REPORT OF THE SPEAKERS

Speakers’ Report 2-A-24

Subject: Report of the Election Task Force 2

Presented by: Lisa Bohman Egbert, MD, Speaker; and John A. Armstrong, MD, Vice Speaker

BACKGROUND

At the 2023 Interim Meeting, the Election Task Force 2 (ETF2) submitted Speakers’ Report 3-I-23 which included multiple recommendations, many of which were ultimately referred back. The ETF2 subsequently met February 10, 2024, to review these items and testimony heard at I-23. The task force will hold an open forum on Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 3:00 pm CT to gather additional feedback on these items and will then develop a report with final recommendations to be presented at Interim 2024. The topics of consideration listed on this report will be the basis for discussion at the open forum.

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

The ETF 2 noted that there was a general lack of clear definitions related to items surrounding AMA elections. Therefore, they developed the definitions in the Glossary shown below. In addition, the ETF 2 reviewed all items that were referred back for further consideration and suggested changes shown as additions and deletions and the rationale for these suggestions in the grid that follows. The ETF 2 asks that delegations review and make comments on the Glossary and Proposed Changes at the Open Forum.

The final topic for consideration at the open forum will be a consideration of endorsements. This will be an open topic and all input is encouraged.

Glossary

Active campaign window – period of time after the speaker’s notice of the opening of active campaigning until the Election Session during the House of Delegates meeting at which elections are being held

Active campaigning – Outreach by candidates or their surrogate(s), including but not limited to members of their campaign team, to members of the House of Delegates with the goal of being elected by the AMA House of Delegates

Announced candidate – person who has indicated their intention to run for elected position; announcement can be made only by sending an electronic announcement card to the Speakers via the HOD office by email to hod@ama-assn.org

Campaign manager(s) – person(s) identified by the candidate to the HOD Office as the person(s) responsible for running the campaign
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<tr>
<th>ETF 2 Proposed Language</th>
<th>Rationale</th>
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<td><strong>Proposed changes to current policy:</strong></td>
<td>ETF2 considered the testimony from the delegates during the I-23 meeting. In order to confine to the security requirements for the meeting badges, no buttons, pins or stickers can be affixed to the badge itself. AMA, AMPAC, AMA-Foundation, specialty society, state or regional delegations pins, buttons, stickers, etc. are not directly connected to the election campaign and thus can be worn on one's self except on the badge. This proposal is intended to avoid uneven general exposure to a particular candidate and will provide an even playing field for all candidates.</td>
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<td>Campaign stickers, pins, buttons and similar campaign materials are disallowed. This rule will not apply for pins for AMPAC, <strong>AMA</strong>, 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.</td>
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<td><strong>New language referred at I-23 with proposed changes.</strong></td>
<td>The intent here is to minimize campaign discussions prior to active campaigning. However, the ETF2 was aware of concerns that this rule would prohibit candidates from asking others to join their campaign team as well as prohibiting a designated campaign team from discussing campaign strategy. This clarifies that both are expected and permitted.</td>
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<td>Only aAn announced candidate in a currently contested election may discuss their candidacy on an individual basis in private conversations from announcement of candidacy until the active campaigning period begins. Prior to the active campaigning period, no other individual may discuss the candidacy, including members of campaign teams, delegations or caucuses, and “friends.” This rule does not prohibit any candidate from discussions for the purpose of forming a campaign team nor from a campaign team discussing a candidate or campaign strategy. This rule also does not prohibit persons not associated with a campaign from discussing candidates in private conversations.</td>
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<td><strong>Proposed changes to current policy:</strong></td>
<td>In order for candidates to have equal access to HOD members, the route of access to them is limited to the official AMA channels noted here. This will discourage additional printed mailings and digital communications and disallow distribution at the HOD meetings.</td>
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<td><strong>Printed and digital campaign materials may not be distributed to members of the House other than by the HOD office candidate email and on the Candidate Web Pages, by postal mail or its equivalent. The AMA Office of House of Delegates Affairs will not 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.</strong></td>
<td>The ETF2 seeks to clarify guidelines for communication by candidates to other delegates. New language has been added to specifically prohibit mass outreach to candidates. However, this recommendation also clarifies that personal communication is allowed, while simultaneously honoring the desire of many delegates to reduce overall volume of communication. A clarification was added to ensure freedom of communication amongst campaign teams. Language was also revised to reflect the frequency of electronic communication while still maintaining the option to opt out.</td>
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<td><strong>Proposed changes to current policy:</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Active campaigning via mass outreach to delegates by candidates or on behalf of a candidate by any method is prohibited. A reduction in the volume of campaign-related telephone calls and personal electronic communication from candidates and on behalf of candidates is encouraged. No part of this rule shall be interpreted to limit communication among members of a campaign team. 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.</strong></td>
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ETF 2 Proposed Language
(Proposed changes to current policy or items from ETF 2 I-23 report shown in red)

