. Costs of the recount that changes the election results in favor of the petitioner shall be paid by NYSSCA. The petitioner shall pay costs of a recount that does not change the election result in favor of the petitioner.
- d. Observers are permitted to watch, but not participate in, a petition recount. Observers are designated by the petitioner and provided at the petitioner's expense.
- e. In the case of an approved recount, the results of the recount shall be the final result and no further count shall be undertaken.

Governing Board Title	Election Year									
		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
President-elect		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
President-elect-elect		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
VP Elementary		X		X		X		X		X
VP Middle		X		X		X		X		X
VP Secondary			X		X		X		X	
VP Directors			X		X		X		X	
VP Counselor Educators		X		X		X		X		X
Region 1				X			X			X
Region 2		X			X			X		
Region 3				X			X			X
Region 4		X			X			X		
Region 5				X			X			X
Region 6		X			X			X		
Region 7				X			X			X
Region 8			X			X			X	
Region 9			X			X			X	
Region 10a			X			X			X	
Region 10b		X			X			X		
Region 10c				X			X			X