

# ELECTION RULES

## ELECTION RULES OF THE NSEA

### 1. Nominations

Any active member of NSEA in good standing is eligible to be a candidate for the offices of NSEA president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, state NEA director(s), or ESP-at-Large (if qualified) by declaring such candidacy in a certified letter to the Elections and Credentials Committee at the NSEA Las Vegas office. Such letter must be received no sooner than September 1 and no later than 5 p.m (PDT) March 15.

If no nomination for a specific office is received by March 15<sup>th</sup>, nominations shall reopen for the specific office. The deadline for submission for nominations for that specific office is no later than 5 p.m. (PDT) April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Candidates nominated for president shall be given an opportunity to record a video statement which shall not exceed five (5) minutes per candidate. Video statements shall be posted on the NSEA website.

Candidates nominated for vice president, secretary-treasurer, state NEA director(s), or ESP-at-Large shall be given an opportunity to record a video statement which shall not exceed three (3) minutes per candidate. Video statements shall be posted on the NSEA website.

\*Candidates for NSEA office shall be ineligible to serve on the Elections and Credentials Committee.

### 2. Elections & Credentials

#### A.

The Elections and Credentials Committee shall be responsible for conducting NSEA elections and for determining the number of votes cast and election results of mail-in secret ballots (Officers) and secret ballots cast at Delegate Assembly (Bylaws/Articles of Incorporation).

All elections shall be conducted by printed or electronic ballot and shall take place during the time period(s) designated by the Elections and Credentials Committee. Balloting by mail-in or electronic ballot shall be determined by the NSEA Bylaws and these Election Rules. Officer elections shall be completed no later than May 31 in years when an election occurs.

Mail-in ballots for the election of officers, shall have a space for a write-in candidate. Write-in votes shall be prohibited on runoff ballots.

\*If no officer candidate receives a majority of the votes cast by members, a runoff election shall be held. The runoff ballot shall list the two candidates who, on the previous ballot, received the highest number of votes in descending order. The election period shall be determined by the Election and Credentials Committee.

\*The Elections and Credentials Committee, in announcing the results of balloting for president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, state NEA director(s), and ESP-at Large shall give the total number of votes cast, the name of each candidate, and the number of votes received by each candidate. The candidate for each office receiving a majority of the votes cast by the members shall be declared elected.

\*If the number of candidates in any officer election is equal to the number of seats to be filled, the election shall be waived and the candidate(s) declared elected.

\*The results of the election for all Officers shall be posted on the NSEA website and emailed to all local presidents within 10 days of the vote counting.

#### B.

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The Elections and Credentials Committee shall establish a certified list of official delegates eligible to vote for Bylaw/Articles of Incorporation amendments and business at the Delegate Assembly.

When voting in person at Delegate Assembly, delegates shall be required to wear the official DA name badge and show a picture ID. Upon verification of delegate status, each delegate will sign the register opposite their name, receive the ballot for Bylaw and/or Articles of Incorporation amendments and proceed to the polling booths.

During in-person voting, if a registered delegate is in line to vote before the close of polling, then the delegate will be allowed to vote.

The ballot at Delegate Assembly shall contain any proposed amendments to the NSEA Bylaws and/or Articles of Incorporation.

A short explanation of proposed Bylaw and/or Articles of Incorporation amendments shall be provided with each ballot. Proposed amendments shall be printed on the ballot by title only.

Each proposed Bylaw and/or Articles of Incorporation amendment, together with any primary or subsidiary amendments, shall be considered independently.

The Elections and Credentials Committee shall announce the results of the voting on Bylaw and/or Articles of Incorporation amendments to Delegate Assembly in the order they appeared on the ballot.

### **3. Campaigning**

The Elections and Credentials Committee shall be responsible for overseeing campaign practices.

Distribution of campaign materials at the Delegate Assembly shall be prohibited.

### **4. Campaign Activities**

Candidates may:

1. Distribute written or printed materials promoting their candidacy electronically or via postal services provided they have signed a Confidentiality Statement stating that members contact information will be used for campaign purposes only. Materials may also be distributed at duly called meetings, gatherings or events subject to local campaign rules.
2. Associations or organizations may hold meetings, rallies or fund-raising activities. Associations may sponsor debates for candidates, provided all candidates for the same office are invited to participate. Associations must make reasonable accommodations for participation by candidates in person or via electronic means.
3. Candidates shall be permitted to be present at NSEA state-wide, regional, or local association meetings. It is not the responsibility of the Elections and Credentials Committee to notify candidates of such meeting dates or make or coordinate arrangements for them. It is the responsibility of each candidate to determine when meetings are being held and to make their own arrangements for attendance. Candidates may give campaign speeches at these meetings if granted by the participants of the meeting, as long as all candidates present for the same office shall be given an equal opportunity to speak. Associations must make reasonable accommodations for participation by candidates in person or via electronic means.

No candidates' literature or posters shall be displayed, nor shall the handing out of candidate's material be permitted, without the permission of the event/meeting sponsors. All candidates must be afforded the same opportunity at the event/meeting. A candidate, or any other person, may wear on their person appropriate campaign materials. All printed campaign materials must bear the identification of the campaign that prepared the material.

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All non-printed campaign materials must identify the campaign that prepared the material.

A candidate must obtain written permission prior to using a member's name or picture in any campaign literature.

The use of any school or work site materials or electronic technology shall not be permitted for any campaign activities.

## **5. Assistance to Candidates**

NSEA shall provide at no cost to any qualified candidate, the following:

- a. Candidates will be afforded the opportunity to have NSEA distribute a flyer electronically on two (2) separate occasions after the close of nominations. The NSEA Elections and Credentials Committee shall review and approve all flyers to be distributed. Additionally, all approved flyers shall be posted on the NSEA website.
- b. The opportunity to include a picture and/or a 100-word statement on the NSEA website. Such materials will be restricted to factual statements expressing a candidate's view on issues or providing biographical information.
- c. NSEA will post submitted officer candidate video statements on the NSEA website.

Except as noted above, no dues money or resources of any local, intermediate or statewide associations/ organizations shall be used to promote the candidacy and attendance of any individual on the ballot.

When NSEA pays for production and/or dissemination of materials, NSEA reserves the right to reject any materials that could expose the NSEA to legal liability or that are not in the best interests of the Association.

## **6. Duties, Powers, and Procedures**

The **Elections and Credentials Committee** shall establish campaign practice guidelines, develop appropriate reporting forms, and investigate campaign complaints.

The committee shall be empowered to secure records and testimony, hold confidential hearings, report violations of campaign standards, issue cease-and-desist orders, reprimand offenders and invalidate a given ballot for cause.

Any member may file a complaint alleging a violation of the campaign rules and practices. Alleged violations of the campaign practices or activities shall be filed in writing with the Elections and Credentials Committee Chairperson. An alleged violation must be filed no later than the completion of balloting.

The Elections and Credentials Committee shall meet and review every alleged violation raised by a member. The Committee shall issue a decision indicating whether there was an election rules violation and the resolution of said violation.

Campaign practices which are deemed to be violations of campaign rules by the Elections and Credentials Committee shall cease immediately.

A candidate may appeal the decision of the Elections and Credentials Committee regarding alleged violations of

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campaign practices or activities.

All appeals shall be presented to the Board of Directors at its next regularly scheduled meeting. The Board of Directors shall have authority to uphold or to reverse the decision of the Committee and there shall be no further right of appeal. (DA09)

These rules, if adopted, would not go into effect until the close of business 2024 Delegate Assembly.

NOTE:

Adopted 4/21/2024