



General Assembly

Bylaws Chapter V Excerpt For Elections – General Election Format

- A. **Candidates running for any position shall be required to complete an election packet prior to the election and email it to NDSA President Jared Melville (jared.m.melville@ndsu.edu) by 8:00 AM CST on Saturday, April 13, 2019.** An election packet may be downloaded from either [NDSA's website](#) or the [NDSA Office365 SharePoint](#). This section of the Bylaws may be suspended by a two-thirds majority vote of the NDSA Assembly.
- B. Each candidate will be asked to give a speech before the assembly. This speech shall expound upon the questions asked in the election packet. All candidates not presently speaking will be asked to leave the room.
- C. After all candidates have given speeches, any candidates that are out of the room will be asked to enter again and stand before the NDSA Assembly to answer any questions. Questions must be asked directly to the candidates. Questions may be designated for all candidates or for some candidates. The question period is to be moderated by the presiding officer, and the presiding officer may choose who answers questions first when they are addressed to all candidates. Each answer may be no longer than one minute in length.
 - 1. For the elections of SBHE Nominees, Presidency, and Vice Presidency: The question period may not exceed 20 minutes for those positions unless this time is extended through the appropriate parliamentary procedure.
 - 2. For all other elections: The question period may not exceed 10 minutes for those positions unless time is extended through the appropriate parliamentary procedure.
- D. The NDSA Assembly will have the opportunity to discuss the candidates, and candidates will be asked to be out of the room. Each NDSA Assembly member is limited to two speaking opportunities per elected position, with each speaking opportunity to be limited to three minutes. The discussion period for each elected position will be limited to 15 minutes unless this time is extended through the appropriate parliamentary procedure.
- E. All candidates will be asked to be back in the room for voting. Candidates may stay out of the room if desired. If the candidates are voting members of the NDSA Assembly, they may participate in voting. Alternatively, candidates that are voting members may appoint proxy voters to vote in their place as long as those proxy voters are present in the room. If a proxy voter is used, this must be clearly announced to the NDSA Assembly.
- F. Voting Procedures:
 - 1. If electronic voting methods are used, polls must be clearly and loudly announced when they are opened. Polls must be open for at least 20 seconds. A reminder of the voting options must be stated at least twice while the polls are open. Countdown of the final 5 seconds must be done loudly for the Assembly to hear.



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2. For voting for the SBHE nominees: Rounds of elimination voting where the candidate with the least votes will be removed from consideration until only three nominees remain. This will be conducted by taking a separate vote for each candidate where each voting delegate may vote “Yes” indicating their desire for that candidate to move on to the next round or “No” indicating their desire for that candidate to be eliminated from consideration. Each voting member of NDSA may vote affirmatively for up to three candidates in each round. It is acceptable to vote for less than three candidates, but voting affirmatively for more than three candidates will lead to disqualification of all of that voter’s choices for the particular round where more than three candidates were voted for in the affirmative. The candidate with the least amount of affirmative votes will be eliminated from further consideration. This will repeat until there are only three individuals left for consideration.
 3. For voting for all other candidates: All candidates will be presented on the ballot at the same time. If a simple majority is reached, then the election for that position is declared over and the majority vote receiver is declared the winner. If no candidate receives a majority, then the lowest vote recipient is removed from consideration and a revote occurs between the remaining candidates.
 4. If a suspected issue comes up with voting at any point, a redo of an election may be requested by a two-thirds majority of the NDSA Assembly without need for a reconsideration motion as long as the revote is requested within 15 minutes of the election. The suspected issue(s) must be announced to the NDSA Assembly before a vote to hold a redo of an election is held, and a good faith effort to correct the issues must be made by the pertinent parties. The NDSA Assembly, through the vote to redo an election, may specify procedures that may otherwise conflict with this election code in order to resolve perceived problems, but this privilege should be used carefully.
- G. In extreme circumstances, any procedure in this Chapter of the Bylaws may be suspended with a three-fourths majority vote. Regardless of the rule suspended, the Constitutional requirement of a simple majority vote for directly elected positions by the NDSA Assembly must be upheld.