

ELECTION OUTLINE

Regulations for elections are set forth in Articles 162-176 inclusive (pages 57-59) of the June 2007 Edition of the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts By-Laws, which can be viewed online at www.osiama.org if your lodge does not own a printed copy. The information in this outline is excerpted from the By-Laws and should only be used as a guideline. Please refer to the By-Laws for complete text. Please read these regulations and explain them to your Members.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

A Filial Lodge may authorize the formation of a Nominating Committee as follows: A Nominating Committee of five (5) Members shall consist of the Immediate Past President, Chairman of Trustees, and three (3) Members elected by ballot from the Membership at the monthly meeting preceding the month of nominations. The President shall not be an Ex-Officio Member of this committee. Members of the Nominating Committee can be candidates for office. The Members of that committee shall elect the Chairman of the nominating committee from their body.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee shall report at the meeting of the Lodge held for the purpose of nominations and shall read the list of nominees. The list is given to the presiding officer who will then ask if there are any further nominations. Other nominations may be made from the floor. The Committee's nominations are treated the same as if made by the Members from the floor. No vote is necessary to accept them. (Article 73, section (o) - page 33). A Member may be nominated without being present, provided they submit a statement accepting the nomination to the Lodge prior to the meeting at which nominations are made. (Article 164 – page 57).

ELECTION METHOD:

ELECTIONS MAY BE HELD BY TWO METHODS:

1. Cumulative ballot – names of all the candidates arranged according to precedence of office. For each office, names of the candidates shall be placed as drawn by lot immediately following the meeting of nominations with all candidates or their representatives present at the drawing (Article 164 – page 57).
2. By means of single ballot for each office (Article 162 - page 57).

BALLOT:

Elections must be held by secret ballot. The Recording Secretary shall see that a ballot is printed with the names of all candidates, placed as drawn by lot immediately following the nominations with all the candidates or their representatives present at the drawing.

ELECTION MEETING ANNOUNCEMENT:

The notice for election of a Filial Lodge **MUST** be sent to all Members **AT LEAST TEN (10) DAYS BEFORE THE MEETING** and must specify the offices or the officers to be voted upon. This applies for both the cumulative and single ballot methods (Article 164 - page 57 and Article 166 – page 58).

OFFICERS TO BE ELECTED:

1. All officers (except Immediate Past President).
2. The Arbitration Committee (5 arbitrators and 5 alternates).
3. State Delegates and Alternates.

In accordance with Article 107 (page 40), "The number of State Delegates and Alternates of any lodge will be subject to change following the March 31st quarterly Membership report of each year. State Delegates and Alternates will either be increased or decreased, reflecting the number of paid-up Members in each Lodge". Your delegate strength will be determined by the total number of paid-up Members in your lodge as of December 31, 2018, subject to any changes in Membership as of March 31, 2019.

You should elect an equal number of delegates and alternate delegates based on your December 31, 2018 per capita billing (i.e. if you are entitled to 2 Delegates, you should elect 2 Delegates and 2 Alternates). Remember that the first 'elected' delegate is always the President by virtue of his/her office.

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TERM OF OFFICE:

All Officers, Arbitrators, and State Delegates and Alternate Delegates are being elected for a two (2) year term.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR OFFICE:

Member cannot be a candidate for office unless he/she has belonged to the Order for at least six (6) months (Article 128, section (d) - page 47). Member cannot be a candidate for President or Vice-President unless he/she has held a lesser office for one (1) year (Articles 90 and 91 - pages 36 and 37). Exception to the above rules for eligibility for office is transfers from the Junior Division who have held office. A President who has served two (2) consecutive terms cannot succeed him/herself if there is another candidate for the President's position.

Any member, who has completed an entire term as a State Deputy, or as an officer of a Lodge prior to his/her nomination as State Delegate, is eligible to be elected State Delegate or Alternate. (Article 104 – page 40).

Social Members are NOT allowed to run for office (Article 130, section (h) - page 49).

ELIGIBILITY TO VOTE:

Member must be in good standing in dues and assessments with the filial lodge. If he/she does not make proper payment he/she loses his/her right to vote and also the right to run for office (Article 132 - page 50).

Regular and Social member have a right to vote at all biennial elections provided that the Member has been a Member of the Order prior to the January meeting prior to the election (Article 128, section (c) - page 47).

ELECTORAL COMMITTEE:

The Lodge President appoints an Electoral Committee comprised of a President (not the Lodge President) and four (4) Examiners. They are appointed at the meeting prior to the election.

VOTING PROCEDURES:

The President of the Electoral Committee sets up pencils, ballots, ballot box and voting tables. The time limit for voting is determined at a meeting prior to the elections by the Members. The Financial Secretary determines the financial standing of the voting Member before issuing a ballot. At the conclusion of the voting, the ballot box is taken to a private area where only the Electoral Committee may be present to tally the votes.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS:

The President of the Electoral Committee announces the results of the election. After the results are announced and approved by the body, a motion would be in order to destroy the ballots. This concludes the election.

BALLOT OUTLINE:

1) CUMULATIVE BALLOT:

- a) The Lodge President appoints an Electoral Committee comprised of a President (not the Lodge President) and four (4) Examiners. They are appointed at the meeting prior to the election. The President of the Electoral Committee sets up pencils, ballots, ballot box and voting tables. The time limit for voting is determined at a meeting prior to the elections by the Members. The Financial Secretary determines the financial standing of the voting Member before issuing a ballot. At the conclusion of the voting, the ballot box is taken to a private area where only the Electoral Committee may be present to tally the votes. The President of the Electoral Committee announces the results of the election. After the results are announced and approved by the body, a motion would be in order to destroy the ballots. This concludes the election.

2) SINGLE BALLOT FOR EACH OFFICE:

- a) The Electoral Committee is appointed as outlined above. Nominations for each office and elections for that office occur one office at a time. Voting slips shall be handed out for each election, tallied by the Electoral Committee, and a winner declared by the President of the Electoral Committee after each contest. After the results are announced and approved by the body, a motion would be in order to destroy the ballots. This concludes the election.