
Policy Name:	Candidate Conduct Policy
Background / Purpose:	This policy provides guidelines that candidates seeking elective office with ASPS should follow as they relate to campaigning, lobbying and solicitation.
Keywords:	Elections, Candidate Conduct, Lobbying, Nominating Committee
Program Area or Business Line	Governance
Policy Sponsor (Staff Officer):	Gina McClure, Senior Vice President COO Executive Director, The Plastic Surgery Foundation
Approving Body:	ASPS/PSF Executive Committee
Authorized Signatories:	J. Peter Rubin, MD, ASPS President
Effective Date of Policy:	July 2018, revision 1 September 2019, revision 2 December 2021
Next Review Date:	December 2024

Candidate Conduct Policy (Campaigning / Lobbying / Solicitation)

Candidates for Elected Office Slated by the Nominating Committee

Individuals who have determined they would like to be considered for a leadership position are expected to demonstrate the highest ethical behavior throughout the application and interview process.

Candidate-to-Candidate Interaction:

- 1) Candidates are prohibited from communicating with other candidates with the express intent to influence another candidate to withdraw from consideration for an open position, or apply for a different position on the slate to minimize competition for an open position they hope to win.
- 2) Candidates who have been contacted by other candidate for this purpose, are required to report the interaction to the co-chairs of the Nominating Committee. The candidate soliciting may be deemed ineligible for further consideration for the position.

Lobbying Related to Candidates Applying for Leadership Positions:

Lobbying, for the purpose of soliciting votes for a particular candidate to serve on the Nominating Committee in order to further the chances of election of a candidate pursuing a future leadership position, is not in accordance with the philosophy and values of ASPS and is not permitted and may result in disqualification of the Nominating Committee member and/or the candidate who applied for the position slated by the Nominating Committee.

Individuals seeking leadership positions are subject to the following guidelines:

- 1) Candidates are strictly prohibited from contacting any member of the Nominating Committee throughout the vetting process. Any questions or concerns about the process shall be directed to either the Staff Liaison or the Co-Chairs of the Committee.

- 2) Candidates must submit two letters of recommendation from individuals and/or organizations and may submit a third. However, the Nominating Committee will not be provided with written endorsements from the ASPS Trustees, Executive Committee or fellow Nominating Committee members.
- 3) Active members of the Board of Directors and Trustees are not eligible to submit letters of recommendation for any candidate.

If the Nominating Committee Chairs are made aware of allegations of any violation of this policy, these allegations will be referred to the Governance Committee. The Governance Committee will determine appropriate consequences which may include notifying the electorate that a violation of the policy has occurred. If the Governance Committee agrees a violation has occurred, they will notify the ASPS/PSF Board of Directors of such violation and actions that need to be taken in response.

Candidates Seeking Election to the Nominating Committee

Lobbying Related to Nominating Committee Elections:

All candidates running for a Nominating Committee Regional Representative position complete the Summary of Qualifications document for the express purpose of presenting voting members with consistent information on each candidate in order to base their decision.

Notwithstanding the preceding, campaigning to get out the vote is permissible. In other words, third parties and candidates may make their peers aware that their colleague or they are running for office and encourage participation by voting in the election.