

REPORT OF THE AMA YOUNG PHYSICIANS SECTION GOVERNING COUNCIL

AMA-YPS Report D-A-25

Subject: YPS Endorsements of Elected Candidates

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Referred to: AMA-YPS Reference Committee

INTRODUCTION

The AMA Young Physicians Section (YPS) endorses candidates for AMA House of Delegates (HOD) elections. The YPS Governing Council has established a process to consider endorsements of candidates for the AMA President-Elect, Board of Trustees, and elected Councils who have been sponsored by an organization represented in the AMA HOD. This process is outlined in Sections IX and X of the YPS Internal Operating Procedures (IOP), which is included in the Appendix of this report. This informational report summarizes the process for endorsing candidates for elected positions. Additionally, this report will provide a list of YPS endorsed candidates for election at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the HOD.

Please note that the 2025 and 2026 endorsement processes are different. YPS Report E explains the 2026 endorsement process and provides a list of YPS endorsed candidates for election at the 2026 Annual Meeting of the HOD. Annual 2025 candidate endorsements will adhere to the current YPS IOP (included in Appendix) and Annual 2026 candidate endorsements will adhere to the guidelines put forward by the Governing Council and the Assembly in Resolution 1 from Interim 2024, "Adapting the YPS IOPs for the Speakers' New Endorsement Process."

ENDORSEMENT PROCESS FOR CANDIDATES FOR ELECTED POSITIONS

AMA policy, [AMA Election Rules and Guiding Principles G-610.090](#) [IV.1], notes that active campaigning for AMA elective office may not begin until the Board of Trustees announces the candidates for council seats after its April meeting.

Candidates seeking YPS endorsement were required to submit an application to the YPS Governing Council no later than seven days following the official announcement of candidates by the AMA Board of Trustees. These applications were reviewed by the Governing Council. Reviewers with a conflict of interest were not included in deliberations regarding endorsement decisions for races where such conflicts existed.

The Governing Council will communicate endorsement decisions to candidates in a timely manner. At the YPS meeting prior to the HOD elections, the YPS Governing Council will present an informational report to the Assembly on any endorsements.

2025 ENDORSED CANDIDATES

The following candidates for elected positions have been endorsed by the YPS:

Board of Trustees

Heather Smith, MD, MPH

Council on Constitution and Bylaws

Jerry Abraham, MD, MPH

Council on Medical Education

Lou Edje, MD, MHPE

1 Mark Milstein, MD

2 Scott Pasichow, MD, MPH

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4 Council on Medical Service

5 Laura Faye Gephart, MD, MBA

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7 Council on Science and Public Health

8 Kavita Shah Arora, MD, MBE, MS

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10 The YPS has elected not to proffer an endorsement for the Presidential election this year. After
11 much deliberation, the Council was unable to reach a consensus on endorsement for the position
12 of President-Elect, and the YPS IOP do not allow for the endorsement of more than one candidate
13 for a position. The Governing Council notes that both candidates have been endorsed by the YPS
14 in prior races, making both candidates excellent leaders and strong mentors to our young physician
15 members.

16

17 **CONCLUSION**

18 The candidates for elected positions have received notification of the YPS Governing Council
19 decision. Endorsed candidates may include the YPS endorsement on cards and other promotional
20 materials.

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22 The YPS Governing Council will continue to monitor its endorsement process for adherence to the
23 AMA election rules and guiding principles. If the AMA policy on elections is modified, the YPS
24 Governing Council will make adjustments, as appropriate, to ensure compliance and communicate
25 these updates to the Assembly.

