

Date: June 1, 2021

To: Board of Directors

From: Statewide Elections Committee

Re: Election Committee Report - Certification of the Results of the MAPE 2021 Statewide, Regional, Local and Special Elections

Overview

The MAPE 2021 Statewide, Regional, Local and several special elections were conducted in accordance with MAPE election rules and bylaws using web-based voting conducted by MAPE’s vendor, BigPulse. Statewide positions up for election were: Statewide Vice President, Statewide Secretary, Trustee (2), Statewide Organizing Council (two, 2-year terms) and Statewide Political Council (three, 2-year terms).

Regional Directors were up for election in all odd-numbered regions. Local officers were up for election in all even-numbered regions and 27 local officer positions across 17 locals in odd-numbered regions were open for special elections. These 27 positions were either vacant or occupied by a temporary local officer appointed by the local president since the last election. Delegates for the 2021 Delegate Assembly (DA) were up for election in all locals.

For the regularly scheduled elections and special elections, nominations opened on January 28, 2021 and closed on March 29, 2021.

15 positions in 11 locals had no nominees.

The attached list of uncontested statewide, regional and local office elections had one nominee per position available.

Thirteen (13) positions were contested:

  Contests Candidates

Statewide Vice President 1 2

Statewide Political Council 1 4

Trustees 1 4

Regional Directors 2 4

Local Officers 2 4

Delegates 6 38

Total Contested Elections/Candidates 13 56

For these contested elections, voting opened on 5/13/2021 and closed on 5/27/2021. The web-based voting was conducted only for positions for which there were more nominees than available positions. The other Statewide, Regional and Local contests had no more than one nominee for available positions.

Rank choice (preferential voting) was not required in this election as there were no more than two candidates in an election that required a majority vote.

Prior to the opening of voting, the list of contested elections and all candidates’ personal statements were posted on the MAPE website.

In this electronic election, 10,749 members were eligible to vote. BigPulse sent emails containing election instructions to these eligible voters.

Balloting was completed onMay 27, 2021 at 11:59pm. The total number of members voting was 3,098 out of 10,748 eligible voters, a participation rate of 28.8%.

Here is a comparison to previous years:

Year Number of members voting Eligible voters Participation rate

2021 3,098 10,7498 28.8%

2020 3,956 11,237 35.21%.

2019 3,849 11,233 34.3 %

2018 (reg & local) 1,866 4,164 44.88%

2017 (statewide) 3,817 9,909 38.52%

Election Rules require locals to establish local election committees and local nomination committees. 17 of 39 locals communicated the names of their local election committee members to MAPE Statewide Elections Committee.

Four members are currently serving on the Statewide Elections Committee whereas the MAPE Bylaws provide for five members to serve.

The Bylaws provide for five members to serve on the Statewide Nominations Committee. The Statewide Nominations Committee does not have a chair to direct the work of the committee.

Election Irregularities

There were no reported voting irregularities.

Comments from Voters

We received comments from five voters in this election. One was a technical question that was resolved, one was about ranked choice voting, one was about term limits and two were unrelated to elections.

Election process

The Statewide Elections Committee hosted candidate forums for the three statewide elections. The forums were held via Zoom webinar so prospective voters could see the candidates on their computer or cell phone monitor and listen to them answer questions from members.

Members were given an opportunity to opt-in to receive election material from candidates at their home email addresses.

The following election documents were published on the MAPE website:

* Social Media in Campaigns Policy
* A summary of Election Rules relating to Campaign Conduct
* Elections Eligibility Char
* A description of the local election and local nomination committee responsibilities
* Rules for Candidate Personal Statements
* A summary of the 2020 Election Rule Changes
* Candidate Eligibility Report, revised
* Official Announcement of 2020 Regional and Local Elections, including a list of the special elections being conducted concurrently with the regular elections
* Election Timeline
* Listing of the number of delegates allotted to each local
* Election summary letter to local officers
* Sample notices for locals in even regions
* Sample notices for locals in odd regions
* Schedule of Candidate Forums

There were 91 elections and a total of 145 candidates. All these elections and nominations were accurately tracked and published on the MAPE website, with revisions made as necessary in accordance with MAPE governing documents. The personal statements of candidates in contested races were published on the website and included with the ballot.

Customized sample notices were provided to locals for them to send to their members.

Video conference meetings were effectively used by Elections Committee members and staff to administer the election process.

Findings

Pursuant to MAPE Election Rules, Article VII, Section 8, the attached results of individual contests and uncontested races are hereby certified and shall be posted to the MAPE website.

Seating of Candidates

In conformance with Election Rules, Article IX, Special Elections, Section 3, candidates in uncontested, special elections were seated on 4-22-2021.

In conformance with Election Rules, Article VI, Section 6, Seating, all prevailing candidates in local and regional elections are hereby seated today, with the issuance of this report. (“Newly elected persons shall be seated immediately after the Election(s) Committee Report is released, unless another date is provided in the governing documents”).

Seating of prevailing candidates in statewide contests – The Election Timetable provides that Statewide Officers are seated at the first Board of Directors after June 1. However, these elected officers cannot be seated until the Election Committee accepts the financial report filed by the candidate. (See Election Rules, Article V, Section 8, “Financial Report Required**.** Candidates for a statewide office shall file a financial report with the Elections Committee no later than 10 days following the tabulation of ballots. A winning candidate in a statewide, contested election will not be seated until the financial report has been filed and accepted by the Elections Committee”).

Recommendations for next statewide election

The Elections Committee recommends that the BOD implement some changes to support staff in making further improvements for the 2022 regular elections.

1. The Statewide Nomination Committee should take a more active role as required by the Bylaws. This committee can be a resource for candidates and potential candidates to assist them in all aspects of being a candidate, including information regarding the importance of following the election rules.
2. All locals must adhere to the requirements in the Election Rules and establish both a local election committee as well as a local nomination committee. These committees can be a resource for candidates and potential candidates to assist them in all aspects of being a candidate, including information regarding the importance of following the election rules.
3. The BOD should ensure that all new MAPE local officers complete local officer training and that all new region and statewide officers complete training and that this training include a comprehensive segment regarding MAPE election process and election rules.
4. The BOD should address the issue of low participation in MAPE elections. The change to electronic elections doubled the participation rate, but increases have not been seen in recent years.

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