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<td>Groups conducting interviews with announced 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. announced candidates at the time the group’s interview schedule is finalized.</td>
<td>The Election Task Force heard concerns about definitions of timelines, candidacy, and potential election violations that would be incurred by delegations meeting with their own members who happened to be candidates. The proposed language here seeks to clarify that there is no restriction on a delegation’s ability to hold meetings where all of their members may be in attendance. Further, the Election Task Force wanted to clarify the mechanism for candidates that do not announce until after the active campaign window opens may be offered interviews, and what this means for all other candidates for that same office. Finally, there were questions about what constitutes an interview and how candidates holding an official AMA position while running for office could execute their duties without being considered participating in an interview. This section provides clarity about this definition and the separation of a candidate campaigning and a member performing in their official capacity.</td>
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<td>a. A group may meet with an announced candidate who is a member of their group during the active campaign window without interviewing other candidates for the same office.</td>
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<td>b. Interviewing groups may, but are not required to, interview late announcing candidates persons who become announced candidates during the active campaign window. 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.</td>
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<td>c. 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. Any appearance campaign-related presentation to an assembly by an announced candidate, with or without being followed by a discussion, question and answer session, or a vote of the assembly regarding the candidate, is an interview and subject to the rules on in-person interviews. No portion of this rule shall be interpreted to mean that a candidate acting in a formal capacity would be unable to present or discuss matters pertaining to that formal capacity with any group.</td>
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<td>New language referred at I-23 with proposed changes.</td>
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<td>Candidates may not produce a personal campaign-related website or other digital campaign-related content or direct to personal or professional websites that contain campaign materials other than the AMA Candidates’ Page.</td>
<td>The language in this section provides clarity that explicitly defines that the only authorized campaign or digitally related websites, pages, or other campaign related materials for candidates is a web page provided by the AMA. This allows all candidates to be on equal footing during the election process.</td>
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### ETF 2 Proposed Language

*(Proposed changes to current policy or items from ETF 2 I-23 report shown in red)*

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<td><strong>Active campaigning for AMA elective office an elected position</strong> may not begin until the <em>active campaign window opens as announced by the Speaker 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.</em>*</td>
<td>The Election Task Force heard questions concerning timelines for active campaigning in the course of an Election cycle. Active Campaigning is defined as outreach by candidates or their surrogate(s), including but not limited to members of their campaign team, to members of the House of Delegates, with the goal of being elected by the AMA House of Delegates. Active Campaigning activities typically may not occur until after the April meeting of the Board of Trustees, when candidates for Council Seats are announced. The specific dates of the Active Campaigning Window will be announced by the Speaker. The Active Campaigning Window is defined as the period of time after the Speaker's notice of the opening of active campaigning until the Election Session during the House of Delegates meeting at which elections are being held.</td>
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| **New language referred at I-23 with proposed changes.** | **Candidates and their identified members of campaign teams will be provided a copy of the current election rules and will be required to attest to abiding by them. Candidates are responsible for any and all action or inaction undertaken on their behalf that is campaign related. Campaign managers will also be provided a copy of the current election rules and will be required to attest to abiding by them.** | **While all HOD members should be aware of the current election rules, candidates are ultimately responsible for abiding by these rules and for all campaign related actions taken on their behalf. Therefore, candidates and their campaign managers will be asked to attest to abiding by these rules.** |

| **New item referred at I-23 (shown below) with proposed new language:** | **As part of any investigation, including a simple inquiry as to whether a formally filed complaint has merit to warrant a more complete evaluation, it is important that all attendees (including delegation leadership and staff) assist by complying with a request for an interview with the Speakers or member(s) of the Election Committee, as well as that interviewers clearly identify themselves and the reason for any interview. Cooperation of all attendees would be expected and beneficial to our HOD. This recommendation arises out of prior experience by the Election Committee in trying to evaluate complaints.** |

| [Referred language: Candidates, members of their campaign teams, including Federation staff, and HOD members will agree to be interviewed by the Speakers or members of the Election Committee who will identify themselves and the reason for the request.] | |