

National and District Election Rules

The mission of the American Academy of Pediatrics is to attain optimal physical, mental, and social health and well-being for all infants, children, adolescents and young adults. Any election activity that is incompatible with the mission and vision of the AAP will be prohibited. American Academy of Pediatrics elections will be conducted in a polite and respectful fashion that preserves harmony among the candidates and respect of the membership. Because the AAP is a large organization with multiple membership categories and constituencies, it is important to prevent the election process from creating division or opposing factions.

The structure of allowed campaign activities is designed to be fair, accessible to a diverse range of candidates and will not favor candidates with institutional or financial advantages either within or without the AAP. The election rules are designed to ensure that candidates are elected based on their merits by the membership. The AAP will encourage and coordinate the development of new forums by which the electorate may seek the opinions of candidates on relevant issues without overburdening the candidates with campaign activities and without overburdening chapters, districts, committees, councils and sections with campaign activities and requests. Unsolicited email contact by candidates and individuals campaigning for candidates will be limited in order to respect the time of the candidates and membership. The AAP (NNC members and staff) will lead in promoting the availability and arranging venues by which president-elect and at-large candidates' views on relevant issues may be debated which will allow the electorate to assess personally the candidates' qualities and qualifications for elected office. AAP-sponsored opportunities for membership to learn about candidate platforms may include: AAP election website, regular membership-wide emails sent during the campaign, candidate town halls, AAP News, Chapter Chat and Annual Leadership Conference appearances. The electorate should be allowed to express their own positive opinions to other members of the electorate about the virtues of one candidate or another and guidance for doing so is clarified below.

The national election will have 2 candidates for the office of president-elect and at-large board members in accordance with rules and regulations adopted by the Board of Directors. Having 2 candidates for each district office (district chairperson, district vice chairperson, and NNC representative) is also desirable, but not required.

All candidates for elected office (defined as candidates for the positions of president-elect, at-large board member, district chairperson, district vice chairperson, and NNC representative), on selection as candidates, shall be provided with the AAP Conflict of Interest policy and shall be required to complete the voluntary disclosure information.

To promote the goals of the campaign and to engage the electorate in a fair and balanced manner, the following rules shall apply.

Campaigning on Behalf of Candidates

- Members of the AAP Executive Committee, the national Board of Directors, district vice chairpersons, NNC representatives, chapter forum management committee representatives, paid consultants (persons or entities with signed consulting agreements with the AAP), paid editors, AAP staff, or other individuals employed by the AAP (at the national, district, or chapter level) will not participate in any campaigning for candidates.
- American Academy of Pediatrics elected, or appointed officers and leaders may not use their official AAP titles in correspondence to members (including those posted on email distribution

lists or in other postings or emails to AAP members) promoting specific candidates. They may campaign for specific candidates as individuals without using their AAP titles and by creating their own email lists but are still prohibited from using a chapter, district, committee, council, section listserv, or any other listserv, endorsing a particular candidate, even if they do not use their title.

- A district, chapter, committee, council, or section may encourage its members to vote in the national AAP election. In doing so it may mention any candidate(s) running for election from its own constituency as long as all other candidates running for the same office are also mentioned in like manner in the same communication.
- **Email Outreach:** Members may send individual emails to campaign for a candidate but may not use mass email systems. Use of email extractors, screen-scraping, email automation platforms, mail merge, or artificial intelligence is prohibited. Members should receive no more than one unsolicited campaign email from an individual during the campaign period.
- **Social Media:** Members may use their personal social media accounts to campaign on behalf of candidates. The post may promote one specific candidate and does not need to mention both candidates. In general, all social media postings and responses should be respectful and should not disparage other AAP candidates.
- The AAP does not have jurisdiction over other groups or societies endorsing a candidate to their own membership, which may overlap with AAP membership.

Member Engagement and Outreach by Candidates

- **Postal Mail and Election Products:** Mass mailings, as well as production and distribution of posters, buttons, fliers, pens, placards, or other election products are prohibited. Business cards with identifying information for the president-elect candidates will be provided by the AAP, upon request.
- **Incentives:** Candidates or their institutions or practices may not offer incentives to members for voting.
- **Email Outreach by national candidates:** President-Elect and At-Large Board Seat candidates may send individual emails to members but may not use mass email systems. Use of email extractors, screen-scraping, email automation platforms, mail merge, or artificial intelligence is prohibited. Members should receive no more than one unsolicited campaign email from a candidate during the campaign period. Districts, chapters, committees, councils, and sections of the AAP should not provide access to email distribution lists.
- **Email Outreach by district candidates:** Candidates for district office shall have fair and equal access to chapter and district e-mail lists. Availability of such lists to the district candidates shall be at the discretion of the chapter presidents and district chairpersons in consultation with the chairperson of the District Nominating Committee, as necessary and appropriate.
- **Websites:** There will be no campaign websites outside of the Election Center on AAP.org. Candidates may not establish their own campaign website, nor may any member or non-member establish a website on their behalf. Websites may not be used to specifically promote their a candidate for an AAP elected office. Candidates may have and circulate their independent website with their professional and personal information, though website content cannot promote their campaign. The AAP National Election Center on AAP.org will retain all candidate information that will be available to all members.
- **Listserves:** Candidates for president-elect and At-Large Board Seats may join and participate in AAP listserv discussions, such as listservs maintained by the Chapters, Committees, Councils, Districts or Sections. Adhering to use of professional etiquette is required. Postings will not

disparage any candidate. If participating in an AAP committee/council/section listserv, candidates should contribute to the discussion on the issue at hand but should not post campaign information or platforms. Candidates must adhere to the posting and etiquette requirements of the AAP listserv they are participating on, and committee/council/section chair may require candidates to participate in an orientation to the listserv. Listserv members may not develop and/or share messages in support of or against a particular candidate but may generate their own individual e-mails to support a candidate.

