

NASW NATIONAL NOMINATION & ELECTION PROCESSES

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- 1. Who is eligible to be considered for a national elective leadership position?**
 - Regular members of NASW who are in good standing, which means their membership is active and there are no pending sanctions against them.
 - Student members who, if elected, would have at least a full year remaining in their BSW/MSW program when they take office on the following July 1, are eligible for nomination as student representatives.

- 2. Who is ineligible to be considered for a national elective leadership position?**
 - Members who are in the Associate Member category.
 - All full, part-time and contractual NASW staff.
 - Previous NASW staff who, if elected, would have less than two (2) years of separation from the Association as of the date they are slated.
 - Members who are subject to a potential conflict of interest, for example, leaders of other organizations whose policies may conflict with NASW policies and whose service would overlap with NASW's service if elected. Conflicts may be examined on a case-by-case basis.

- 3. What are the qualities that are considered for a national leadership position?**
 - A list of desired qualities is posted on the NASW governance page: (<https://www.socialworkers.org/about/Governance/National-Appointments/Desired-Qualities-and-Skills>). Those seeking a leadership position must be committed to the mission and goals of the Association; must be able to commit to the time required to fulfill their leadership responsibilities; and must be prepared to promote the organization externally.

- 4. As chapter board member, can I run for a national elective position?**
 - Chapter board members can run for a national elective position while completing a board term. If elected, they must complete or resign from their chapter board position before they can assume their national position.
 - Chapter leaders cannot simultaneously hold a chapter and national elective position.

- 5. What is required for the nomination?**
 - Applicants must complete the online nomination form and upload a current copy of their CV or resume. Applicants who are pursuing an officer position must also submit a platform statement.

6. When will I receive a response regarding my nomination?

- Decisions regarding the slate are made by the National Committee on Nominations and Leadership Identification (NCNLI) at its Slate Development Meeting, which is usually held in late November or early December. Its decisions are communicated to all applicants after this meeting.

7. If I am slated to run for a position, will I need to campaign?

- The level of campaign activities may vary among candidates. Some launch a full-fledged campaign while others may opt to send emails to their groups or leverage social media. During the COVID environment, there has been less in-person campaigning and more virtual opportunities to promote one's candidacy. Be sure to review the campaign rules (<https://www.socialworkers.org/about/Governance/National-Elections/Campaign-Dos-and-Donts.aspx>), which apply to virtual as well as in-person events.

8. What recourse do I have if I am not slated?

- Each applicant who has not been slated may file a nomination petition within thirty (30) days after the preliminary slate is issued. The petition requirements may be found at: <https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Governance/National-Elections/Petition-Procedures>.
- If you have successfully filed a petition, (i.e., the petition was filed by the deadline with the required number of valid signatures), the NCNLI will recertify the slate to the Secretary and a final slate will be issued to include your name.

9. How can I find out more information about the campaign rules?

- A list of Campaign Do's and Don'ts is posted on the NASW governance web page (<https://www.socialworkers.org/about/Governance/National-Elections/Campaign-Dos-and-Donts.aspx>). However, if in doubt about what is appropriate, write to your NCNLI Representative (<https://www.socialworkers.org/About/Governance/National-Appointments/National-Committees/NCNLI/NCNLI-Members>) or send an email to governance@socialworkers.org.
- You can also access the election standards and procedures at this link: <https://www.socialworkers.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=pguhraSCdMs%3d&portalid=0>

10. What does it mean to have an alleged campaign violation charge brought against me?

- During the campaign period, if someone believes that you have violated a campaign rule, they may file a complaint against you. You are presumed innocent pending an investigation. This charge can be brought to the NCNLI by a chapter leader, a member of the NCNLI, your opponent, or any member. Each case brought to the NCNLI is investigated, and a ruling is made based on the facts presented and, if found in violation of the campaign rules, the severity of the infraction.

11. When will the election begin?

- The election begins in the spring of the following year (usually the first week of April) and closes at the end of May. The voting period is usually eight weeks.

12. When will I be notified of the election results?

- The election results are sent in writing, to each candidate, in early to mid-June.
- Results of the election must be kept confidential until the results are announced by the Secretary at the Annual Meeting of Members where the results are ratified by voting members.

Please feel free to send related inquiries to governance@socialworkers.org