

ACR Electioneering Policy

Background: In 1997, the ACR Council approved the recommendations of the report of the Governance Committee. In one of its recommendations, the Governance Committee “strongly suggest(ed) that strict limits on electioneering be imposed.” In addition, the committee expressed concern that the election process itself could become a time-consuming distraction from other matters before the Council. In response, the earlier ACR policies and procedures documents discouraged campaigning but did not outright prohibit it.

In 2008, the ACR Council passed Resolution 41, directing the ACR Council Steering Committee to develop and implement binding regulations for candidate communications and to publish those regulations in the ACR Election Manual and additionally communicate them directly to all candidates.

Candidate Opportunities to Communicate Credentials and Views: Current ACR policies and procedures provide the following equitable opportunities for candidates to communicate their credentials and views to the Council:

- Information about all candidates is detailed in a standardized manner in the ACR Election Manual which is made available to all Councilors in advance of each ACR Annual Meeting. The Election Manual includes a photograph of each candidate, a standardized curriculum vitae, which includes relevant biographical information, and personal comments provided by the candidates.
- All candidates in contested elections have the opportunity to make a two-minute presentation to the ACR Council prior to the election. Presentations will be live for in-person meetings and pre-recorded for virtual meetings. If pre-recorded, presentations will be made available on demand prior to the ACR Annual Meeting.

Rules Regarding Electioneering: In response to ACR policy as passed by the Council, the Council Steering Committee sets forth the following updated rules regarding electioneering:

1. Candidates are prohibited from mass distribution of campaign materials via traditional mail, email, phone or other electronic media promoting themselves or another candidate. Candidates who use social media to promote or even announce their candidacy, or the candidacy of another, will be considered in violation of these regulations. Candidates in compliance with the Electioneering Policy won't be disqualified for Electioneering Policy violations committed by others.

2. Candidates are prohibited from distributing campaign buttons, stickers, pens or any other election promotional items prior to or at the ACR Annual Meeting.
3. Candidates are prohibited from displaying or distributing campaign posters, balloons or other election promotional visual aids at the ACR Annual Meeting and at any other meeting or event where multiple ACR members are expected to be present.
4. Candidates may visit (in person or virtually) the geographic and specialty caucuses that they would normally attend because of their practice location or practice type. Candidates currently serving in leadership positions (e.g., Board of Chancellors, Council Steering Committee) may be expected to visit certain caucuses as a normal part of their duty (e.g., as assigned by the BOC Chair or Council Speaker). If a candidate has ACR business that is enhanced or needs attendance at other caucus meetings, they must petition the Speaker, who will discuss with the Vice Speaker and Chair of the College Nominating Committee (CNC) as needed, for permission to attend such caucus meetings, and if given permission, shall do so only in order to conduct such business and not discuss any items regarding their candidacy. Candidates should decline all other invitations to attend caucus meetings.
5. Caucus organizers, at their discretion, may introduce candidates in attendance by name and position they are running for but should not otherwise discuss their candidacy. Candidates may raise their hand or stand in a caucus meeting for visual identification but should not otherwise discuss their candidacy, even if invited to do so by caucus organizers or other attendees.
6. Candidates failing to abide by these rules may be disqualified from participating in elections held during the affected ACR Annual Meeting. Specifically, any candidate who violates these rules may, at the discretion of a committee composed of 1) the Speaker, 2) the Vice Speaker, and 3) the Chair of the College Nominating Committee, be declared ineligible for election in that year and have his or her name stricken from the ballot.
7. Non-candidates promoting candidates via mass distribution of traditional mail, email, phone call or other electronic media is strongly discouraged.
8. Any questions concerning the appropriateness of election activities should be directed to the ACR Office of Governance and Member Services at 571-639-6886 or tbehbahani@acr.org.

ACR Electioneering Policy Approved by the ACR Council Steering Committee; (last updated March 2023)