

Policies, Guidelines, Procedures and Forms Library

TITLE/NAME OF POLICY/GUIDELINE: Campaigning Policy

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Bylaw Supporting:

Manual Location: International

Committee Responsible: Nominating Committee

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Related documentation (bylaws, procedure, process, guidelines)	Zonta International Rules of Procedure, 6. Circularization
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POLICY:

Adopted by the International Board November 2014

Zonta needs the most qualified leaders for office. Candidates for Zonta office need to demonstrate high ethical standards. Zonta wishes to ensure the most qualified candidate is elected and will ensure all candidates have the opportunity to inform the membership in a fair, equitable and appropriate way. The following campaigning policy outlines the behaviors expected.

Campaigning is defined as encouraging voters to vote for or discouraging voters from voting for a specific candidate. A candidate is an individual who intends to run for club, district, or international office, whether or not the slate has been issued and whether or not the individual is on the slate.

Rules of Procedure of Zonta International, 6. Circularization

(2) Zontians may not use membership lists or act in any other way to contact other Zontians for the purposes of lobbying for or against proposals that will be voted on, or for or against nominations for office or candidates who are running for office, at international conventions, district conferences or other Zonta meetings.

Campaigning for or by any candidate is not allowed. However information about candidates is necessary for informed voting. Therefore:

- a. Prior to the official slate being issued, there shall be no introduction of a presumptive candidate at any function as “has submitted my/her/his nomination for office.”

- b. After the slate has been issued, a candidate on the slate may be introduced at functions as a candidate for the office for which she or he is nominated. No other information (positive or negative) shall be provided.
- c. Candidates running for international or district office may give a presentation promoting their candidacy only at the meeting in which voting for the office takes place (convention, conference or area meeting) and at the time allocated in the program.
- d. The Nominating Committee may distribute materials prepared by the candidates about their background, qualifications and goals.
- e. At Conventions or Conferences, candidates on the slate may wear official identification indicating that they are candidates. After being nominated, candidates from the floor are also entitled to wear such identification. The identification must be removed prior to entering the voting area while elections are taking place.
- f. Zontians who are attending a district conference or area meeting at which elections are held may confer with other members of their own club to discuss the candidates, but they may not instruct delegates how to vote.
- g. Zontians who are attending an international Convention may confer with other members from their own district to discuss the candidates, but they may not instruct delegates how to vote.
- h. If asked, Zontians may orally provide factual information to other Zontians about candidates, but may not by any means solicit votes for any candidate.

Examples of Activities that Are Not Permissible

1. A candidate's visits, with no substantive purpose, to club meetings, area meetings or district conferences other than the candidate's own. This also relates to inter-district seminars on other continents than the candidate's own, or any function obviously arranged to promote the candidate.
2. Using culture, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation or geography as a qualification to influence the vote.
3. Distributing at any time any gift, trinket, button, or other promotional material by or on behalf of a candidate.
4. Advocating or discouraging the election of a candidate in club, area or district communications, irrespective if this communication is oral, written or through any social media.
5. Making a speech about a candidate.
6. Encouraging or discouraging clubs from sending delegates or proxies to a conference or Convention in order to improve the likelihood that a candidate will win or lose an election.
7. Zonta leader, club or an individual Zontian instructing a voting member/s how to vote. This includes "block voting" or directions to vote for a particular candidate/s.
8. The use of social media (official Zonta social media groups, official club or district Facebook or Linked-in pages or groups, etc.) including personal and professional networks, and or increasing public visibility (or online presence) to promote a nominee's candidacy before and/or during convention, district conference, area meeting or any meeting where elections will be held.

9. ZI Board members attending District Conferences other than their own district or those assigned to them by the International President, without the prior approval of the ZI President.

Enforcement of the Policy

1. Alleged violations of the 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, International Board for candidates for international office).
2. The Board may consider alleged violations for examination at a regular or special meeting or, if necessary, by email. The candidate will be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. If the candidate is a member of the Board, she or he 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 it may, by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting,
 - (1) reprimand the candidate privately; or
 - (2) remove the candidate from the slate. If the international board considers the alleged violations by mail ballot, the vote to impose discipline must be unanimous by the entire Board, except that if the candidate who is alleged to have engaged in misconduct is a member of the Board, she or he will not be entitled to vote on this matter.
3. If the alleged violation comes to the Board's attention within three (3) months after the candidate is elected, the Board shall follow the disciplinary procedures with respect to removal from office as set forth in the Zonta International Bylaws.