- **Social Media:** Candidates should not use their social media accounts, including but not limited to X (Twitter), Instagram, Facebook, Snapchat, Tik Tok, etc. to specifically campaign for AAP elected offices. Candidates can use their social media accounts to post professional and personal content, however posts cannot promote their candidacy. In general, all social media postings and responses by candidates should be respectful and should not disparage other AAP candidates.
- **In-person and Virtual Speaking Engagements:** The AAP will facilitate virtual or in-person events for the president-elect and at-large candidates. These may consist of presentations at ALF, District Meetings, Town Halls, and/or Chapter Chats. Each president-elect candidate will be given notice of the presentation opportunity at least 2 weeks in advance, whenever possible. Chapters, Districts, Committees, Councils or Sections or other AAP groups who wish to have the president-elect and/or At-Large Board Seat candidates present at their meeting or conduct a forum with the candidates must reach out to the AAP NNC staff member and all coordination of such events will be done through the AAP NNC staff member to ensure fair and equal access of both candidates to the opportunity. Should a candidate be invited to participate in an event, they must immediately notify the AAP NNC staff member before committing to attend. The NNC staff member will coordinate the request and share the information with the other candidate to ensure equal opportunity is given to each candidate. Candidates may accept speaking engagements on the basis of scientific, professional, or AAP business. Speaking engagements should not be for the primary purpose of electioneering or campaigning. Candidates should inform their host that if they mention the AAP election in their introduction, they must state “Dr. X is one of two candidates running for AAP President-Elect or At-Large Board Seats. More information about each candidate can be found at the AAP National Election Center website.” For any presentation, the candidate for AAP-president-elect or At-Large Board Seat will refer to themselves as a “Candidate for AAP President-Elect” or “Candidate for At-Large Board Seat.” The candidate will also clarify with anyone introducing them or creating promotional material for the appearance that they should be referred to using this language and that if they refer to the election, they must mention both candidates. The AAP NNC staff member can provide standard introductory language. Candidate presentations should be limited to 15 minutes each, or less. The presentations should be scheduled early in the meeting agenda, whenever possible. Both candidates should be informed of the mechanisms being employed for each other’s presentations (eg, if handouts, slides, etc. are being used). The allocation of time for questions and answers may vary depending on the meeting but must be equal for both candidates.

AAP Publications and Products

- All pediatric publications or official websites displaying the logo of the AAP or sponsored by a district, chapter, committee, council, or section must present a balanced view of each president-elect, At-Large Board Seat, or district candidate and shall only publish information approved in advance by each candidate. Such articles will be published simultaneously, be of nearly equal length in word count and column space and be placed

within the publication in such a manner as to give equal exposure to each candidate.

- Official national AAP stationary or supplies, including official district, chapter, committee, council, or section websites, blogs, social media accounts, and email/fax blasts, shall not be used for any purpose directly related to campaigning for any specific candidate. This includes re-tweeting or re-posting a candidate's social media. It is permissible to use district, chapter, committee, council, or section websites, blogs, social media, and/or email/fax blasts to promote the election, but they must provide an equal and balanced view of each candidate.
- Office supplies and facilities, except for those used in official AAP-sponsored campaign activities, will not be used in support of specific candidates during the campaign.

Campaign Reporting

- There will be a limit on personal campaign expenditures, the amount of which will be determined by the NNC. Each candidate may use up to the determined amount, so long as that money comes from his or her own personal funds. Candidates will be required to report expenditures on a regular basis during the campaign to AAP NNC staff and NNC Chairperson and this reporting will be shared with the other candidate as well.
- Institutions or practices may encourage its employee members to vote in the national AAP election. In doing so it may mention any candidate(s) running for election from its own constituency as long as all other candidates running for the same office are also mentioned in like manner in the same communication. However, institutional or corporate financial resources may not be used for campaigning for office, including a candidate's employer or institutions with which a candidate may affiliate. Each candidate must affirmatively notify his or her employer or institution (as applicable) of this prohibition. Violations of this rule will be investigated and enforced by the NNC in its election oversight role.

(4.4) (Rev. 10/20, 1/24)

Allegations of Campaign Rule Violations

Any AAP member may submit a complaint alleging a campaign rule violation by a candidate or anyone acting on behalf of a particular candidate provided that any such complaint must be submitted before the conclusion of the election. Complaints regarding district elections should be sent in writing via email to the DNC chairperson of the district in which the violation is alleged to have occurred. Complaints regarding president- elect and at-large elections should be submitted directly to the NNC chairperson. In the event that the complaint is submitted to staff, they will share the communication with the appropriate NNC leader. Members submitting a complaint should adhere to professional etiquette and should not disparage the candidate running for office or the NNC.

After the complaint is submitted, staff will facilitate all subsequent communications between the subject of the complaint and the NNC leader within a timely manner, providing all relevant documentation. The NNC, with support from staff, will develop a strategy to address and resolve the complaint.

Actions that may be taken by the NNC include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Sending letters of reprimand to individuals
- Requiring a candidate to withdraw from the election
- Providing a summary of the NNC findings with respect to the violation that may, in the discretion of the NNC, be published in official district or national publications prior to the

time the election closes

- Requiring a remedy, as deemed necessary and appropriate, to correct the violation

If unable to resolve the complaint or allegation, the issue will be elevated to the CEO/Executive Vice President and/or the Executive Committee of the Board of Directors for mitigation.

(4.5) (Rev. 10/20)