

## ACR Electioneering Policy

**Background:** In 1997, the ACR Council approved the recommendations of the report of the Governance Committee. In one of its recommendations, the Governance Committee “strongly suggest(ed) that strict limits on electioneering be imposed.” In addition, the committee expressed concern that the election process itself could become a time-consuming distraction for the Council given other matters before it. In response, the earlier ACR policies and procedures documents discouraged campaigning but did not outright prohibit it.

In 2008, the ACR Council passed Resolution 41, directing the ACR Council Steering Committee to develop and implement binding regulations for candidate communications and to publish those regulations in the ACR Election Manual and additionally communicate them directly to all candidates.

**Candidate Opportunities to Communicate Credentials & Views:** Current ACR policies and procedures provide the following opportunities for candidates to communicate their credentials and views to the Council:

- Information about all candidates is detailed in a standardized manner in the ACR Election Manual which is made available to all councilors in advance of each ACR annual meeting. The Election Manual includes a photograph of each candidate, a standardized curriculum vitae, which includes relevant biographical information, and personal comments provided by the candidates.
- All candidates in contested elections have the opportunity to make a two-minute presentation to the ACR Council prior to the election. Presentations will be live for in-person meetings and pre-recorded for virtual meetings. If pre-recorded, presentations will be made available on-demand prior to the Annual Meeting.

**Rules Regarding Electioneering:** In response to ACR policy as passed by the Council, the Council Steering Committee sets forth the following updated rules regarding electioneering:

1. Candidates are prohibited from mass distribution of any self-promotional campaign materials via traditional mail, e-mail, phone, or other electronic media. Candidates who use social media to promote or even announce their candidacy will be considered in violation of these regulations.
2. Candidates are prohibited from distributing campaign buttons, stickers, pens, or any other election self-promotional items prior to or at the ACR Annual Meeting.
3. Candidates are prohibited from displaying or distributing campaign posters, balloons or other election self-promotional visual aids at the ACR Annual Meeting and at any other meeting or event where multiple ACR members are expected to be present.
4. Candidates may visit (in-person or virtually) the geographic and specialty caucuses that they would normally attend because of their practice location or practice type. Candidates currently serving in leadership positions (e.g., Board of Chancellors, Council Steering Committee) would normally be expected to visit caucuses where meeting attendance is considered a normal part of their duty (e.g., as assigned by the BOC chair or Council speaker). If a candidate has ACR business that is enhanced or needs attendance at caucus meetings, they must petition the speaker, vice speaker, and chair of the College Nominating Committee (CNC) for

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permission to attend such caucus meetings, and if given permission, shall do so only in order to conduct such business. Candidates should decline all other invitations to attend caucus meetings.

5. At the discretion of caucus organizers, candidates may be introduced to the caucus, but may not speak about their candidacy, even if so invited by caucus organizers or other attendees. Simply raising their hand or standing in a caucus meeting when so introduced should suffice to allow those in caucuses to visually identify them.
6. Candidates failing to abide by these rules may be disqualified from participating in elections held during the affected Annual Meeting. Specifically, any candidate who violates these rules may, at the discretion of a committee composed of 1) the speaker, 2) the vice speaker, and 3) the chair of the College Nominating Committee, be declared ineligible for election in that year and have his or her name stricken from the ballot.
7. Any questions concerning the appropriateness of election activities should be directed to the ACR Office of Governance and Member Engagement at 800-227-5463, ext. 4998 or [tbehbahani@acr.org](mailto:tbehbahani@acr.org).