

REPORT OF THE SPEAKERS

Speakers' Report 2-A-24

Subject: Report of the Election Task Force 2

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1 BACKGROUND

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3 At the 2023 Interim Meeting, the Election Task Force 2 (ETF2) submitted Speakers' Report 3-I-23
4 which included multiple recommendations, many of which were ultimately referred back. The
5 ETF2 subsequently met February 10, 2024, to review these items and testimony heard at I-23. The
6 task force will hold an open forum on Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 3:00 pm CT to gather additional
7 feedback on these items and will then develop a report with final recommendations to be presented
8 at Interim 2024. The topics of consideration listed on this report will be the basis for discussion at
9 the open forum.

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11 ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

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13 The ETF 2 noted that there was a general lack of clear definitions related to items surrounding
14 AMA elections. Therefore, they developed the definitions in the Glossary shown below. In
15 addition, the ETF 2 reviewed all items that were referred back for further consideration and
16 suggested changes shown as additions and deletions and the rationale for these suggestions in the
17 grid that follows. The ETF 2 asks that delegations review and make comments on the Glossary and
18 Proposed Changes at the Open Forum.

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20 The final topic for consideration at the open forum will be a consideration of endorsements. This
21 will be an open topic and all input is encouraged.

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23 **Glossary**

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25 Active campaign window – period of time after the speaker's notice of the opening of active
26 campaigning until the Election Session during the House of Delegates meeting at which elections
27 are being held

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29 Active campaigning – Outreach by candidates or their surrogate(s), including but not limited to
30 members of their campaign team, to members of the House of Delegates with the goal of being
31 elected by the AMA House of Delegates

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33 Announced candidate – person who has indicated their intention to run for elected position;
34 announcement can be made only by sending an electronic announcement card to the Speakers via
35 the HOD office by email to hod@ama-assn.org

36 Campaign manager(s) – person(s) identified by the candidate to the HOD Office as the person(s)
37 responsible for running the campaign

- 1 Campaign team – campaign manager(s) and/or staff identified by the candidate to the HOD Office
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- 3 Campaign-related – any content that includes reference to an announced candidate in the context of
- 4 their candidacy for an elected position within the AMA
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- 6 Digital – relating to, using, or storing data or information in the form of digital signals; involving or
- 7 relating to the use of computer technology; this includes but is not limited to social media and
- 8 communication platforms
- 9
- 10 Elected position(s) – Council or Officer position within the AMA elected by the House of
- 11 Delegates of the AMA
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- 13 Featured – identification of a candidate at an event by the host or organizer of the event including
- 14 but not limited to written or verbal announcement of the candidate or their candidacy

ETF 2 Proposed Language <i>(Proposed changes to current policy or items from ETF 2 I-23 report shown in red)</i>	Rationale
<p><i>Proposed changes to current policy:</i></p> <p>Campaign stickers, pins, buttons and similar campaign materials are disallowed. This rule will not apply for pins for AMPAC, <u>AMA</u>, the AMA Foundation, specialty societies, state and regional delegations and health related causes that do not include any candidate identifier. These pins should be small, not worn on the badge and distributed only to members of the designated group. General distribution of any pin, button or sticker is disallowed.</p>	<p>ETF2 considered the testimony from the delegates during the I-23 meeting. In order to confine to the security requirements for the meeting badges, no buttons, pins or stickers can be affixed to the badge itself. AMA, AMPAC, AMA-Foundation, specialty society, state or regional delegations pins, buttons, stickers, etc. are not directly connected to the election campaign and thus can be worn on one's self except on the badge. This proposal is intended to avoid uneven general exposure to a particular candidate and will provide an even playing field for all candidates.</p>
<p><i>New language referred at I-23 with proposed changes.</i></p> <p>Only a<u>A</u>n announced candidate in a currently contested election may discuss their candidacy on an individual basis in private conversations from announcement of candidacy until the active campaigning period begins. Prior to the active campaigning period, no other individual may discuss the candidacy including members of campaign teams, delegations or caucuses, and "friends." <u>This rule does not prohibit any candidate from discussions for the purpose of forming a campaign team nor from a campaign team discussing a candidate or campaign strategy. This rule also does not prohibit persons not associated with a campaign from discussing candidates in private conversations.</u></p>	<p>The intent here is to minimize campaign discussions prior to active campaigning. However, the ETF2 was aware of concerns that this rule would prohibit candidates from asking others to join their campaign team as well as prohibiting a designated campaign team from discussing campaign strategy. This clarifies that both are expected and permitted.</p>

