

## **ELECTION RULES OF THE NSEA**

### **1. Nominations**

Any active member of NSEA is eligible to be a candidate for the offices of NSEA president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, and state NEA director 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 seventy (70) days prior to the date set for the beginning of the NSEA Delegate Assembly. Such candidates must be nominated from the floor of the Delegate Assembly in accordance with NSEA/NEA governance documents.

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

Nominations for elective office at the Delegate Assembly (DA) shall be made in the following order: president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, and state NEA directors. If no candidates have filed for a specific office, nominations for that position shall be opened and accepted from the floor of the DA.

The chair shall close nominations when it is deemed that there are no other candidates to be nominated.

Nomination speeches for candidates shall not exceed two (2) minutes in length.

Candidates nominated for president shall be given an opportunity to address the delegate body; such presentations shall not exceed five (5) minutes per candidate.

Candidates nominated for vice president, secretary-treasurer, and state NEA directors shall be given an opportunity to address the delegate body; such presentations shall not exceed three (3) minutes per candidate.

Candidates for elective office shall address the delegate body in order of nomination.

### **2. Elections & Credentials**

The Elections and Credentials Committee shall be responsible for conducting NSEA elections and for determining the number of votes cast and election results in a poll of the delegation/assembly or on a secret ballot.

All elections shall be by printed ballot and shall take place on the day and during the time designated in the adopted program. If the number of candidates is equal to the number of seats to be filled, the election shall be waived and the candidate(s) declared elected.

The Elections and Credentials Committee shall establish a certified list of official delegates eligible to vote.

When voting, delegates are required to wear the official DA name badge and picture ID. Upon verification of delegate status, each delegate will sign the register opposite his/her name, receive the ballot, and proceed to the polling booths. Upon completing the ballot, the delegate shall fold the ballot and place it in the ballot collection box provided.

If a registered delegate is in line to vote before the close of polling, then the delegate will be allowed to vote.

When there is an election of officers, a space for a write-in shall be provided on the first ballot. Write-in votes are prohibited on subsequent ballots.

The ballot shall contain any proposed amendments to the NSEA Bylaws.

A short explanation of proposed bylaw amendments shall be provided with each ballot. Changes will be printed on the ballot by title only.

Each proposed bylaw amendment, together with any primary or subsidiary amendments, shall be considered

independently.

The Elections and Credentials Committee, in announcing the results of balloting for president, vice president, secretary-treasurer, and state NEA director shall give the name of each candidate and the number of votes received by that candidate. A candidate receiving a majority of the votes cast by delegates shall be declared elected.

If no candidate receives a majority of the votes cast by delegates, 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 Elections and Credentials Committee shall announce the results of the voting on bylaw amendments 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 limited to the registration and exhibit area. No materials, posters or other campaign literature shall be placed in the general meeting area, at meal functions or on the registration desk.

All campaign materials shall be prohibited in the election area.

### **4. Campaign Activities**

Candidates may:

1. Distribute written or printed materials promoting their candidacy.
2. Hold meetings, rallies or fund-raising activities. Associations may sponsor debates for candidates, as long as all candidates for the same office are invited to participate.

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 arrangements for them. It is the responsibility of each candidate to determine when meetings are being held and to make arrangements for attendance. Candidates may give campaign speeches at these meetings if so 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.

No candidates' literature or posters shall be displayed, nor shall the handing out of candidate's material be permitted, within the meeting rooms. A candidate or any other person may wear on his or her person appropriate campaign materials.

All printed campaign materials must bear the identification of the campaign that prepared the material.

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 electronic technology shall not be allowed for any campaign activities.

### **5. Assistance to Candidates**

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

1. One set of mailing labels of delegates and alternates to Delegate Assembly.
2. The opportunity to include a picture and/or a 100-word statement in Perspectives or a successor official publication of the NSEA. Such materials will be restricted to factual statements expressing a candidate's view on issues or providing biographical information.
3. Space/table in the registration and exhibition area of Delegate Assembly.

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 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)