

# Board of Directors Campaign Policy



## Purpose

ACES: The Society for Editing is committed to a fair, respectful, and transparent election process. This Campaign Policy establishes guidelines for individuals running for the ACES Board of Directors to ensure equity, professionalism, and alignment with ACES' mission and values.

This policy applies to all candidates for officer and at-large board positions once the official slate is announced as determined by the Governance Advisory Committee.

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## Guiding Principles

Board elections at ACES are designed to:

- Promote informed voting by the membership
  - Ensure equal opportunity for all candidates
  - Maintain a professional and respectful tone
  - Protect ACES' neutrality as an organization in the elections
  - Avoid undue influence or misuse of organizational resources
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## Election Schedule

**April 1:** Nominations open at 12:01 a.m. ET.

**April 15:** Nominations close at 11:59 p.m. ET.

**May 1:** Voting opens at 12:01 a.m. ET. Electronic ballots are sent via email to all members in good standing.

**May 15:** Voting closes at 11:59 p.m. ET.

**Late May:** Election results are announced to members via email and newsletter.

**June:** Orientation for new Board members.

**July 1:** Newly elected Directors Board members start their two-year terms, which will end two years later on June 30.

Statements from the candidates, along with their bios and photos, will be available during the voting window.

# 1. Use of ACES Resources

To ensure fairness and organizational neutrality:

- Candidates may not use ACES staff time for campaign support beyond standard election administration.
  - ACES membership lists (including email addresses) may not be used for campaign outreach.
  - ACES communication platforms (official email lists, Slack channels, forums, etc.) may not be used for unsolicited campaigning unless expressly designated by ACES for election purposes.
  - ACES logos, branding, or official graphics may not be modified or used in a way that implies organizational endorsement.
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# 2. Campaign Communications

ACES encourages issue-based, mission-focused campaigning.

Candidates may:

- Share their candidacy via personal networks and social media
- Communicate directly with members who voluntarily engage with them
- Discuss their vision, qualifications, and goals

Candidates may not:

- Misrepresent another candidate's qualifications or statements
- Engage in negative campaigning or personal attacks
- Imply endorsement by ACES, staff, or board members unless explicitly authorized
- Offer incentives in exchange for votes

All communications must reflect ACES' Code of Conduct and values.

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# 3. Equal Access & Fairness

If ACES hosts a candidate forum, Q&A, or informational session:

- All candidates for the same position must be invited.
- Equal time and structure will be provided.
- Questions may be moderated for clarity and relevance.

ACES will not endorse, rank, or otherwise signal preference among candidates.

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# 4. Board & Staff Neutrality

Current board members and staff must maintain neutrality in their official capacities.

- Board members may support candidates in their personal capacity but may not use their board role, ACES platforms, or organizational influence to advocate.
- Staff shall not engage in campaigning and will remain administratively neutral.

## 5. Sponsorship & Advertising During the Election Period

ACES recognizes that board candidates may also be industry professionals or business owners who participate in ACES sponsorship, advertising, or exhibitor opportunities.

Candidates are not prohibited from sponsoring, advertising, or exhibiting with ACES during the election cycle, provided the following conditions are met:

- 1. Public Availability:** Sponsorships, advertising placements, and exhibitor opportunities must be available to the general public under standard terms and pricing.
- 2. No Preferential Treatment**  
Candidates may not receive:
  - Early access to sponsorship opportunities
  - Discounted pricing not available to others
  - Enhanced visibility, placement, or promotion tied to their candidacy
- 3. No Implied Endorsement:** Sponsorship participation must not be represented as an endorsement by ACES, nor may it be used to imply election support.
- 4. Conflict of Interest Compliance:** Any candidate who is currently on the Board of Directors must make sure to follow ACES' Conflict of Interest Policy.
- 5. Equal Access:** All sponsorship and advertising opportunities shall remain open and accessible to all eligible individuals on the same terms.

Participation in sponsorship activities during the election period does not, in and of itself, constitute a violation of this policy when conducted transparently and in accordance with these provisions.

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## 6. Campaign Timeline

Campaigning may begin only after the official announcement of candidates. Campaigning must cease once voting closes.

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## 7. Reporting & Enforcement

Concerns regarding campaign conduct should be submitted in writing to the Vice President for Governance and the Executive Director.

The Governance Advisory Committee, in consultation with the President and the Executive Director, as appropriate, may:

- Issue guidance or clarification
- Request correction of communications
- Determine whether a violation has occurred
- Recommend appropriate action to the Board if necessary

Any action taken will be proportionate and guided by principles of fairness and due process.

## 8. Commitment to Professionalism

Serving on the ACES Board of Directors is a leadership role grounded in stewardship, integrity, and service to the profession. Candidates are expected to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with:

- ACES' mission
- ACES' Code of Conduct
- ACES' Conflict of Interest Policy
- Fiduciary and governance best practices for nonprofit organizations

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### Policy Review

This policy shall be reviewed periodically by the Governance Advisory Committee to ensure alignment with best practices and ACES bylaws.