

26.060.4. Rules Regarding Campaigning, Canvassing, and Electioneering

It is a fundamental principle in Rotary that the best qualified candidate should be selected for service in Rotary's elective offices. Therefore, any effort to influence the selection process in a positive or negative manner by campaigning, canvassing, electioneering or otherwise is prohibited under the RI Bylaws.

The following rules shall be followed concerning campaigning, canvassing and electioneering for any Rotarian considering election to the office of president, director, Governor, or Council representative, or the nominating committee for any such office. These rules are designed to ensure that the best qualified candidate is selected for office:

1. Rotarians should at all times conform to the prohibitions of the RI Bylaws concerning campaigning, canvassing or electioneering. All Rotarians should observe both the letter and the spirit of the bylaws and refrain from any activity whose purpose or effect is to influence others by promoting or soliciting support for a candidate's or another Rotarian's candidacy. Such activity is repugnant to the spirit of the bylaws and the principles of Rotary and will be grounds for disqualification of a candidate.
2. Campaigning, canvassing or electioneering is any action seeking to promote, attack, support, or oppose a candidate, either directly or indirectly, in any medium, including, but not limited to, any action seeking votes, requesting support in a forthcoming election, distribution of literature or promotional materials or other overt actions intended to promote one's candidacy for an elected Rotary office. However, communication seeking concurrences to a challenge resolution or election complaint within one's own club or district is permitted, provided that such contact is limited to the exchange of factual, procedural information.
3. The periods of candidacy for elective office begin when individual Rotarians begin to give serious consideration to submitting their names for a position covered by the RI rules for nominations and elections. Commencing at that time, candidates should be

particularly careful to avoid any actions designed to publicize their names or achievements, to call attention to the applicable nominations or elections, or to give candidates an unfair advantage over other candidates for the same position.

4. The normal performance of duly-assigned Rotary activities would not be considered to be a violation of the policies related to campaigning, canvassing or electioneering.

(January 2026 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 62)

Source: March 1993 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 135, App. E;

Amended by June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 325; February 2007 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 149; April 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec., 157; September 2016 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 28; January 2026 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 62

26.070. Election Complaint Procedures

The following procedures for review of RI elections shall be followed whenever a complaint is made and filed in accordance with the applicable sections of the RI Bylaws:

26.070.1. Advising the Parties of a Complaint

After receiving any election complaint, the general secretary shall inform the party in question of the allegation, request a written response with documentation by a certain date, and notify the parties of the proper procedure to be followed. *(June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326)*

Source: March 1992 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 183.

Amended by November 1995 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 81; February 1996 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 174; June 2001 Mtg., Bd. Dec. 326

26.070.2. Methods of Resolution

The president, or the general secretary acting on the president's behalf, shall resolve an election dispute in the following situations:

1. there has been a misunderstanding about the requirements of the relevant constitutional documents;
2. information has been received and certified by the general secretary that a candidate has appealed to a "non-Rotary agency" prior to completing the RI election review procedures. In such instances the president shall, in accordance with RI Bylaws section 13.030.5. and on behalf of the Board, send a "show-cause" letter by priority mail to the candidate requesting information within 15 days indicating that the lawsuit was not filed on the candidate's behalf. Upon the candidate's failure to provide adequate evidence that the action was not taken on the candidate's behalf, the President, on behalf of the Board, shall notify the candidate that he or she is disqualified for the election in question and from contesting any elective office of RI in the future for a period as determined by the board, without referral to the RI election review committee. The president shall also notify the executive committee of any action taken pursuant to this subsection.

In all other situations, the president shall, in consultation with the chair of the election review committee, select three members of that committee (one of whom shall be designated as