



AMERICAN PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
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2026 Campaign Guidelines

For Candidates for President-Elect, Speaker of the Governing Council and Executive Board

- The Nominations Committee announced the slate to the Governing Council at the Mid-Year Meeting in June and the APHA candidate webpage will be live by August. The candidates will also be announced in the August issue of *“The Nation’s Health.”* **However, campaigning of any kind, is not permitted to begin until Sept. 1st and must conclude by the deadlines prescribed below.**
 - Campaigning includes:
 - Discussion of qualifications and/or reasons for seeking office
 - Sharing priorities related to the office being sought
 - Hosting events discussing candidacy with APHA members.
 - Directly asking for votes/reminding voters of the date of the elections
- Campaign material should be limited to flyers and pamphlets (physical or digital)
 - No physical materials should be mailed by candidates to members.
 - Candidates are permitted to spend no more than \$100 on their campaign. The value of services provided in-kind should be counted towards this cap. (Candidates will be asked to certify this).
 - No campaign material will be permitted or displayed on the Governing Council floor. A table will be available outside of the Governing Council sessions where candidates can leave printed materials if they wish.
- Candidates will be provided with a list of Governing Councilors and their contact information. **This list is not to be shared!**
 - Candidates are limited to 5 campaign email messages to any member of the Governing Council

- This 5-message limit applies to candidate-initiated messages only; candidates are not limited in their responses to emails received from members.
 - Email messages must allow the recipient to opt out of the messages
 - Mass campaign email messages are prohibited following the start of the Opening Session (11:00AM ET on Nov. 2) of the Annual Meeting
 - Candidates are permitted to host one virtual gathering meant to familiarize Governing Councilors with their candidacy
 - All candidate hosted events must occur between Sept. 1 and Oct 25.
 - Member Unit Leaders will be permitted to engage with the candidates during a series of virtual and in-person forums
 - **All Candidates**
 - 2 virtual sessions: 1) A Nominations Committee hosted session (Date and Time TBD) (*voting GCs only) 2) The ISC/CoA Candidates Forum on Tuesday, October 20 from 4:00-8:00 PM (ET) (*Section and Affiliate leaders as invited by the CoA/ISC- At least one voting GC per member unit must be in attendance)
 - 2 in-person sessions: 1) Meet and greet session at the Annual Meeting on Saturday, 10/31 (Time TBD) 2) Governing Council Candidate Session at the Annual Meeting on Monday, November 2 (Time TBD)
 - **President Elect Candidates (*all of the events above + these additional virtual forums)**
 - 2 additional virtual sessions: To be hosted ahead of the Annual Meeting (more details to come)
 - **CANDIDATES ARE NOT PERMITTED TO ATTEND BUSINESS MEETINGS OR OTHER INDIVIDUAL MEMBER UNIT EVENTS AND MEMBER UNITS CANNOT INVITE CANDIDATES TO THESE EVENTS.**
 - The Nominations Committee will solicit suggestions from the Governing Council for written questions to be posed to the candidates. From these suggestions, the Nominations Committee will select two questions per office, which all candidates running for that

office will be required to answer. Responses will be posted to the APHA candidate webpage.

- **MEMBER UNITS ARE NOT PERMITTED TO SEND ANY ADDITIONAL WRITTEN QUESTIONS TO THE CANDIDATES.**
- The use of social media for campaigning is permitted, and candidates are also allowed campaign websites (any costs associated with said websites count towards the \$100 campaign limit). All candidates' CVs, bios, candidate statements and written answers to Governing Council candidate questions will also be posted to APHA's website.
 - **THE USE OF APHA LEAD FOR CAMPAIGNING IS PROHIBITED.**
- APHA promotes a culture of respect, responsibility, fairness and honesty. Candidates must adhere to the [APHA Code of Conduct](#). Harassment, discrimination and disrespect will not be tolerated. Additionally, negative (smear) campaign tactics are unacceptable.

Any questions regarding these guidelines or reports of perceived violations, by candidates or member units, can be submitted online (anonymous reports are permitted) at

<https://ampublichealth.wufoo.com/forms/q1aof9ze1qbh194/https://ampublichealth.wufoo.com/forms/q1aof9ze1qbh194/> OR <mailto:governance@apha.org>

Violation of the guidelines by candidates and or member units will be handled accordingly:

- *Strike 1- Private warning explaining the violation to the candidate or member unit.*
- *Strike 2- Public notification of violations posted on APHA LEAD*
- *Strike 3*
 - *Candidate:*
 - *Potential removal from consideration as a candidate (at the discretion of the Nomination Committee)*
 - *Potential limiting of e-mail communication to Member Units and Members.*
 - *Potential reduction in campaign budget amount.*
 - *Other consequence as determined by the Nominations Committee.*
 - *Member Unit*
 - *Potential prohibition from participating in forums (including attending and submitting questions in advance with the candidates in next year's election (in consult with ISC and CoA)*
 - *Other consequence as determined by the Nominations Committee.*

Note: Nothing in the violation of guidelines and suggested consequence should be taken to exclude the [APHA Code of Conduct](#). Violations of the APHA Code of Conducts will follow the [APHA Code of Conduct Policy and Procedures](#).