

AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION
Rules for the Conduct of Nomination and Elections

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Qualifications for Officers and Members of Council

To be serve as an officer or member of the Council, a person who has been elected must be a member in good standing of the Association¹ and properly selected as described below or in Article V, section 6 of the Bylaws (filling interim vacancies).

Officers and members of the Council must maintain their membership in the Association for the duration of the term of the office (Article V, section 2(b)).

Offices to be Filled

President-elect – succeeds the current President for a one-year term at the end of the annual meeting of the Association in the year following election as President-elect. (The President who has most recently completed the term in office becomes the Immediate Past President at that time.)

Three vice-presidents – one year terms. (Must be former members of the Council.)

Treasurer – three-year term. (Elected every third year.)

Eight members of the Council – three-year terms. (There are twenty-four at-large members of the Council; eight are elected each year for overlapping terms; members of Council may not serve consecutive terms.)

At-large members of the Council may not serve consecutive terms.

Nomination by the Nominating Committee

Article IX, section 1 of the Bylaws provides:

- a. Membership and selection [of the Nominating Committee]. Within 30 days of the conclusion of each Annual Business Meeting, the President appoints, with the advice and consent of the Council and with due regard for geographic distribution, field of professional interest, methodological orientation, types of institutions where members are employed, race, ethnicity, gender and gender identity, sexuality, disability, and other important forms of diversity, three members to the Nominating Committee to serve for two-year terms and designates the chair to serve for the following year.

(The Nominating Committee includes six members: these newly appointed members along with the three members appointed for two-year terms in the preceding year.)

¹ The Bylaws do not require that candidates be members. If a person is elected who is not a member at the end of the Annual Business meeting when new Council members and Officers begin their terms, that person would not be eligible to assume his/her position (Article V, section 2(b)), the position would be vacant, and the terms of Article V, section 5 would apply.

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- b. Powers and duties. The Committee nominates to the membership candidates for the positions of President-elect, three Vice Presidents, eight at-large Council members each year², and a Treasurer every three years, in accordance with the provisions of Article V section 3. The Association must publish the list of nominees for members to view 120 days prior to the date of voting.
- c. When selecting the nominees, the Nominating Committee makes recommendations with due regard for geographic distribution, field of professional interest, methodological orientation, types of institutions where members are employed, race, ethnicity, gender and gender identity, sexuality, disability, and other important forms of diversity.

Note that the currently serving President-elect becomes President at the end of the Annual Business Meeting; the Nominating Committee's responsibility is to nominate a candidate for the office of President-elect.

Nomination by petition

Article V, section 3(a) of the Bylaws provides that nominations for officers and at-large members of the Council to be elected in the coming election can be made by delivering to the President at least 60 days prior to the date of voting a petition which names the nominee signed by at least 50 members as of the record date.³

Election

In advance of balloting, the Rules and Elections Committee posts on the Association's website an explanation of the arrangements for the coming election.

The date of the balloting is set by the Rules and Elections committee and announced on the association's website.

The procedures for counting are as follows (Article V, section 4):

- a. For each position on the ballot, members may vote "for" (yes), "against" (no), or abstain.
- b. In the event that a member votes "for" more candidates than can be elected to a position, the ballot is spoiled and not counted. A ballot returned with no votes for a position is counted as an abstention.
- c. Candidates must receive more "for" votes than "against." In the event that there are more candidates than open positions, candidates receiving the largest number of positive votes will be deemed elected, followed by the candidate receiving the next largest number of positive votes, and so on, until all positions are filled.

The Elections Committee supervises the counting of votes and certifies the result of the election to the Executive Director for circulation to the Council and the membership of the Association.

The Elections Committee will consider any challenges to the conduct of the election and determine what if any response is required. The procedures for challenging the conduct or results of the election(s) will be explained in the Elections Committee's post on the Association's website describing the arrangements for balloting and certification of the results of the election.

² Per Article V, section 6(d), the initial terms of the continuing members of the Council are to be divided by the Nominating Committee into two groups of eight. One such group will serve one additional year, the other two additional years. Eight new members of Council will be elected in 2017, and serve three year terms. Thereafter, eight members of Council will be elected each year for three-year terms. Also, officers elected under the former Bylaws will continue in office until the expiration of their terms as specified therein.

³ In contrast to the previous Constitution and Bylaws, the Bylaws approved in 2016 do not provide for election of officers or members of Council during the Annual Business Meeting; hence there is no provision for nominations from the floor or conducting an election during that meeting.