

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 614  
(A-22)

Introduced by: Albert L. Hsu, MD, Delegate

Subject: Allowing Virtual Interviews on Non-Holiday Weekends for Candidates for  
AMA Office

Referred to: Reference Committee F

---

1 Whereas, In Year 1 of the COVID-19 pandemic (in accordance with AMA election guidelines),  
2 the Endocrine Section Council of the American Medical Association conducted virtual interviews  
3 for 7 of 8 candidates for AMA Board of Trustees and all 5 candidates for AMA Council on  
4 Medical Service on Sat., 30 May, 2020 (and the one BOT candidate with a conflict was able to  
5 meet virtually on an alternate and mutually-convenient date); and  
6

7 Whereas, In Year 2 of the COVID-19 pandemic (and in accordance with AMA election  
8 guidelines), the Endocrine Section Council of the AMA conducted virtual interviews for all 12  
9 candidates for AMA President-elect, AMA Board of Trustees, the AMA Council on Science and  
10 Public Health, the AMA Council on Constitution and Bylaws, and the AMA Council on Medical  
11 Service on Sat., 22 May, 2021; and  
12

13 Whereas, In Year 3 of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in response to action by the AMA House of  
14 Delegates, all virtual interviews for Candidates for AMA Elections (President-elect, Board of  
15 Trustees, and all Councils) were required to be held between Thur., 26 May-Sun., 29 May,  
16 which was over Memorial Day weekend; and  
17

18 Whereas, In 2022, seven groups have offered virtual interviews to candidates for AMA Office;  
19 and  
20

21 Whereas, Virtual interviews allow caucuses to meet candidates for AMA Office before the in-  
22 person meeting, without the distractions of AMA business and policy-making, networking, and  
23 catching up with old friends; and  
24

25 Whereas, Virtual interviews allow candidates for AMA office to hone their speeches and  
26 presentations before the in-person meeting; and  
27

28 Whereas, Current AMA-HOD policy states that: "Interviews may be conducted only during a  
29 window beginning on the Thursday evening two weeks prior to the scheduled Opening Session  
30 of the House of Delegates meeting at which elections will take place and must be concluded by  
31 that Sunday (four days later);" and  
32

33 Whereas, Memorial Day weekend is a decidedly inconvenient time to conduct virtual interviews,  
34 making "work-life balance" even more difficult (for both candidates and caucuses alike);  
35 therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That our AMA amend policy G-610.020, "Rules for AMA Elections," by addition  
2 and deletion to read as follows:

3  
4 Interviews may be conducted only during a window designated by the Speaker  
5 beginning on the Thursday evening of a non-holiday weekend at least two weeks  
6 but not more than 4 weeks prior to the scheduled Opening Session of the House of  
7 Delegates meeting at which elections will take place and must be concluded by  
8 that following Sunday ~~(four days later)~~. (Modify Current HOD Policy)

Fiscal Note: Not yet determined

Received: 05/11/22

**REFERENCES:**

1. 2022 AMA Elections Manual

**RELEVANT AMA POLICY**

**Rules for AMA Elections G-610.020**

- (1) The Speaker and Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates are responsible for overall administration of our AMA elections, although balloting is conducted under the supervision of the chief teller and the Committee on Rules and Credentials. The Speaker and Vice Speaker will advise candidates on allowable activities and when appropriate will ensure that clarification of these rules is provided to all known candidates. The Speaker, in consultation with the Vice Speaker and the Election Committee, is responsible for declaring a violation of the rules.
- (2) Individuals intending to seek election at the next Annual Meeting should make their intentions known to the Speakers, generally by providing the Speaker's office with an electronic announcement "card" that includes any or all of the following elements and no more: the candidate's name, photograph, email address, URL, the office sought and a list of endorsing societies. The Speakers will ensure that the information is posted on our AMA website in a timely fashion, generally on the morning of the last day of a House of Delegates meeting or upon adjournment of the meeting. Announcements that include additional information (e.g., a brief resume) will not be posted to the website. Printed announcements may not be distributed in the venue where the House of Delegates meets. Announcements sent by candidates to members of the House are considered campaigning and are specifically prohibited prior to the start of active campaigning. The Speakers may use additional means to make delegates aware of those members intending to seek election .
- (3) Announcement cards of all known candidates will be projected on the last day of the Annual and Interim Meetings of our House of Delegates and posted on the AMA website as per Policy G-610.020, paragraph 2. Following each meeting, an "Official Candidate Notification" will be sent electronically to the House. It will include a list of all announced candidates and all potential newly opened positions which may open as a result of the election of any announced candidate. Additional notices will also be sent out following the April Board meeting and on "Official Announcement Dates" to be established by the Speaker.
- (4) Candidates may notify the HOD Office of their intention to run for potential newly opened positions, as well as any scheduled open positions on any council or the Board of Trustees, at any time by submitting an announcement card to the House Office. They will then be included in all subsequent projections of announcements before the House, "Official Candidate Notifications," and in any campaign activity that had not yet been finalized. All previously announced candidates will continue to be included on each Official Announcement Date. Any candidate may independently announce their candidacy after active campaigning is allowed, but no formal announcement from the HOD office will take place other than at the specified times.