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<p><i>Proposed changes to current policy:</i></p> <p><u>Printed and digital</u> Ccampaign materials may not be distributed <u>to members of the House other than by the HOD office candidate email and on the Candidate Web Pages. by postal mail or its equivalent.</u> The AMA Office of House of Delegates Affairs will not longer furnish a file containing the names and mailing addresses of members of the AMA-HOD. Printed campaign materials will not be included in the "Not for Official Business" bag and may not be distributed in the House of Delegates. Candidates are encouraged to eliminate printed campaign materials.</p>	<p>In order for candidates to have equal access to HOD members, the route of access to them is limited to the official AMA channels noted here. This will discourage additional printed mailings and digital communications and disallow distribution at the HOD meetings.</p>
<p><i>Proposed changes to current policy:</i></p> <p><u>Active campaigning via mass outreach to delegates by candidates or on behalf of a candidate by any method is prohibited.</u> A reduction in the volume of campaign-related telephone calls and <u>personal</u> electronic communication from candidates and on behalf of candidates is encouraged. <u>No part of this rule shall be interpreted to limit communication among members of a campaign team. The Office of House of Delegates Affairs does not provide email addresses for any purpose. The use of e</u>Electronic messages to contact electors should be minimized, and if used must include a simple mechanism to allow recipients to opt out of receiving future messages.</p>	<p>The ETF2 seeks to clarify guidelines for communication by candidates to other delegates. New language has been added to specifically prohibit mass outreach to candidates. However, this recommendation also clarifies that personal communication is allowed, while simultaneously honoring the desire of many delegates to reduce overall volume of communication. A clarification was added to ensure freedom of communication amongst campaign teams. Language was also revised to reflect the frequency of electronic communication while still maintaining the option to opt out.</p>

ETF 2 Proposed Language <i>(Proposed changes to current policy or items from ETF 2 I-23 report shown in red)</i>	Rationale
<p><i>Proposed changes to current policy:</i></p> <p>Groups conducting interviews with <u>announced</u> candidates for a given office must offer an interview to all individuals that have officially announced their candidacy at the time the group's interview schedule is finalized <u>announced candidates</u> at the time the group's interview schedule is finalized.</p> <p>a. A group may meet with an <u>announced</u> candidate who is a member of their group <u>during the active campaign window</u> without interviewing other candidates for the same office.</p> <p>b. Interviewing groups may, but are not required to, interview late announcing candidates persons who become announced candidates during the active campaign window. Should an interview be offered to a late candidate, all other announced candidates for the same office (even those previously interviewed) must be afforded the same opportunity and medium.</p> <p>c. Any appearance by a candidate before an organized meeting of a caucus or delegation, other than their own, will be considered an interview and fall under the rules for interviews. Any <u>appearance campaign-related presentation</u> to an assembly by an announced candidate, with or without being followed by a discussion, question and answer session, or a vote of the assembly regarding the candidate, is an interview and subject to the rules on in-person interviews. No portion of this rule shall be interpreted to mean that a candidate acting in a formal capacity would be unable to present or discuss matters pertaining to that formal capacity with any group.</p>	<p>The Election Task Force heard concerns about definitions of timelines, candidacy, and potential election violations that would be incurred by delegations meeting with their own members who happened to be candidates. The proposed language here seeks to clarify that there is no restriction on a delegation's ability to hold meetings where all of their members may be in attendance. Further, the Election Task Force wanted to clarify the mechanism for candidates that do not announce until after the active campaign window opens may be offered interviews, and what this means for all other candidates for that same office. Finally, there were questions about what constitutes an interview and how candidates holding an official AMA position while running for office could execute their duties without being considered participating in an interview. This section provides clarity about this definition and the separation of a candidate campaigning and a member performing in their official capacity.</p>
<p><i>New language referred at I-23 with proposed changes.</i></p> <p>Candidates may not produce a personal <u>campaign-related</u> website <u>or other digital campaign-related content</u> or direct to personal or professional websites <u>that contain campaign materials</u> other than the AMA Candidates' Page.</p>	<p>The language in this section provides clarity that explicitly defines that the only authorized campaign or digitally related websites, pages, or other campaign related materials for candidates is a web page provided by the AMA. This allows all candidates to be on equal footing during the election process.</p>

