

REGULATION 24

Public Service Alliance of Canada

Enacted this 23rd day of February 2023

REGULATION GOVERNING THE NOMINATIONS, CAMPAIGN, AND ELECTION PROCESSES AT PSAC CONVENTIONS

The purpose of this Regulation is to provide direction on the nominations, campaign, and election processes at conventions of our union. Such conventions shall be governed by the applicable governance documents of the union body conducting the convention, and rules of order that have been adopted by the convention floor.

1. Nominations

- 1.1 Any PSAC member in good standing may be nominated for a position, subject to any qualifying requirements in the relevant By-Laws (including geographic or equity) regarding each position. Nominators and seconders must also be members in good standing and be delegated to the convention for which the candidate is running.
- 1.2 The nominations process will be communicated to members in advance of convention, observing any timelines contained in the relevant By-Laws. Such notification will confirm the nominations form to be utilized, inform members of the deadline for receipt of nominations, and the receiving body for nomination forms.
- 1.3 The receiving body for nominations shall ensure that all nomination forms received (hard copy and/or electronic) are time stamped and will verify the membership status of the nominated members, their nominees and seconders. The receiving body will follow-up in a timely manner with any nominated member whose nomination is not in compliance.
- 1.4 The nominations deadline shall serve to qualify candidates to participate in the all-candidates debate (if held) at convention.
- 1.5 An Elections Chairperson shall be named by the senior officer of the union body in advance of the convention. The Elections Chairperson shall conduct the elections at convention in compliance with the relevant By-Laws and chair the all-candidates debate (if held).
- 1.6 The receiving body shall maintain a complete file of all nominations received and verified, which will be provided to the Elections Chairperson. The receiving body shall work with the Elections Chairperson to prepare for the all-candidates debate, elections process, and review the nominations received in advance of the elections.

1.7 In accordance with the relevant By-Laws, a Nominations Committee shall be established in advance of the convention. The Nominations Committee will work with the Elections Chairperson and receiving body for nominations to prepare for the elections process at convention. The Nominations Committee must not endorse nor demonstrate support for any candidate.

2. All-Candidates Debate

2.1 The inclusion of an all-candidates debate, and the positions to be included in the debate, should be determined by the appropriate governing body in accordance with the relevant By-Laws.

2.2 The use of an all-candidates debate shall not include positions elected in caucuses.

2.3 If by the nominations deadline a position is uncontested, the sole candidate would not be included in the all-candidates debate. If all positions are uncontested at the close of nominations, an all-candidates debate would not be held. The Elections Chairperson shall make this determination and communicate it to the convention delegation.

2.4 Questions shall be solicited from delegates in advance of the debate. The deadline for the receipt of questions shall be communicated to delegates and will allow time for questions to be reviewed and triaged in advance of the all-candidates debate. No questions will be taken from the convention delegation during the all-candidates debate.

2.5 A question can be submitted for all positions, or for only a specific position.

2.6 Questions shall be vetted in advance of the debate to ensure there is nothing derogatory or targeting (positively or negatively) a specific candidate. A central list of questions shall be maintained by the Elections Chairperson, who will randomly select questions from this list during the debate.

2.7 The Elections Chairperson shall establish an outline for the flow of all-candidates debate: opening statements, questions and answers (including rotation of who is answering first) and closing statements. The Elections Chairperson shall also determine the time allotted for each segment of the debate - for example, opening/closing statements of three minutes, responses to questions one minute. This shall be communicated to candidates in advance of the debate, and to the convention delegation.

3. Campaigning

3.1 Declared candidates are those who have filed their nomination papers, thereby officially declaring they are running for office.

- 3.2 Each union body shall define the information provided to declared candidates for the purposes of campaigning, and the process for the dissemination of campaign material.
- 3.3 Candidates shall use personal social media account(s) to promote their candidacy. Candidates are not entitled to employ the logos, letterhead, social media, websites, or other communication tools of PSAC or any related union body in their campaign material. The use of photographs of candidates participating in PSAC events where union insignia is visible is not a violation of this regulation.
- 3.4 Candidates campaign material must comply with the PSAC Constitution and relevant By-Laws. Any concerns regarding campaign materials are to be raised with the Elections Chairperson who will review the matter and determine any required redress.
- 3.5 Campaigning cannot take place during another PSAC event, unless the host has invited a candidate (or candidates) to speak at their event.
- 3.6 Campaign content cannot be fraudulent, deceptive, or misleading. It cannot contain commercial solicitation of goods or services, nor can campaign content violate any intellectual property right of another. Campaigns cannot engage in online fundraising. Concerns regarding campaign content are to be raised with the Elections Chairperson who will review the matter and determine any required redress.
- 3.7 Election expenditures are governed by PSAC Regulation 21. For positions not covered by Regulation 21, the appropriate union body is to define in regulation the positions and associated allowable election expenditures.
- 3.8 PSAC resources shall not be utilized to produce convention candidate campaign materials.

4. Elections Procedure

- 4.1 The election of officers shall be conducted in accordance with the PSAC Constitution and relevant By-Laws. The election of each office shall be conducted in turn.
- 4.2 The list of candidates nominated in advance and from floor, along with their nominator and seconder, shall be provided to the Elections Chairperson. The Elections Chairperson shall confirm with each candidate of their willingness to stand for election and whether they, or their nominator or seconder, will address convention.
- 4.3 Candidates (or their nominator or seconder) can address the convention floor for three minutes. Speaking order shall be established by the date and time of the receipt of each nomination, in reverse order – i.e. first nomination received for a position is

the last candidate to speak. An observer may address the convention from the podium.

- 4.4 The Elections Chairperson shall confirm in advance of the election the speaking process for candidates not present at convention, and for an observer nominated at convention. Members who are not present at the convention cannot be nominated from the convention delegation. Virtual participation in a convention would be as a result of an approved accommodation request.
- 4.5 If there is only one candidate for a position, the candidate is elected by acclamation.
- 4.6 The election shall be conducted by secret ballot. The Elections Chairperson to announce after each vote by ballot:
 - a) the number of ballots cast;
 - b) the number of ballots required to elect a candidate (number of ballots cast less the number of spoiled ballots, multiplied by 50% and rounded to the next highest whole number – a simple majority);
 - c) the number of ballots cast for each candidate.
- 4.7 Election to any office shall be declared only on receipt of a clear majority of the ballots cast with standings revealed to voting delegates after each ballot. If more than two candidates for a position, the election procedure shall be by way of elimination.
- 4.8 In the event of a tie vote, the Elections Chairperson shall immediately take a second ballot without recess or adjournment. If this results in a second tie vote, the Elections Chairperson shall call a short recess before taking a third ballot. Should the vote outcome remain tied, the Elections Chairperson shall determine any further breaks as required.
- 4.9 The convention shall remain tiled until the election is determined and concluded. An accommodations list shall be maintained to allow those delegates listed to leave and return during this process.