

## ELECTION AND CAMPAIGN STANDING RULES

Tacoma Federation of Paraeducators 461

August 2020

- **Candidate Eligibility Determinations**

The Election Committee will determine eligibility of candidates based on union records. Eligible nominees will be notified of their eligibility, emailed a copy of these rules, and asked how they wish their names to appear on the ballot. Ineligible nominees will be advised of the reason(s) they are not eligible to run for office.

- **Meeting with Candidates**

One week after the April nomination meeting, the Election Committee will meet with all interested candidates to discuss election procedures, inspection of the union's membership list, and distribution of campaign rules. At this meeting, a drawing will be held to determine candidate position on the ballot. If a candidate is absent and does not have a representative at the meeting, an election official will represent the candidate in the drawing.

- **Inspection of the Membership List**

Each candidate may inspect (not copy) the TFP 461 membership list once prior to the election. No candidate is entitled to receive a copy of the list. Any candidate who wishes to inspect the list should contact the Elections Committee.

- **Distribution of Campaign Literature**

Candidates may utilize interoffice mail to distribute campaign literature.

- **Campaign Restrictions**

Federal law prohibits the use of any union or employer funds to promote the candidacy of any person in a union officer election. This prohibition applies to cash, facilities, equipment, vehicles, office supplies, etc., of TFP 461 and any other union, and of employers whether or not they employ TFP 461 members. Union officers and employees may not campaign on time paid for by the union.

Federal law also provides that candidates must be treated equally regarding the opportunity to campaign and that all members may support the candidates of their choice without being subject to penalty, discipline, or reprisal of any kind.

- **Election Notice**

A notice of election will be called on the floor of the nomination meeting, as well as, publicly posted on the website [www.tacoma461.org](http://www.tacoma461.org), on any inward facing social media forums, i.e. member Facebook page, via Email, and provided to building representatives to be posted in all buildings.

- **Observers**

Candidates are entitled to have observers present at the polls and the tally of ballots. Observers must be members of TFP 461. Candidates are prohibited from serving as observers. Candidates should submit the names of their observers in writing to the Election Committee prior to election day.

- **Election Day**

The election will be held during the May general membership meeting. Members will be asked to sign their name on a membership list to determine eligibility to vote. After determining that a member is eligible to vote, the Election Committee will mark the member's name off the eligibility list. The member will be given a ballot and instructed to vote in secret and place the ballot in the locked election box.

- **Tally of Ballots**

Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee after the polls close during the general membership meeting. Write-in votes are not permitted. The candidate who receives the highest number of votes cast for each office will be declared elected. Any tie votes will be decided by a coin toss conducted by the Election Committee after the tally is completed.

- **Election Results**

The election results will be posted on the website [www.tacoma461.org](http://www.tacoma461.org), on any inward facing social media forums, i.e. member Facebook page, via Email, and provided to building representatives to be posted in all buildings.

- **Election Records**

The TFP 461 Secretary is responsible for maintaining all nomination and election records for at least one year after the election, as required by federal law.

- **Questions or Problems**

Candidates and members with questions about the nomination or election procedures should

contact a member of the Election Committee. Any violation of these rules should be reported promptly to the Election Committee so that corrective action can be taken, if necessary.

- **Protests**

TFP 461 Constitution provides that any member may challenge a local union officer election by filing a protest in writing with the Election Committee within 10 days after election results are posted.

- **The above rules are not all inclusive. Additional election rules or clarifications may be issued by the TFP 461 Election Committee as needed during the nomination and election period.**