REPORT OF THE AMA YOUNG PHYSICIANS SECTION GOVERNING COUNCIL

Subject: AMA-YPS Compliance with AMA Election Rules

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Referred to: AMA-YPS Reference Committee

INTRODUCTION
One of the strategic objectives of the AMA-YPS is leadership development, which encourages young physicians to seek leadership positions in the AMA. As part of this effort, the AMA-YPS developed a process to endorse candidates for AMA elections.

Recent modifications to AMA policy on elections necessitated an update to AMA-YPS Internal Operating Procedures (IOP) language on sponsorship (formerly nomination requests), appointed council candidate positions, and elected positions. This informational report will provide a synopsis of updated IOP language, planned communications to the YPS Assembly, and actions to comply with AMA election rules.

FRAMEWORK FOR COMPLIANCE WITH AMA ELECTION RULES
IOP language for the “Governing Council Rules for Sponsoring Candidates for Elected and Appointed Council Candidate Positions” (§IX.A-E) and “Governing Council Rules for Endorsing Candidates for Elected Positions” (§X) was modified to align with AMA policy on elections (Rules for AMA Elections G-610.020 and Guiding Principles for House Elections G-610.021). The full text for the updated IOP language is available in the Appendix.

In accordance with §X.D of the AMA-YPS IOP, the YPS Governing Council shall submit an informational report on its plan to comply with all AMA election rules at each Interim meeting. Further, the YPS Governing Council shall submit an informational report on any endorsements to the Assembly at the YPS meeting prior to the House of Delegates (HOD) elections. In turn, the Governing Council will present the following reports to the YPS Assembly:

- Compliance with AMA election rules. At each Interim meeting, an informational report outlining plans to adhere to all AMA election rules will be presented to the YPS Assembly. This report will include relevant AMA policy on election rules and YPS processes for endorsement requests.

- YPS endorsement decisions. At each Annual meeting, an informational report outlining endorsements will be presented to the YPS Assembly in advance of the HOD Elections. Each year, the YPS Governing Council presents the “Activities/Action Plan Update” report. This report includes a leadership development section that lists YPS endorsements for various Board of Trustees and Council positions. The Activities/Action Plan Update report will serve as the primary source of communicating endorsement decisions to the YPS Assembly.

NEXT STEPS
In accordance with the AMA policy on elections and the YPS IOP rules, the YPS leadership opportunities webpage will be updated with the process for the following types of endorsements requests:

- Endorsements for elected positions. In accordance with AMA Policy G-610.020, active campaigning may begin after the official announcement of candidates is made following the April Board of Trustees meeting. Once active campaigning commences, endorsement requests
may be considered. Candidates requesting YPS endorsement must submit their application materials to the YPS Governing Council no later than seven days following this announcement.

- **Sponsoring candidates for elected and appointed positions.** The process for requests to sponsor candidates for elected and appointed Council positions will be posted in advance of the YPS due date of October 15 (starting in 2024). Candidates receiving two-thirds of YPS Assembly votes supporting their nomination may include the YPS sponsorship in their campaign materials in accordance with AMA policies G-610.020 and G-610.021.

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

**CONCLUSION**

The YPS Governing Council will continually monitor its endorsement process for adherence to AMA election rules. If the AMA policy on elections is modified, the YPS Governing Council will make adjustments, as appropriate, to ensure compliance.
Governing Council Rules for Sponsoring Candidates for Elected and Appointed Council Candidate Positions (§IX.A-E)

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.

Governing Council Rules for Endorsing Candidates for Elected Positions (§X)

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.