

Resolution No. [Resolution Number] [Type]

Report: [Report] Date Submitted: [Date Submitted]

Submitted By: Dr. Steven Saxe, delegate, Nevada

Reference Committee: [Reference Committee for Worksheet]

Total Net Financial Implication: [Total Net Financial Impl.] Net Dues Impact:

Amount One-time: Amount On-going:

ADA Strategic Forecast Outcome: Tripartite: Promote Tripartite stability, success, and future growth.

1 DELAYING BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEMBERS AND SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE ELIGIBILITY TO
2 RUN FOR ELECTED OFFICE TO PROTECT GOVERNANCE INTEGRITY

3 Background: ADA policy allows current **Board of Trustees members and Speaker of the House** to
begin formal or informal campaigns for national office during their final year on the Board. According to
the Election Commission and Campaign Rules paragraph 6, Announcing Candidacy, "Candidates for
President-elect and Second Vice President shall formally announce their intent to run for office on the
final day of the annual session immediately preceding their candidacy. ..." This means a trustee can
actively campaign while still serving, which can compromise fiduciary focus and neutral governance.

The decisions made by the ADA Board of Trustees shape the future of the Association and the
profession. When trustees are allowed to campaign for ADA President-elect while still serving on the
Board, it creates an unavoidable conflict of interest. Every vote, every public statement, and every
strategic decision risks being influenced by how it will play in an upcoming election rather than by what is
best for the ADA and the members it serves.

Trustees should be free to make the most difficult and necessary decisions for the profession without the
shadow of political calculation hanging over them. Waiting until a full year has passed after leaving the
Board before running for President-elect would remove that pressure. It would free trustees from the
temptation to filter decisions through the lens of electability and instead allow them to act with complete
loyalty to the mission, vision, and long-term health of the Association.

Many major membership organizations restrict current board members from campaigning for other
national offices during their term to avoid conflicts of interest and maintain fiduciary focus. For example,
the American Medical Association (AMA), a 501(c)(6), states in its Bylaws that "The Chair of the Board of
Trustees is not eligible for election as President-Elect until the Annual Meeting following completion of the
term as Chair of the Board of Trustees" ([AMA Bylaws, July 2025, § 3.2.1.3. P26](#)). The American
Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA), a 501(c)(3), prohibits the President, President-Elect, and other
officers and directors from being candidates for any other elected office until the expiration of their current
term ([APNA Bylaws, § 3](#)).

By adopting this restriction, the ADA puts the integrity of governance above political ambition, restoring
confidence among members that Board decisions are made solely in the best interest of the profession
and the public.

Resolved, that the Election Commission and Campaign Rules be amended by the addition of a new
section titled Candidate Eligibility to be placed before the section titled Election Commission Rules

Governing the Conduct of Campaigns for all ADA Elective Officers to read as follows (additions underlined, deletions in strikethrough):

Candidate Eligibility

No current member of the Board of Trustees and the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall be eligible to run for the office of ADA President-elect or any other elected position until the Annual Meeting following the completion of their term of office. This eligibility restriction shall be enforced by the Election Commission in the 2025 and subsequent election cycles, regardless of whether broader campaign rule revisions are adopted and shall be inserted under the Candidate Eligibility section of the Election Commission and Campaign Rules, or its successor section if the rules are revised.

and be it further

Resolved, that the American Dental Association Governance and Organizational Manual, Chapter VI. Elective Officers of the Association, Section A. Eligibility, be amended to read as follows (additions Underlined, deletions in strikethrough):

A. Eligibility. Only an active, life or retired member, in good standing, of this Association shall be eligible to serve as an elective officer. No trustee or other elected officer is eligible to serve simultaneously as Treasurer or Speaker of the House of Delegates. No current member of the Board of Trustees and the Speaker of the House of Delegates shall be eligible to run for the office of ADA President-elect or any other elected position until the Annual Meeting following the completion of their term of office.