

ACR Electioneering Rules

Adopted by the Council Steering Committee, January 2026

1. Purpose

The purpose of this Electioneering Rules document is to promote a fair, equitable, and professional election process for all candidates for ACR elected office. This policy replaces prior versions and consolidates enforceable rules governing candidate behavior and election communications. Nonbinding norms or cultural guidance is moved to a separate document (*“Guide for Caucus Leaders”*).

2. Definitions

- **Caucus:** A scheduled meeting of geographic, specialty, or interest groups convened for discussion among Councilors.
- **Caucus Organizer:** The individual(s) who prepare agendas, moderates, or convenes caucus meetings.
- **Candidate:** Any individual formally nominated for an ACR elected office.
- **Mass Distribution:** Any verbal or written communication sent beyond one-to-one interaction, including email blasts, group texts, listserv posts, social media postings, and other campaign paraphernalia.

3. Candidate Communication Opportunities

All candidates will have equitable communication opportunities. Current ACR policies and procedures provide the following 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.
- Candidate speeches 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 Annual Meeting.
- Candidates in contested elections are required to attend the annual ACR meeting as well as to give a 2-minute speech before Council. Should extenuating circumstances prevent a Candidate from attending and making a live in-person speech, the Candidate may remain on the ballot but forfeits the opportunity to

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address Council. In these circumstances, the Candidate must request to be excused by the CNC via email.*

- Candidates in uncontested elections have the option to give a 1-minute speech before Council.

4. Enforceable Rules (Binding on Candidates)

A. PROHIBITED ACTIVITIES

1. No mass campaign communications:

Candidates shall not distribute campaign materials (verbal or otherwise) via email lists, mass texts, social media posts, or other mass-distribution methods.

2. No promotional items:**

Buttons, stickers, pens, posters, signage, or similar materials are prohibited at the Annual Meeting or any ACR associated event.

3. No candidate statements in caucuses:

Candidates may be introduced by name and position sought only. They must not speak about their candidacy, even if invited.

4. No solicitation of endorsement:

Candidates may not solicit endorsements from ACR commissions, committees, sections, caucuses, or other ACR bodies.

B. PERMITTED ACTIVITIES

1. Candidates may attend their caucuses for which they officially belong (geographic/specialty, interest group, etc.) and any additional caucuses required for official ACR roles.
2. Attendance at other caucuses requires prior approval from the Speaker.
3. Candidates may identify themselves only for recognition; no candidacy discussion may occur.

C. RESPONSIBILITY FOR THIRD PARTY ACTIVITIES

Candidates will not be held responsible for independent actions of others unless they coordinated, encouraged, or failed to disavow activity under their direct control.

Effective Dates

These Electioneering Rules take effect upon submission of a member's application for candidacy to the College Nominating Committee (CNC) and remain in force until the official announcement of final election results at the ACR Council Meeting. Submission of

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an application constitutes entry into the ACR election process and triggers all binding provisions of these Rules.

5. Caucus Organizer Parameters

CAUCUS ORGANIZER DISCRETION

Caucus organizers have full discretion regarding:

- Whether to include any candidate-related discussion on their agenda.
- Whether to decline candidate discussion entirely.
- How to structure discussions, if included.

If caucus organizers include candidate-related discussion on their agenda, they are encouraged to make caucus attendees aware of the available ACR Election Manual for further reference.

NO PROMOTIONAL MATERIALS

6. Questions and Interpretations

Questions regarding these rules should be directed to the staff in Governance and Member Services (csc@acr.org) and the Speaker of the ACR Council.

7. Enforcement

A committee consisting of the Speaker, Vice Speaker and CNC Chair (with the CNC Vice Chair as a non-voting member) may determine:

- Whether a violation occurred.
- Whether a candidate shall be disqualified or removed from the ballot.

Enforcement applies only to binding rules in this document (*refer to section 4. A-C*)

8. Candidate Education and Acknowledgement

- Upon nomination acceptance, the candidate will receive this document via email and must sign a DocuSign Acknowledgement
- At Annual Meeting sign-in, candidates will again acknowledge the rules.

9. Review Cycle

These rules will be reviewed by the Council Steering Committee at a minimum of every three years, or as directed by the Speaker or Council.

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Authority – 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.

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