

Marine Corps League Election Procedure for Department and Detachment Officers

1. Nominations

- Timing: Nominations shall be opened during the regular business meeting designated for elections, as specified in the bylaws (typically the annual convention or meeting).
- Eligibility: Only regular members in good standing may be nominated or nominate others.
- Process:
 - The Election Officer opens nominations for each elected office in the order listed in the bylaws (e.g., Commandant, Sr. Vice, Jr. Vice, Judge Advocate, etc.).
 - Members may nominate themselves or others.
 - Nominations do not require a second.
 - The Election Officer shall ask each Nominated officer if he /she is willing to serve in the office they have been nominated for.
 - After asking three times for additional nominations and hearing none, the Election Officer declares nominations closed for that specific office.

2. Candidate Speeches (Optional)

- Each nominee may be given up to 3 minutes to speak before the election for their office is held, if allowed by the assembly.

3. Election Method

- Uncontested Offices: If only one person is nominated for an office, the Election Officer may declare the nominee elected by acclamation.
- Contested Offices: Voting shall be by secret ballot unless otherwise specified by bylaws.
- A majority vote (more than half of votes cast, excluding abstentions) is required to elect.
- If no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, the candidate with the lowest vote total is dropped and additional ballots are taken until a majority vote is achieved.

4. Tellers and Ballot Counting

- The Election Officer appoints a Tellers Committee (usually 3 impartial members) to:
- Distribute, collect, and count the ballots.
- Report the results to the Election Officer, who announces them to the assembly.
- The number of ballots cast, votes per candidate, and any invalid ballots must be reported.

5. Tie Votes

- In the event of a tie, another ballot is taken.
- If two consecutive tie votes occur, the tie may be broken by lot (e.g., drawing names) if permitted by bylaws or agreed to by the assembly.

6. Appointed Officers

- Once the election process is complete the Election Officer shall ask the newly elected Commandant if he/she has appointed officers to a particular office.
- The Election Officer shall ask each newly appointed officer if he /she is willing to serve in the office they have been appointed to.

7. Declaration of Election

- After the election and appointed process is complete the Election Officer shall declare that the elected and appointed officers of the _____ Detachment / Department are duly elected and appointed.

8. Installation of Officers

- Officers are typically installed immediately following the election or at a designated time during the meeting.
- The installing officer may be a current or past Commandant, or a higher-level officer (Division or National).
- All elected officers must take the Oath of Office before assuming their duties.

9. Vacancies

- Any vacancies occurring between elections may be filled by appointment or special election as specified in the bylaws.