APPENDIX: YPS IOP RULES CONCERNING ENDORSEMENTS FOR ELECTED POSITIONS

IX. Governing Council Rules for Sponsoring Candidates for Elected and Appointed Council Candidate Positions

- A. The Governing Council shall consider requests to sponsor YPS Candidates for elected or appointed positions in which a YPS member is eligible to be a candidate. The YPS shall consider only individuals who meet the AMA definition of a young physician, as defined in Bylaw 7.5.1, at the time a position commences. Candidates must submit a formal request for YPS support along with a copy of the completed application form, curriculum vitae, and any other documents requested by the Governing Council for decision. Candidates have the option to submit a photo.
- B. The Governing Council shall consider sponsoring candidates only with the following experience:
 - 1. Must be an AMA member and be a member of the YPS as specified in AMA Bylaw 7.5.1 at the time a position commences.
 - 2. Should be active in organized medicine or involved in community or national medical entities.
 - 3. Should have experience related to the position sought.
 - 4. Should demonstrate knowledge of issues pertinent to the YPS.
- C. All candidate applications for YPS support must be submitted by October 15 in the year prior to the election for which nomination is sought. Candidate applications may be reviewed by the Governing Council or by a committee appointed by the Governing Council.

Materials provided by candidates will be made available to properly credentialed YPS representatives prior to the Interim meeting. Candidates shall be presented on the floor of the YPS Assembly at the Interim meeting and be given the opportunity for brief remarks ahead of an Assembly vote. For each council only one candidate can proceed to a vote for support of their nomination by attaining a majority vote. If no candidate achieves a majority vote, the two candidates with the highest number of votes will be listed on a second ballot. If there is a tie for the candidate spot with the second highest number of votes, then the additional candidates in the tie will be included. Voting will continue in this fashion until a candidate achieves a majority vote. The candidate that achieves a majority vote will then proceed to a vote for support of their nomination, which will require a 2/3 vote of the legal votes cast. The candidates receiving a 2/3 vote may subsequently include the YPS sponsorship in their campaign materials in accordance with the AMA policies G-610.020 and G-610.021.

- D. A YPS sponsored candidate is automatically considered endorsed by the YPS.
- E. Neither the AMA-YPS nor its Governing Council shall provide any direct or indirect financial support to sponsored candidates at any point during the campaign or election process.

X. Governing Council Rules for Endorsing Candidates for Elected Positions

- A. The Governing Council shall consider endorsements of candidates for the AMA President-Elect, Board of Trustees, and elected Councils who have been sponsored by an organization represented in the AMA HOD. Preference shall be given to current young physician AMA members; however, all AMA members (including non-section members) who have demonstrated a clear history of service to the YPS may be considered at the Governing Council's discretion.

- B. To apply for a YPS endorsement, all application materials must be received by the Governing Council no later than seven days following the official announcement of candidates by the American Medical Association Board of Trustees. Applications may be reviewed by the Governing Council or a committee appointed by the Governing Council. The Governing Council decisions will communicate endorsement decisions in a timely manner. Candidates must submit a formal request for YPS endorsement, along with their curriculum vitae, letter from their sponsoring organization, and questionnaire on current YPS issues. Candidates have the option to submit a photo. The questionnaire shall be composed and updated as needed by the Governing Council.

The YPS shall decline to endorse any candidate for an elected council position where there is already a YPS nominee, unless multiple vacancies exist. Where multiple vacancies exist, the Governing Council may endorse as many additional candidates as there are additional vacancies. Candidates endorsed through this process may subsequently include the YPS endorsement on cards and other promotional materials. In cases where a YPS supported candidate exits a race prior to the election, the Governing Council may reconsider previous endorsement requests by candidates who had previously been not endorsed.

- C. The Governing Council shall consider all qualified candidates formally requesting an endorsement from the YPS but shall endorse no more than the available number of positions on the Council or Board. Should an endorsed candidate withdraw from a race, or an additional seat becomes available, the Governing Council reserves the right to make additional endorsements after the defined deadline outlined in the IOP. The Governing Council shall consider only candidates with the following qualifications:
1. Must be an AMA member at the time the endorsement is requested.
 2. Should be active in organized medicine or involved in community or national medical entities.
 3. Should have experience related to the office sought.
 4. Should demonstrate knowledge of and commitment to issues pertinent to the YPS.
- D. The YPS Governing Council shall submit an informational report on its plan to comply with all AMA election rules at each Interim meeting. The YPS Governing Council shall submit an informational report on any endorsements to the Assembly at the YPS meeting just prior to the HOD elections.