(5) The Federation and members of the House of Delegates will be notified of unscheduled potential newly opened positions that may become available as a result of the election of announced candidates. Candidates will be allowed to announce their intention to run for these positions

(6) If a potential newly opened position on the Board or a specified council does not open but there are other open positions for the same council or the Board, an election will proceed for the existing open seats. Candidates will be offered the opportunity to withdraw their nomination prior to the vote. If there are no scheduled open seats on the Board or specified council for which a potential newly opened position is announced and if the potential newly opened position does not open (ie., the individual with the unexpired term is not elected to the office they sought), no election for the position will be held. In the event that a prior election results in a newly opened position without a nominated candidate or more positions are open than nominated candidates, the unfilled position/s would remain unfilled until the next annual meeting.

(7) The AMA Office of House of Delegates Affairs will provide an opportunity for all announced candidates to submit material to the HOD office which will then be sent electronically by the HOD Office in a single communication to all delegates and alternates. Parameters regarding content and deadlines for submission will be established by the Speaker and communicated to all announced candidates.

(8) Our AMA believes that: (a) specialty society candidates for AMA House of Delegates elected offices should be listed in the pre-election materials available to the House as the representative of that society and not by the state in which the candidate resides; (b) elected specialty society members should be identified in that capacity while serving their term of office; and (c) nothing in the above recommendations should preclude formal co-endorsement by any state delegation of the national specialty society candidate, if that state delegation should so choose.

(9) An Election Manual containing information on all candidates for election shall continue to be developed annually, with distribution limited to publication on our AMA website, typically on the Web pages associated with the meeting at which elections will occur. The Election Manual will provide a link to the AMA Candidates' Page, but links to personal, professional or campaign related websites will not be allowed. The Election Manual provides an equal opportunity for each candidate to present the material he or she considers important to bring before the members of the House of Delegates and should relieve the need for the additional expenditures incurred in making non-scheduled telephone calls and duplicative mailings. The Election Manual serves as a mechanism to reduce the number of telephone calls, mailings and other messages members of the House of Delegates receive from or on behalf of candidates.

(10) Active campaigning for AMA elective office may not begin until the Board of Trustees, after its April meeting, announces the candidates for council seats. Active campaigning includes mass outreach activities directed to all or a significant portion of the members of the House of Delegates and communicated by or on behalf of the candidate. If in the judgment of the Speaker of the House of Delegates circumstances warrant an earlier date by which campaigns may formally begin, the Speaker shall communicate the earlier date to all known candidates.

(11) The Speaker's Office will coordinate the scheduling of candidate interviews for general officer positions (Trustees, President-Elect, Speaker and Vice Speaker). Groups wishing to conduct interviews must designate their interviewing coordinator and provide the individual's contact information to the Office of House of Delegates Affairs. The Speaker's Office will collect contact information for groups wishing to conduct interviews as well as for candidates and their campaign teams and will provide the information as requested.

(12) Interviews conducted with current candidates must comply with the following rules:

- a. Interviews may be arranged between the parties once active campaigning is allowed.
- b. Groups conducting interviews with candidates for a given office must offer an interview to all individuals that have officially announced their candidacy at the time the group's interview schedule is finalized.

