Changes to MAPE Election Rules Approved by the 2020 MAPE Delegate Assembly on September 19, 2020

November, 2020

The new language in the Election Rules is shown in underline below. After each section of the Election rules that were changed, I describe how the changes will be implemented or describe the impact of the changes.

**Article III Nominations**

**6. Candidate Compliance**. In addition to other requirements of the governing documents, all nominees for an elective position, shall accept the nomination via electronic form, containing all election rules, guidelines, and policies thereby affirm their intent to comply with the requirements of MAPE's governing documents and procedures.

#### We have prepared and published a web form for nominees to fill out. It can be found on our website here: [**https://mape.org/nomination-acceptance-form**](https://mape.org/nomination-acceptance-form)

*The link is also displayed in the “Internal Election Resources” section of the website.*

*Nominations for statewide or regional positions: Nominees for statewide or regional positions will be sent an email including the link asking them to fill out the webform.*

*Nominations for local positions: After nominations close, locals must send the list of nominees to* [*swelect@mape.org*](mailto:swelect@mape.org)*. The nominees for local positions will be sent an email including the link asking them to fill out the webform.*

1. **Personal Statements**. Candidates whose names will be on the ballot must prepare and submit a personal statement to be included with the ballots. Each candidate must submit their personal statement 14 days after the nominations close, otherwise the candidate is disqualified, and their name will not be on the ballot. For candidates who will appear on the ballot, each candidate’s personal statement shall be published on the MAPE website.

*The timetables for the special election and the regularly scheduled 2021 election have been changed to reflect this requirement.*

**Article IV Campaign Support**

1. **MAPE Resources**. Except as provided in these rules; the funds, staff, materials, equipment, and facilities of MAPE shall not be used with the purpose or clear effect of benefiting or harming any candidate's campaign. Candidates shall not solicit campaign contributions at MAPE's offices or during the official business portions of MAPE sponsored events. MAPE’s offices may be used for candidate forums. MAPE shall provide technology to facilitate video conferencing at campaign forums for statewide races. Upon request, locals shall be allowed to use MAPE offices and/or technology to hold local candidate forums for statewide races.

*Locals have been allowed to use these resources in the past, but some locals may have been unaware of it, so now it is clear that these resources are available.*

1. **Campaign Forums**. The Elections Committee may arrange forums to allow candidates to express their views. Any such forums shall be made available on an equal basis to all candidates. Locals shall not schedule forums for statewide elections at the same time another local is holding their forum. The statewide elections committee will provide an online location for locals to reserve their forum time. Locals shall reserve forum times in the same order locals notify the statewide elections committee of the formation of their local elections committee. The statewide elections committee shall hold a candidate forum for each contested statewide election, prior to the voting window opening. These statewide campaign forums sponsored by the statewide elections committee shall be held in a manner that allows members to interact with the candidates from remote locations. The MAPE portal shall be used to show the schedule of all campaign forums.

*This was designed to avoid simultaneous local meeting forums so as to enable candidates in statewide contests to attend all forums. This “online location” for locals to reserve their forum time is still being developed. Locals now have an incentive to expedite the formation of their local election committee. Local’s cannot hold local candidate forums for candidates until they notify the statewide Elections Committee who their election committee members are. Their ability to reserve their preferred time and date will be determined by the date that they submit their notification to the Election Committee at* [*swelect@mape.org*](mailto:swelect@mape.org)*.*

1. **Distribution List Security**. MAPE shall maintain control of election lists. No access to MAPE election lists for campaign purposes shall be permitted except for the following: a list of members’ personal email addresses comprised of members who have opted-in to receive campaign materials from candidates. A list of statewide candidates and their personal contact information shall be provided to local elections committees for the purpose of facilitating local campaign forums. A list of local elections committees personal contact information shall be provided to statewide candidates to facilitate local campaign forums. The MAPE portal may be used to publish these lists.

*MAPE Central will now provide a list of Member personal email addresses to candidates, but only those members who opt in will be included on the list. We are still developing the capability to make this request of members and developing the capability to track the members who opt in.*

**Article V Campaign Conduct**

1. **Personal Statements**. Personal statements may not contain photographs, graphics or artwork. Personal statements shall include the candidate’s name and information about the candidate and the candidate’s ideas relating to the office sought and may not contain references to other candidates. Personal statements may include the candidate’s department, work city, years of state service and years as a MAPE member. Personal statements shall be no longer than 300 words.

Candidates who submit a personal statement which exceeds the word limit will be given an opportunity to shorten their statement. If a revised statement is not submitted or the revised statement exceeds the word limit, the personal statement will be truncated. The truncated personal statement will be published on the MAPE website and included with the ballot.

*This has been implemented. The personal statement guidelines published on the website contains this new, expanded limit.*

1. Candidates communicating with MAPE members while carrying out their duties either as a state employee or as a MAPE officer shall not be considered campaigning and shall not be prohibited.

*This provision provides important new direction to candidates and Election Committee members regarding what is not campaigning activities*.

**Article X Violations, Protests, and Appeals**

1. **Submitting Protests**. Protests concerning campaign support, campaign conduct, or election conduct may be submitted only by members who are eligible to vote in the race being protested. Protests must be in writing, indicate the nature of the violation, and provide supporting information. Protests shall be submitted to the Elections Committee no later than five days after announcement of the results.
2. **Hearing of Violations and Protests**. Any alleged violation of MAPE Election Rules or other action which may compromise the integrity and validity of an election shall be investigated by the Elections Committee. ~~The committee shall conduct investigations it considers appropriate.~~ The committee shall allow affected parties a reasonable opportunity to be heard. The findings of the Committee shall be provided, in writing, to all affected parties. Protests found to be unsubstantiated by the Committee may be appealed to the Board of Directors. ~~The Elections Committee’s findings may be appealed to the Board of Directors.~~
3. **Penalties and Remedies**. Penalties or remedies for violations of MAPE's Election Rules shall be appropriate and proportional to the nature of the violation and its materiality to the election's outcome. Penalties and remedies include, but are not limited to: retractions of false claims, reimbursement of misused MAPE resources, censure, fines, candidate disqualification, or invalidation of all or part of an election.
4. **Filing a Judicial Complaint.** Following the investigation, the Election Committee shall, by majority vote, determine whether the alleged violation was substantiated. Upon determination an alleged violation was substantiated, the Elections Committee shall file a complaint pursuant to the Judicial Procedure, Article XVIII of the Bylaws. The Elections Committee shall be the complainant of all Elections Rules violations.
5. **Enforcement report.** The statewide elections committee shall submit an enforcement report to the board of directors at the first board meeting after the election. The enforcement report shall contain a complete list of all complaints submitted to the statewide elections committee and any actions taken by the statewide elections committee in response to those complaints

*The changes to the Election Rules in the above section shows how protests and appeals will now be addressed by the Elections Committee.*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **MAPE ELECTION TIMETABLE**  Appendix A |  |
| **Action Items** | **No Later Than** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
| Nominations Close | ~~33~~ 45 days before the voting window opens |
| Personal Statements Due  Statements to be published on the MAPE website | 14 days after nominations close. ~~before the voting window opens~~ |
| Enforcement report | First Board of Directors meeting after June 1. |

*The above changes were incorporated into the timetables for the November special election and the 2021 regularly scheduled election.*