



## FMA Election Process and Campaign Rules

*Last updated 3/8/2018*

### Introduction

Florida Medical Association (FMA) Officers, members of the Board of Governors (Board) and AMA Delegates and Alternates are elected by delegates of the FMA House of Delegates (House) during the FMA Annual Meeting. This democratic process allows delegates an opportunity to become acquainted with the candidates and their views. Elections are under the supervision of the Committee on Rules and Credentials who are appointed annually by the Speaker in advance of the FMA Annual Meeting. Except as provided for in the FMA Bylaws, any active member in good standing is eligible for any office.

### Candidate Profiles

Candidates announce their intent to run for FMA office at least six weeks in advance of the Annual Meeting (August 3-5, 2018). All candidates are required to review, sign and return the following documents:

- Candidate Profile Statement
- Code of Ethics and Professional Conduction for Directors of the FMA
- Conflict of Interest Disclosure Statement

### Elected Seats - FMA Officers and Board of Governors

The Board consists of the following members who are elected by the House  
*(lengths of terms and term limits are detailed in the FMA Bylaws):*

- FMA President
- FMA President-Elect
- FMA Vice President
- FMA Secretary
- FMA Treasurer
- FMA Immediate Past President
- FMA Speaker
- FMA Vice Speaker
- One representative from each medical district
- A resident physician
- A young physician who is a member of the Young Physician's Section
- A representative of the Primary Care Specialty Societies \*
- A representative of the Medical Specialties and Subspecialties \*
- A representative of the Surgical Specialties and Subspecialties \*

**\* Specialty Society Seats on the Board of Governors**

A recognized specialty society is eligible to elect a representative to the Board if at least fifty percent (50%) of its physician members are also members of the FMA or if the recognized specialty society has at least 750 physician members who are also members of the FMA.

If a specialty society qualifies to run a candidate, only delegates representing the respective societies are eligible to run for the seat.

Primary Care, Medical Specialties and Surgical Specialties representatives to the Board of Governors shall be elected by the Specialty Society delegates to the House of Delegates comprising each of the three specialties categories. A delegate from a Specialty Society may only vote for a candidate to the Board of Governors from the specialty category from which the delegate is a member. The Specialty Societies representatives to the Board shall be elected for a term of two years. No Specialty Societies representative to the Board may serve consecutive terms. In addition, no Specialty Society shall have a representative elected to the Board for consecutive terms.

**Nominations in Contested Elections - FMA Officers and Board of Governors**

With the exception of the three specialty seats on the Board of Governors, nominations for Officers and members of the Board in contested elections shall be made from the floor of the House by a member of the House.

Nominations for the Primary Care, Medical Specialties/Subspecialties, and Surgical Specialties/Subspecialties representatives to the Board shall be made from the floor of the House by a member of the House who is also a member of a respective category of specialty societies.

**Nominating Speeches in Contested Elections - FMA Officers and Board of Governors**

All contested elections are allowed one nominating and one seconding speech (two minutes each) during the first session of the House. Although it is not mandatory, it is recommended that in lieu of seconding speeches, candidates use the allotted time to address the House.

**Nominating Speeches in Uncontested Elections – FMA Officers and Board of Governors**

With the exception of the office of President-Elect, there are no nominating speeches in uncontested elections.

**Voting in Contested Elections – FMA Officers and Board of Governors**

Voting in contested elections is conducted during the second session of the House using individual electronic voting devices or paper ballots, whichever is deemed most appropriate by the Speaker. A majority vote is required for election and run-offs will be held during the second session if needed.

**Voting in Uncontested Elections – FMA Officers and Board of Governors**

Uncontested elections are held by acclamation during the first session of the House. If a nomination is made from the floor in an uncontested election, the Speakers will determine and announce the appropriate time for nominating and seconding speeches.

## **Elected Seats – Delegates to the AMA House of Delegates**

The FMA has 14 delegate & 14 alternate delegate seats in the AMA House of Delegates.

In 2018 eight (8) delegate and six (6) alternate delegate are up for election for a two-year term. The first eight (8) candidates receiving the most votes will be elected as AMA delegates and the next six (6) receiving votes in descending order will become alternate delegates.

Each candidate running for a seat on the AMA Delegation is allowed a one minute speech during the first session of the House.

## **Campaigning – Contested Races**

Campaign signs are limited to contested races only. Candidates are permitted to place signs in hospitality suites or in caucus rooms upon approval of the sponsoring suite or caucus. Signs are permitted in hallways if the sign does not impede the flow of pedestrian traffic. Signs should be no larger than 24" x 36".

Due to the number of candidates for AMA Delegation, individual candidate signs are not permitted. Information regarding the candidates for AMA Delegation can be found in the delegate packets, which will be available upon checking in at the meeting.

Private receptions for candidates in contested elections are permitted and it is the responsibility of the candidate or sponsoring society to coordinate. In lieu of a private reception, candidates are allowed to place signage at the FMA Welcome Reception in an area deemed appropriate by the Speaker and Vice Speaker. Candidates in contested elections may choose to place signage at the FMA Welcome Reception or organize a privately funded reception, but may not do both. Candidates are permitted to discuss their campaigns at public and private receptions.

It is the responsibility of the Speaker and Vice Speaker to resolve any signage placement issues that may occur during the annual meeting.

## **Candidates Addressing Caucus Groups**

The FMA has no rules governing whether candidates are allowed to speak at county medical society and specialty society caucus groups. This is left solely up to the discretion of the caucus group. However, if a candidate is running for two different offices – contested/non-contested, the focus of his/her remarks should be on the issues in the contested election. AMA Delegate candidates should not campaign at county medical society or specialty society caucus groups. If an AMA Delegate candidate is also running for another FMA office his or her remarks should not include qualifications for AMA office.

## **Campaign Materials**

Campaign materials are prohibited on the floor of the House. However, this does not preclude delegates from wearing campaign buttons, ribbons, etc. in the House. Distribution of campaign materials at meetings of component groups requires advance approval from the person directly responsible for the individual meeting or caucus.

House rules prohibit campaign badges on the podium or dais of the House, Reference Committees or other plenary activities of the House.

Campaign announcements for the next election cycle may be distributed prior to convening the final session of the House. However, to assist societies in avoiding excessive printing costs, the FMA will project each candidate's name, photograph and elective office during the final session of the House, provided the information is submitted to the FMA headquarters no later than two weeks prior to the Annual Meeting.

**Campaign Events/Materials**

No campaign materials may be distributed or campaign events held immediately outside the House.