- i. A group may meet with a candidate who is a member of their group without interviewing other candidates for the same office.
  - ii. Interviewing groups may, but are not required to, interview late announcing candidates. Should an interview be offered to a late candidate, all other announced candidates for the same office (even those previously interviewed) must be afforded the same opportunity and medium.
  - iii. Any appearance by a candidate before an organized meeting of a caucus or delegation, other than their own, will be considered an interview and fall under the rules for interviews.
- c. Groups may elect to conduct interviews virtually or in-person.
  - d. In-person interviews may be conducted between Friday and Monday of the meeting at which elections will take place.
  - e. Virtual interviews are subject to the following constraints:
    - i. Interviews may be conducted only during a window beginning on the Thursday evening two weeks prior to the scheduled Opening Session of the House of Delegates meeting at which elections will take place and must be concluded by that Sunday (four days later).
    - ii. Interviews conducted on weeknights must be scheduled between 5 pm and 10 pm or on weekends between 8 am and 10 pm based on the candidate's local time, unless another mutually acceptable time outside these hours is arranged.
    - iii. Caucuses and delegations scheduling interviews for candidates within the parameters above must offer alternatives to those candidates who have conflicts with the scheduled time.
  - f. Recording of interviews is allowed only with the knowledge and consent of the candidate.
  - g. Recordings of interviews may be shared only among members of the group conducting the interview.
  - h. A candidate is free to decline any interview request.
  - i. In consultation with the Election Committee, the Speaker, or where the Speaker is in a contested election, the Vice Speaker, may issue special rules for interviews to address unexpected situations.
- (13) Every state and specialty society delegation is encouraged to participate in a regional caucus, for the purposes of candidate review activities.
- (14) Campaign memorabilia may not be distributed in the Not for Official Business (NFOB) bag.
- (15) Campaign materials may not be distributed by postal mail or its equivalent. The AMA Office of House of Delegates Affairs will no longer furnish a file containing the names and mailing addresses of members of the AMA-HOD. Printed campaign materials will not be included in the "Not for Official Business" bag and may not be distributed in the House of Delegates. Candidates are encouraged to eliminate printed campaign materials.
- (16) A reduction in the volume of telephone calls and electronic communication from candidates and on behalf of candidates is encouraged. The Office of House of Delegates Affairs does not provide email addresses for any purpose. The use of electronic messages to contact electors should be minimized, and if used must include a simple mechanism to allow recipients to opt out of receiving future messages.
- (17) Campaign expenditures and activities should be limited to reasonable levels necessary for adequate candidate exposure to the delegates. Campaign memorabilia and giveaways that include a candidate's name or likeness may not be distributed at any time.
- (18) Campaign stickers, pins, buttons and similar campaign materials are disallowed. This rule will not apply for pins for AMPAC, the AMA Foundation, specialty societies, state and regional delegations and health related causes that do not include any candidate identifier. These pins should be small, not worn on the badge and distributed only to members of the designated group. General distribution of any pin, button or sticker is disallowed.
- (19) At any AMA meeting convened prior to the time period for active campaigning, campaign-related expenditures and activities shall be discouraged. Large campaign receptions, luncheons, other formal campaign activities and the distribution of campaign literature and gifts are prohibited. It is permissible for candidates seeking election to engage in individual outreach meant to familiarize others with a candidate's opinions and positions on issues.

(20) Candidates for AMA office should not attend meetings of state medical societies unless officially invited and could accept reimbursement of travel expenses by the state society in accordance with the policies of the society.

(21) Group dinners, if attended by an announced candidate in a currently contested election, must be "Dutch treat" - each participant pays their own share of the expenses, with the exception that societies and delegations may cover the expense for their own members. This rule would not disallow societies from paying for their own members or delegations gathering together with each individual or delegation paying their own expense. Gatherings of 4 or fewer delegates or alternates are exempt from this rule.

(22) A state, specialty society, caucus, coalition, etc. may contribute to more than one party. However, a candidate may be featured at only one party, which includes: (a) being present in a receiving line, or (b) appearing by name or in a picture on a poster or notice in or outside of the party venue. At these events, alcohol may be served only on a cash or no-host bar basis.

(23) Displays of campaign posters, signs, and literature in public areas of the hotel in which Annual Meetings are held are prohibited because they detract from the dignity of the position being sought and are unsightly. Campaign posters may be displayed at a single campaign reception at which the candidate is featured. No campaign literature shall be distributed in the House of Delegates and no mass outreach electronic messages shall be transmitted after the opening session of the House of Delegates.

(24) At the Opening Session of the Annual Meeting, officer candidates in a contested election will give a two-minute self-nominating speech, with the order of speeches determined by lot. No speeches for unopposed candidates will be given, except for president-elect. When there is no contest for president-elect, the candidate will ask a delegate to place his or her name in nomination, and the election will then be by acclamation. When there are two or more candidates for the office of president-elect, a two-minute nomination speech will be given by a delegate. In addition, the Speaker of the House of Delegates will schedule a debate in front of the AMA-HOD to be conducted by rules established by the Speaker or, in the event of a conflict, the Vice Speaker.

(25) Our AMA (a) requires completion of conflict of interest forms by all candidates for election to our AMA Board of Trustees and councils prior to their election; and (b) will expand accessibility to completed conflict of interest information by posting such information on the "Members Only" section of our AMA website before election by the House of Delegates, with links to the disclosure statements from relevant electronic documents.

Citation: CLRPD Rep. E, I-80; Res. 22, I-81; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. B, I-90; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. F, I-91; CCRC Special Report, I-92; CCRC Special Report I-93; Special Committee on Campaign and Elections and Reaffirmed Special Committee Report on Campaigns and Elections, I-96; Special Committee on Campaigns and Elections, A-97; Reaffirmed: Sunset Report, I-00; Consolidated: CLRPD Rep. 3, I-01; CC&B Rep. 3, I-08; Modified: Rules and Credentials Rep. 1, A-11; Modified: Rules and Credentials Rep. 1, I-13; Appended: BOT Rep. 5, I-13; Modified: Res. 602, A-14; Modified: Speakers Rep. 1, I-14; Modified: Res. 1, A-15; Modified: Speakers Rep. 2, A-21; Modified: Speakers Rep. 1, I-21