

Campaigning Policy

Introduction

Campaigning is defined as directly encouraging voters to vote for or discouraging voters from voting for a specific candidate or yourself as a nominated candidate on the slate. Campaigning is different from lobbying, soliciting, promoting, canvassing, and electioneering. Zontians may discuss candidates amongst themselves in preparation for voting at the club, area, district, and international level.

A candidate is an individual who is on the slate for club, area, district, or international office. This campaigning policy applies both to candidates on the slate and candidates who are nominated from the floor.

Candidates who already hold a leadership position in Zonta are not to be interpreted as campaigning if they are acting in a way that is consistent with fulfilling their current role.

Rules of Procedure of Zonta International, 5, Circularization (2)

Zontians shall not use membership contact details or act in any other way to contact other Zontians for the purposes of campaigning for or against candidates who are on the slate or nominated from the floor at any level of Zonta.

Fundamentals

After the slate has been issued, a candidate on the slate may be introduced at functions as a candidate for the office for which they are nominated. If a biography of the candidate is distributed in conjunction with the function, it may list the individual as a candidate.

- Candidates, whether on the slate or from the floor, who run for international or district office may give a presentation promoting their candidacy only at the meeting in which voting for the office takes place e.g., international conventions, district conferences or area meetings and only at the time specified in the program. If elections are held electronically and the candidate presents themselves by video, this video is not to be distributed other than designated by the nominating committee.
- For international and district elections, prior to the election meeting the nominating committee may distribute materials prepared by the candidates about their background, qualifications and goals. These materials would usually be included in the convention, conference or area meeting program. Approved biographies of candidates from the floor are only available after the end of the business session at which the candidates program. Approved biographies of candidates from the floor are only available after the end of the business session at which the candidates make their candidate speeches. At international conventions, copies are distributed through headquarters' staff and the convention committee. No other distribution is allowed for candidates from the floor.
- At international conventions, district conferences or area meetings, candidates on the slate may wear official identification indicating that they are candidates. Candidates from the floor, after being nominated, are also entitled to wear such identification. All candidates must remove this identification prior to entering the area where voting takes place.

- Zontians attending an international convention, district conference or area meeting at which elections are held may confer with other members to discuss the candidates, but they may not instruct delegates or other voters how to vote.
- A candidate must not encourage third parties to campaign in favor or against a candidate.

Enforcement of the policy

Alleged violations of this policy are to be reported in writing to a member of the board at the level of the office the candidate is seeking, i.e., club board for candidates for club office, district board for candidates for district office, or International Board for candidates for international office.

The respective board may consider alleged violations at a regular or special meeting or, if necessary, by email or other electronic communication. The candidate will be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. If the candidate is a member of the board, the candidate may be present at the consideration of the alleged violations if they are considered at a regular or special meeting but may not participate in the deliberations or vote. If the board considers the alleged violations at a regular or special meeting, including meetings conducted by telephone and video conferencing systems, it may, by a two-thirds vote of the entire board:

- Reprimand the candidate confidentially, or
- Remove the candidate from the slate.

If the board considers the alleged violations by mail ballot, email or other asynchronous means, the vote to impose discipline must be unanimous.

If the alleged violation comes to the board’s attention after the candidate being elected, the respective board shall follow the disciplinary procedures with respect to removal from office as set forth in the Bylaws of Zonta International.

► Bylaws of Zonta International, Article VIII, International Board, Section 11, Article XII, International Nominating Committee, Section 7, Article XIV-Districts, Section 10(e) and Article XV- Clubs, Section 6(e).

Candidates are required to sign a copy of this policy agreeing to abide by its terms.

Document control:

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Committee responsible	Zonta International Board
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