ETF 2 Proposed Language <i>(Proposed changes to current policy or items from ETF 2 I-23 report shown in red)</i>	Rationale
<p><i>Proposed changes to current policy:</i></p> <p>Active campaigning for AMA elective office an elected position may not begin until the <u>active campaign window opens as announced by the Speaker Board of Trustees, after its April meeting, announces the candidates for council seats. Active campaigning includes mass outreach activities directed to all or a significant portion of the members of the House of Delegates and communicated by or on behalf of the candidate. If in the judgment of the Speaker of the House of Delegates circumstances warrant an earlier date by which campaigns may formally begin, the Speaker shall communicate the earlier date to all known candidates.</u></p>	<p>The Election Task Force heard questions concerning timelines for active campaigning in the course of an Election cycle. Active Campaigning is defined as outreach by candidates or their surrogate(s), including but not limited to members of their campaign team, to members of the House of Delegates, with the goal of being elected by the AMA House of Delegates. Active Campaigning activities typically may not occur until after the April meeting of the Board of Trustees, when candidates for Council Seats are announced. The specific dates of the Active Campaigning Window will be announced by the Speaker. The Active Campaigning Window is defined as the period of time after the Speaker's notice of the opening of active campaigning until the Election Session during the House of Delegates meeting at which elections are being held.</p>
<p><i>New language referred at I-23 with proposed changes.</i></p> <p>Candidates and their identified members of campaign teams will be provided a copy of the current election rules and will be required to attest to abiding by them. <u>Candidates are responsible for any and all action or inaction undertaken on their behalf that is campaign related. Campaign managers will also be provided a copy of the current election rules and will be required to attest to abiding by them.</u></p>	<p>While all HOD members should be aware of the current election rules, candidates are ultimately responsible for abiding by these rules and for all campaign related actions taken on their behalf. Therefore, candidates and their campaign managers will be asked to attest to abiding by these rules.</p>
<p><i>New item referred at I-23 (shown below) with proposed new language:</i></p> <p>All meeting attendees will agree to be interviewed by the Speakers or members of the Election Committee for the purpose of investigating a submitted, formal complaint of election rule infractions. Members of the Election Committee, including the Speakers, will identify themselves and the reason for the interview request.</p> <p><i>[Referred language: Candidates, members of their campaign teams, including Federation staff, and HOD members will agree to be interviewed by the Speakers or members of the Election Committee who will identify themselves and the reason for the request.]</i></p>	<p>As part of any investigation, including a simple inquiry as to whether a formally filed complaint has merit to warrant a more complete evaluation, it is important that all attendees (including delegation leadership and staff) assist by complying with a request for an interview with the Speakers or member(s) of the Election Committee, as well as that interviewers clearly identify themselves and the reason for any interview. Cooperation of all attendees would be expected and beneficial to our HOD. This recommendation arises out of prior experience by the Election Committee in trying to evaluate complaints.</p>