

WISCONSIN HORSE COUNCIL
ELECTION PROCEDURES for 2026 ANNUAL MEETING

Qualifications for holding an elected position

1. Must be a current member of the WHC Board of Directors in good standing.
2. Must be on the Board of Directors for a minimum of 12 consecutive months immediately prior to the election and regularly attending BOD meetings.

Article V, Section 2, #5

- a. This qualification applies only to candidates running for the positions of President, Vice-President, Secretary, and At-Large Directors on the Executive Board.

Positions To Be Elected in 2026

Executive Board *Article V, Section 4, #1*

1. Vice President: 2-year term
2. At-Large Director: **1 position to be elected**; 2-year term *Article V., Section 5*

Midwest Horse Fair Board *Article VIII, Section 3, #1*

1. **2 positions to be elected**; 3-year terms

Budget & Finance Committee *Article VIII, Section 4, #1; #2*

1. **3 positions to be elected**; 2-year terms, must be current Directors

WSHC Equine Foundation *Article XIV*

2 positions to be elected; 2-year terms

1. 50% plus one members of the Foundation Board must be elected by the WHC Board of Directors from the WHC Board of Directors. *Foundation bylaw Article IV, section 4.02 (a)*
2. 2-year terms on a staggered basis with one-half of the positions being elected each year at the WHC annual elections.
3. Numbers of positions open for election are determined by the size of the Foundation Board at the time of the WHC annual meeting.

Candidacy

1. **Directors interested in running for an elected position must file a completed nomination form no later than 3 p.m. of the 3rd Wednesday of February (2/18/26).** Nomination forms must reach the Council office in Columbus at the prescribed time and date either in person, by e-mail, or by postal mail. Late forms will not be accepted for inclusion on the ballots.
2. Nomination forms will be date stamped at the office.
3. The list of candidates and positions will be published in the Board of Directors packet for the February meeting.
4. At the February meeting (before the annual meeting), nominations from the floor will be accepted for all open positions. The nominated person must be present at the meeting, either in person or on the phone to accept the nomination and the nominated person must be eligible for the position.

Nominees have to fill out and submit the nomination form to the office by March 2. Forms received after March 2, will mean the nominee's name will not appear on the appropriate ballot. Office staff will distribute these additional nomination forms to all Directors for their consideration when voting.

5. Eligibility of candidates will be determined by status of membership, length of current Directorship, and attendance at BOD meetings. WHC office staff will work with the Council's Vice-President and Secretary to verify eligibility requirements are met.

Ballots

1. Ballots will be prepared by office staff after the February meeting when all nominations are finalized. Sufficient ballots will be prepared for the number of Directors eligible to vote and absentee ballots will be mailed.
2. At the annual meeting, the Secretary will have a list of Directors eligible to vote.

Voting by absentee ballot

- A. Requests for absentee ballots must be sent (postal or e-mail) to **the office with a "cc" to the Secretary** and must be received **by March 6th**.
- B. Absentee ballots will be mailed immediately with a plain, return envelope addressed to the WHC office and marked "ballot."
- C. Directors returning absentee ballots must have a return address on the envelope to verify voting eligibility.
- D. Directors casting absentee ballots - if any particular position on the ballot is blank, meaning no one has declared for that position, then the person filing the absentee ballot may write in a name for that position, but only if the ballot is blank.
- E. Absentee ballots **must be received at the WHC office by Wednesday, March 25, 2026**.
- F. WHC office staff will hold all absentee ballots, **unopened**, and deliver them to the Secretary at the annual meeting. The Secretary and Vice-President will check the name from the return address against a list of eligible, voting Directors and mark the list as "vote received."
- G. The unopened envelopes will be held by the Secretary and given to the people counting ballots when the official ballot counting begins. Ballot counters will open the envelopes and add the ballots to the count for each elected position.
- H. **Directors who are submitting absentee ballots will not be given a voting packet at the meeting. Their ballots must be either mailed to the office or given to the Secretary at the meeting.**

Voting at the annual meeting—in person

- A. At the start of the annual meeting as roll call is taken, ballot packets will be distributed by the Secretary to eligible Directors.
- B. At the start of the election process, the President will appoint three (3) Directors to count the ballots. Serving as a ballot counter does not exclude these Directors from voting. However, ballot counters cannot be anyone who is running for election.
- C. The President may ask any Director present at the meeting to collect the ballots as the vote is called for each position.
- D. Directors should mark each ballot form as the vote for each position is called for during the election process.
- E. Voting will take place for each elected position in the prescribed order.
- F. Each position will be voted on separately.
- G. If a person is running for more than one position and has been elected to the first one that comes up, he/she may choose to remove their name from any subsequent ballots and must declare that intention when the subsequent vote occurs. The exception would be the Exec Board. A person can be elected to only one position on the Exec Board. If their name is on more than one ballot for the Exec Board and they are elected to the first position that comes up for a vote, then their name has to be stricken from the subsequent Exec Board ballots.
- H. A Ballot Count Verification Form will be completed for each elected position and witnessed by the three people counting the ballots.
- I. Results of each ballot will be announced by the President before going to the next ballot.

Voting at the annual meeting—virtually

- A. For those attending the meeting virtually, the Board member may vote electronically via an online survey (such as Survey Monkey) or via email.
- B. When sending a vote via email, it must be the current email that is on file with the WHC membership.

Order of Election – 2026 & Who Currently Holds the Positions to be Elected

1. Vice President – (Currently held by Katie Bachhuber)
2. Member-At-Large (Exec Board; 1 position currently held by Ron Miller)
3. Midwest Horse Fair Board (2 positions; 2 people receiving the most votes, currently held by Jill Feller and Nancy Edwards)
4. Budget & Finance Committee (3 positions; currently held by Nancy Edwards, Gail Seator, and Bonnie Shepherd)
5. WSHC Equine Foundation (2 positions, currently held by Linda Ernsberger and Jenny Juliuson)