

Frequently Asked Questions About Serving as District Governor

These are among the most frequently asked questions about serving as District Governor. For additional information, read the Rotary International Manual of Procedure and the Rotary International Code of Policy.

Time-related Questions

a. How much time is needed to serve as District Governor (DG)? What specific time commitments do I need to plan during the DG, District Governor-elect (DGE) and District Governor-nominee (DGN) years? To serve as Governor, an individual will usually need to be away from the daily operation of his/her business on a partial/part-time basis for up to two years. The time commitment for Governor and preparation years includes, but is not limited to:

- International Assembly for Training as Governor-elect, one week in January, located in Orlando. Partners are encouraged to attend the concurrent partner training as well.
- Northeast PETS (three days in March) annually as Governor-Nominee Designate, Governor-nominee, Governor-elect and District Governor.
- PETS Planning Committee meetings in Framingham, MA one Saturday meeting per month for five or six months annually through Nominee-designate, Nominee, and Elect years.
- District Conference and District Assembly as Nominee-designate, Nominee, Elect and Governor.
- The District Assembly, PETS, and PrePETS meetings/webinars, which are planned by the Governor-elect
- Zone 32 Institute as Governor, Elect, and Nominee. In addition to three days (Wednesday-Saturday) at the Institute, each class will have one day of “pre-Institute” training. During the Governor-elect year this GETS training is lengthened to two days. Institutes and Pre-Institutes are held in locations throughout our two Zones at dates during the August-October timeframe. Your partner is encouraged to attend parallel training during the same time periods. The dates of the Zone Institute in future years is listed on the District website and the Zone website, <http://portal.clubrunner.ca/50077/>
- International convention prior to the year you will assume office as DG. You’ll find the locations and dates of upcoming Conventions on the District and RI websites. Please note that in recent years, the Governor-elect has opted to use budgeted funds to attend the Convention that takes place during his/her Nominee year rather than Elect year in order to have more time to plan before the Governor year begins.

- Official club visits (currently 40 clubs) as Governor as prescribed by RI within the guidelines of the District Leadership Plan and responsibilities of Governor (see RI Manual of Procedure, page 28-29). As a general rule, the cumulative duration of club visits has averaged about three months during the first half of the Rotary year.
- Foundation events, new club charters, club anniversary celebrations, etc., during all four years.
- Participation in District committee meetings and work with selected District committees during all four years. The Governor is a member ex officio of all District committees.

b. Do I need to be retired to serve as Governor? Absolutely NOT. Although many past governors have been retired, many have been actively pursuing their career while governor. Due to the travel schedule and distances and responsibilities of the position, you should expect to be away from the normal operation of your business/employment on a part-time basis for up to two years when you are Governor-elect and Governor.

c. Is there time for family events or a vacation while I am Governor or preparing to be Governor? Even though the schedule may be intense, you should plan in advance for personal time and time with your family.

d. Will there be expectations or time commitments when I become a Past District Governor? Yes. Please see the District bylaws, posted on the District website. PDGs are encouraged to continue serving the District and Rotary in leadership capacities in other ways after their Governor year.

Financial Obligations

I understand there are many costs to serve as Governor. Can I afford this? There are a number of costs associated with the responsibilities of the Governor; some are covered by Rotary International and some by District 7780. Both RI and District allowances are for specific amounts and specific items; funds spent for one expense are not available for other expenses. Most governors find that all “needs” are financially supported – but not necessarily all “wants.” They find that of the expenses not covered, many are at the discretion of the individual.

Items Funded by RI (RI Code of Policy, Section 19.010) Travel expenses, including accommodations, of the District Governor for club visits and the International Assembly, are adequately funded by RI. RI pays for partner’s expenses at the International Assembly if he/she attends the sessions. Partners are strongly encouraged to attend.

- Expenses associated with Governor-elect Training (GETS) as Governor-elect
- Limited office expense and communications expenses.
- Expenses of the District Governor to organize and attend the District Conference.
- For more, see RI Funding for Governors at the end of this packet.

Items Funded by the District (up to an amount established by the annual budget) -- see current budget posted on District website.

- Travel expense for club visits. Some special events for the Governor's partner are funded by the District, as is attendance at the District Conference.
- Zone 24/32 Institute for Governor and Governor-elect and their partners and Governors Elect Training (GETS) for the Elect.
- Zone 24/32 Governors Nominee Training (GNATS) and North-East Presidents Elect Training Seminar (PETS) for the Nominee.
- International Convention for the Governor-elect and partner (as noted, the Governor-elect may attend the International Convention as Nominee *instead*).
- Presidents Elect Training Seminar (PETS for Governor Nominee-Designate

Additional costs associated with serving as District Governor, Governor-elect or Governor Nominee are optional and may include:

- Participation at events as Governor-elect and Nominee, such as visits to clubs in the District. Additional partner expenses or costs for personal expenses while traveling.
- Gifts, hospitality, and similar.
- Purchase of office equipment.
- Travel to meetings or conferences outside the District

Based on recent experience, these optional items could add up to \$5,000 or more based on personal choice – but they are *optional*. The expenses of some recent governors have been much less, while others have decided to participate in multiple non-required Rotary activities during these years and paid for it themselves.

