



ELECTION GUIDELINES FOR REGIONAL COUNCIL/LOCAL UNION ELECTIONS

MODIFIED 4/2/20 FOR COVID-19 PREVENTION PROTOCOLS

It is in the interest of the members of the Regional Council/Local Union to conduct a fair and impartial election. In order to serve that interest, the Executive Committee must balance the right of members to express their views and the interest of members to vote by secret ballot without interference. The Executive Committee of the Regional Council/Local Union makes the following findings and issues the following guidelines for Regional Council/Local Union elections to be adopted and implemented by the Election Committee.

*The Executive Committee of the Regional Council has amended these guidelines in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and recommends that all affiliated local unions adopt these guidelines for all local union nominations and elections occurring during the pandemic.

- It is in the interest of the Local Union to operate a fair and impartial election for all candidates and members.
- In accordance with federal laws and regulations, campaigning of any kind is not allowed within the polling place, which includes the voting area and the rest of the Regional Council/Local Union building due to the proximity of the main doors to the ballot check-in area and the polling place. Campaigning is allowed outside of the Regional Council/Local Union building. Members may wear campaign materials such as shirts, buttons, or stickers in union buildings passively but may not engage in active campaigning. These guidelines will be equally enforced.
- All nominations and elections activities must be conducted under strict observance of CDC, state, and local health orders. In addition to the Election Committee, the President may task other members with the responsibility of enforcing CDC, state, and local health protocols. Hand sanitizer and clean restrooms must be available. All check in tables must eliminate the need for touching a common surface. The member check in side must be 6 feet from the area in which officers or the Election Committee is interacting with candidates. The Election Committee must be furnished with gloves and disinfectant to handle all materials that have been touched by others.
- No other union business need be conducted at nomination and election meetings. A template notice of nomination and election will be furnished by the Regional Council to each Local Union. For local unions that have already conducted nominations, they may simply observe the guidelines for election and disregard the Nominations section.
- **Nominations:** Based on the Local Union's notice of nomination and election, nominations should be accepted via mail or email in advance of the nomination deadline, provided that the Local may request that the nominator and the nominee

be identified in a manner sufficient to determine eligibility of the nominator and nominee. The Election Committee will ensure that all nominators are eligible to be nominators at the time of nomination and that the nominated member accepts the nomination. Based on the Local Union's notice of Nomination and Election, the Chair should declare nominations open for the appropriate offices and instruct the Election Committee to commence the review of mailed and emailed nominations. The Chair will then receive nominations for the applicable offices, one at a time, with the Recording Secretary recording same. The Chair will ask three times if there are further nominations for the relevant offices, and, upon hearing none shall declare all nominations closed.

- **Elections:** The Election Committee will supervise the printing of ballots and will decide upon a fair method of placing candidate names on the ballot. The Election Committee will provide for a count of all ballots printed and a method for accepting challenged ballots cast while protecting the secret ballot for all voters. There shall be no campaigning in buildings where elections are held and no campaigning in with regard to a line outside of a building, provided that six feet social distancing must also be observed at all times. Any candidate may appoint up to one observer to observe the printing of the ballots, the voting room (while not interfering with the vote), and the tabulation of ballots. Observers may not stand in close proximity to the voting booths. Cell phone use is prohibited in the voting area. The Election Committee will set up a table outside of the voting room where the Election Committee will check in each eligible voter. Each eligible voter will be issued a ballot and the Election Committee will track the total number of ballots issued. The Election Committee will limit the number of voters and set up voting areas such that members will remain at least 6 feet apart at all times. Common areas must be disinfected between uses.
- **Tabulation:** When all present eligible voters have voted, the Election Committee will unlock the ballot box and count ballots for each office. When a final and accurate count is made, the Election Committee will report to the Local Union body as to the results of the election. Gloves and disinfectant will be furnished for this process.
- Local Union will promptly notify the Regional Council of results.