

## RFS Speakers' Ruling – Election Guidelines Annual Meeting 2026

**Released:** 4/24/26

**Speakers:** Anna Heffron & Allie Conry

Dear Candidates and RFS Members,

The Speakers issue this document to ensure **transparent, fair, and consistent election procedures** for all candidates.

This ruling summarizes election policies, clarifies interpretations of the RFS IOPs, and outlines expectations for campaigning and candidate conduct. The Speakers reserve the right to issue **addenda or clarifications** as needed, with updates distributed to all candidates.

All candidates are responsible for reviewing the **RFS IOPs, AMA Bylaws, the AMA Code of Conduct** and this ruling. Questions about campaign activities or rule interpretation should be directed to the Speakers. We recommend you reach out with any questions prior to taking any actions about which you are uncertain.

Of note, this Speakers Ruling will become inactive if any further Speakers Ruling is released at a later date. There may be a need for a second Ruling if the Board of Trustees approves some IOP changes after this Ruling is released.

### I. Application Deadlines

- **Application Deadline:** April 27 at 11:59 PM CT
- Applications received after this deadline will not be included on the RFS election web page.
- Candidates who declare after the deadline may run **from the floor** but will not appear in official posted election materials.
- **Conflict of Interest forms** will be sent by staff and must be completed to be eligible to appear on the ballot.

### II. Candidate Eligibility

Candidates must meet all requirements outlined in the **RFS IOPs**, including:

- Term limits for service on the **RFS Governing Council and AMA Councils**
- Eligibility requirements for candidates holding other RFS leadership roles
- Compliance with AMA and RFS governance policies

Candidates currently serving in positions that require neutrality must **recuse themselves** from campaigning for any other campaign than their own.

### III. Campaign Period

The official campaign period begins **April 28, 2026**, the day after applications are due.

Before this date, candidates may:

- Explore interest in, eligibility, and viability for running
- Seek information about positions
- Assemble a campaign team
- Prepare campaign materials

Before the campaign period begins, candidates **may not**:

- Publicly announce candidacy
- Circulate campaign materials outside of campaign teams
- Seek endorsements
- Conduct coordinated outreach requesting support

#### **IV. Campaign Teams**

Campaign teams must consist of **RFS members only**.

Candidates are responsible for ensuring that campaign team members:

- Understand and comply with campaign rules
- Avoid prohibited communications (*see Section V of this Ruling*)
- Adhere to the AMA's Code of Conduct

Certain leadership roles (Governing Council members and Rules Committee members) **may not publicly endorse candidates**.

#### **V. Campaign Communications**

Campaign communications should remain **professional, respectful, and reasonably limited in frequency**.

Candidates **may not use RFS or AMA communication channels** for campaigning, including:

- AMA social media pages
- The RFS Business or Committees GroupMe's (with the exception of the RFS Elections GroupMe channel)

Permitted campaign platforms include:

- Candidate personal campaign pages, including social media campaign pages
- Personal outreach to individual RFS members
- The AMA-RFS Elections GroupMe channel

#### **VI. Campaign Materials**

Candidates must adhere to the campaign rules as defined in the AMA-RFS IOPs (V. Elections, D. Campaigns). In addition, the AMA-RFS will post candidate election material (only for those who submitted by the deadline) by May 15, 2026. Note, the following are **not permitted**:

- Paid campaign advertising
- Campaign materials distributed through official non-election RFS communication channels

#### **VII. Candidate Events**

The Speakers may organize the following election events:

- **Candidate Forum**
- **Candidate Meet & Greet**

Participation details will be distributed to candidates prior to any such event.

**Elections will be held in-person** and candidates will be given an opportunity to address the Assembly and participate in a question & answer session. Candidates who cannot attend the elections in-person may submit a statement to be read by the Speakers during Assembly.

#### **VIII. Campaign Conduct and Endorsements**

Candidates must campaign **independently** and maintain a respectful environment.

Candidates may not:

- Coordinate joint campaigns
- Endorse other candidates

We strongly recommend campaign team members not serve on multiple campaign teams for the same office simultaneously.

Campaigns should prioritize **professionalism, transparency, and collegiality**.

Candidates may seek **endorsements** from their state or specialty societies, RFS committees, and individuals. Any group wishing to endorse a candidate, excepting the candidate's own state and specialty society, must invite all candidates for the position for consideration of endorsement. Any group (except a candidate's own state and primary specialty society) that wishes to open endorsements must inform the RFS Speakers of their intention to offer endorsements by May 15 to discuss the formal endorsement process.

### **IX. Enforcement and Reporting**

Any suspected campaign rule violations should be reported to the **Speakers and the Rules Committee** within **48 hours** of notice of occurrence.

Investigations will follow procedures outlined in the **RFS IOPs**.

All reports will be handled **confidentially** until a decision is made regarding whether an infraction occurred.

### **X. Election Procedures**

Election procedures during the Assembly will follow:

- **RFS IOPs**
- **AMA Constitution and Bylaws**
- The parliamentary authority of the **American Institute of Parliamentarians Standard Code of Parliamentary Procedure**

Candidates are encouraged to contact the Speakers with questions regarding election rules or campaign activities. Please contact both Speakers as early as you have questions or concerns so that we can address these expeditiously.

Our goal is to ensure a **fair, transparent, and respectful election process** for all candidates and RFS members.

We appreciate your dedication to advancing the work of the **Resident & Fellow Section**.

Best of luck to all candidates!

Your Speaker and Vice Speaker,  
Anna Heffron (anna.s.heffron@gmail.com) & Allie Conry (alexandraconrymd@gmail.com)