Qualifications and Background

What Rotary experience and background should I have prior to serving as Governor?

The Nominating Committee will review candidate's experience at both the club and the district levels, as well as other applicable background and leadership experience.

a. A summary of RI's requirements for those nominated for Governor:

- Membership, other than honorary, in good standing of a functioning club in the District from which they are nominated
- Service completed as president of a Rotary Club for a full term or as a charter club president for at least six months.
- Demonstrated willingness and ability to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office.

- Membership in one or more Rotary clubs for a total of seven years at the time of taking office.
- Ability and commitment to meet additional requirements for taking office.
- Nomination by your Rotary Club via resolution adopted at a regular membership meeting, signed and dated by the club president and the secretary, and submitted per the process outlined in the District 7780 Call for Nominations. In brief, the deadline for club resolutions is to be received by October 15, and the deadline for nominee application information (D7780 Governor Candidate Brief Resume and the RI Governor Nominee Data Form) is also October 15.

b. In addition to RI's minimum requirements, recommended District experience prior to becoming a candidate includes:

- Active service on district committees, service as Assistant Governor or District committee chair(s).
- Attendance/participation in District Conferences, District Assembly and International Conventions, especially recent participation.
- Completion of Rotary Leadership Institute in advance of application is highly desirable.

What other factors come into play?

1. *Good health.* Travel schedules and intensive meeting and activities require considerable health and stamina.
2. *Computer, basic software, email and social media, and the ability to use it effectively.* There will be a significant amount of email, RI reports, data management, etc.
3. *Partner/family support.* Those with partners and families should understand the commitment made for the period immediately prior and during the year of service. Family and work time be balanced. Having your partner travel with you can be a big help, for example, being a morale booster and keeping track of appointments, , etc. but is not a requirement. Some partners stay home and help as administrative assistants or manage the expense reports; some take over more family responsibilities to allow the Governor more time for Rotary. The decision whether the partner travels with the Governor is up to the couple.
4. *Support of the home club.* Some clubs provide monetary, in-kind or other types of support. The home club may also take on responsibility for the District Conference or help with other key initiatives of the Governor during the year. There is no requirement or "correct" involvement – it is up to the Governor and his/her club.
5. *Support system within the District.* A number of PDGs are active and willing to help. Some strong district committees have built-in succession plans.
6. The Finance Committee helps with budgeting.

Application and selection process

1. *How do I apply?* A club resolution, as described in Item 3b, as well as your completed Brief Resume Template and Governor Nominee Data Form as provided by the Nominating Committee, must be submitted to the District Governor by November 1. Other information may also be requested.
2. *Is it true that I will need to apply several times before I am selected?* Some of our best governors were not selected the first time they applied. If you are interested in being governor in the near future, we encourage you to submit your application now.
3. *How will the selection be made? What information will be considered in the selection process?* Nominated candidates participate in an interview process with the Nominating Committee as described in the Call for Nominations announcement. The partner of the candidate is invited (and encouraged) to participate in the interview. The interviews will take place in November.
4. *The selection process may include several components.* The Committee will utilize the information provided by the candidate in writing and discussed during the interview process, and other available information about the candidate's skills and background relevant to the position requirements and his/her past leadership experience. Nominating Committee members may contact club or district leaders or other individuals with whom the candidate has worked to more thoroughly understand this experience.
5. *Who will be present at the interview?* Members of the District Nominating Committee as defined in the District bylaws and as listed in the District Directory, will be present at the interview and are responsible for the actual interview and questions asked of the nominee. The current Governor and District Governor-elect may be present in the room as observers not as voting members of the nominating committee.
6. *When and where will the interview take place?* The Nominating Committee will meet November (dates to be determined and publicized) for personal interviews with the Candidates. The meeting will most likely take place in the Portland area. If those dates are not viable for the candidate, the Nominating Committee will schedule an alternate time for the interview.

Roles/Responsibilities/Training

- See RI Code of Policies 16.010 through 16.090
- Once selected for the Governor role, a candidate can expect extensive training at the Zone level as well as by Rotary International. Training takes time away from home at set times and various locations and will impact a person's schedule; it is not at the convenience of the nominee.

Am I expected to donate to The Rotary Foundation if selected?

Rotary expects District Governors to be ambassadors of the Foundation and to lead by example; therefore there is an expectation to show annual support to the Rotary Foundation. There is no specific dollar requirement; the governing factors would be your own personal means. It is often suggested that the Governor's commitment to the Rotary Foundation be on par with the individual's commitment(s) to their alma mater, religious institution or other personal philanthropies.

Please explain the prohibition against “campaigning”

- Please review the article by Past Rotary International Director, Dan Mooers, which explains the RI rule that prohibits candidates from electioneering, canvassing or campaigning. (Please note the RI Bylaw provision cited in the article has been changed and is now 11.060.)
- You are permitted (and encouraged) to hold informational conversations with Past District Governors, the Governor, Governor-elect and Governor-nominee to learn more about the position of District Governor: its duties, challenges, responsibilities, opportunities, and joys.