



**Florida Medical Association, Inc.**

**Election Process and Campaign Rules**

## **Introduction**

FMA Officers, Board of Governors, and the AMA Delegates and Alternates are elected by the House of Delegates at the Annual Meeting. This democratic process allows the delegates an opportunity to become acquainted with the candidates and their views. The elections are by secret ballot and are under the supervision of the Committee on Rules and Credentials who are appointed by the Speaker and Vice Speaker.

## **Election of FMA Officers**

Florida Medical Association officers and members of the Board of Governors are elected by the House of Delegates. The House does not have a nominating committee. Members of the Association announce their candidacy and run for office. The lengths of terms and limits on numbers of terms served are specified in the Bylaws for each elected office.

## **Election of Delegates to the AMA**

There are 13 Delegates and 13 Alternate Delegates on the Florida AMA Delegation and one alternate delegate seat from the Young Physician Section. There are usually a large number of candidates who run for these seats, so there are no nominating and seconding speeches. However, the AMA candidates are recognized during the First House of Delegates for a two-minute speech. The delegates are elected in the order of the highest number of votes cast until the allotted number has been chosen and the alternate delegates are elected in the next order of highest votes cast. A majority vote is not required for election as an AMA delegate or alternate.

## **Nominations and Nominating Speeches**

Nominations for office are made on the floor of the House during the first House of Delegates. If nominations occur from the floor in an uncontested election, the Speaker will announce that nominating and seconding speeches would be taken up at the time when the contested elections occur.

Nominating speeches are waived in uncontested elections. Candidates running for the Office of President-Elect are allowed one nominating and two seconding speeches. All other contested elections are allowed one nominating and one seconding speech. All speeches, nominating and seconding, are limited to two minutes each. Election in contested elections is by secret ballot on the morning of the final session of the House. A majority vote is required for election, and run-offs are held during the final session.

In uncontested elections (except for President-Elect), there are no nominating or seconding speeches. Uncontested candidates are voted on by acclamation during the first House of Delegates.

### **Candidate Profiles**

All candidates who have announced their intention to run for FMA office have the opportunity to submit a Candidate Profile form which is included in the Delegate Handbook. Candidates are asked to submit this information in a timely manner on a pre-formatted form that states the candidate's qualifications, service to the FMA, AMA, other medical organizations, community service, an endorsement from the county medical society, and a personal statement of the candidate's views and goals.

### **Campaign Signs**

Campaign signs are limited to contested races only. Signs are limited to one per candidate and must be placed outside the House of Delegates. There are no restrictions in hospitality suites or in caucus rooms, but the signs should be placed inside the rooms, not in the hallways, walkways, etc. Signs may not be placed outside of Annual Meeting events such as the Good Government Luncheon. In case of special circumstances, the Speaker and Vice Speaker will determine appropriate sign locations. County medical societies may not put up any signage that includes AMA delegate candidates.

The FMA prepares a large sign of all the Florida AMA Delegation candidates, listing their names, a photograph and their nominating society. This sign is placed outside the House of Delegates and takes the place of individual candidate signs.

### **Candidates Addressing Caucus Groups**

The FMA has no rules governing whether candidates are allowed to speak at county medical society and specialty society caucus groups. This is left solely up to the discretion of the caucus group. However, if a candidate is running for two different offices – contested/non-contested, the focus of his/her remarks should be on the issues in the contested election. AMA delegate candidates should not campaign at county medical society or specialty society caucus groups. If an AMA delegate candidate is also running for another FMA office his remarks should not include his or her qualifications for AMA office.

### **Campaign Materials**

Campaign materials are not prohibited on the floor of the House. However, this does not preclude delegates from wearing campaign buttons, ribbons, etc. in the House of Delegates. Distribution of campaign materials at meetings of component groups requires advance approval from the person directly responsible for the individual meeting or caucus.

House rules prohibit campaign badges on the podium or dais of the House of Delegates, Reference Committees or other plenary activities of the House of Delegates.

Campaign announcements for election at the following year's Annual Meeting may be distributed prior to convening the final session of the House of Delegates.

**Campaign Events/Materials**

No campaign materials may be distributed or campaign events held immediately outside the House of Delegates.

**Disclosure**

Candidates running for election to an FMA office are required to abide by the Conflict of Interest Statement and submit a conflict of interest disclosure statement.