

Campaigning by Candidates for Nationally Elected Office Is Not Permitted

Campaigning is defined as an organized effort that seeks to influence the decision-making process.

Candidates are not permitted to campaign for nationally elected offices. Candidates are not allowed to orchestrate a campaign by others on their own behalf. A candidate's attendance at annual district meetings or section meetings is not considered campaigning. However, if attending an ADM or Section Meeting of any section or district (especially one of which he/she is not a member), care must be taken to not engage in any activity that might be construed as "campaigning." Informal discussions with other ACOG members at such meetings could be seen as disadvantaging other candidates for office who are not there, and therefore should be avoided.

Candidate behavior that is prohibited includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- Soliciting support for votes from a member(s) of the Committee on Nominations. This includes a candidate distributing or emailing a committee member(s) information about his or her credentials and the reasons why the candidate should be nominated. This prohibition does not apply to a candidate's district's representative to the committee and a candidate may solicit support from the candidate's district's representative to the committee.
- Making a presentation at a district or section meeting about his or her candidacy.
- Holding or participating in a campaign-related event, such as a reception or dinner.
- Distributing campaign-related trinkets or giveaways.
- Participating in efforts to influence or coerce a member(s) of the Committee on Nominations or other Fellows to obtain a commitment for a vote from a member(s) of the Committee.

In addition, current ACOG national officers (President, President Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Secretary, and Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer), ACOG Executive Board Members and ACOG staff shall not campaign or give the appearance of campaigning for candidates running for nationally elected offices of the Executive Board. Districts shall also not enter into formal or informal agreements with other districts regarding voting. Prohibited behavior includes, but is not limited to, two or more districts agreeing that the districts' Committee on Nominations members will support one candidate from a certain district in exchange for support for another candidate from another district.

Committee on Nominations members may campaign for candidates. This reflects the reality of those individuals' multiple roles including: a) being an advocate for the candidate(s) nominated from their district during the committee meeting, b) being the focus of discussions and input from Fellows within their district about all candidates, c) being a person who may have important first-hand information about many of the candidates due to time spent with them at ACOG activities, d) being a person identified to the whole membership as on the Committee for the purposes of receiving input.

Allegations of campaigning will be promptly investigated by the Chair of the Committee on Nominations, the Immediate Past Chair, Committee support staff, and other parties as necessary. Members of the review team will recuse themselves from reviewing allegations of campaigning in which the member has a conflict of interest. The members of the Committee on Nominations will be informed if any candidate is found to be campaigning and/or if a current national officer, ACOG Board Member or ACOG staff member is found to be campaigning on a candidate's behalf. The candidate will also be informed of any determination that campaigning has occurred. If campaigning has occurred, the Committee will be informed of the circumstances involved and can use this information as part of its deliberation in assessing candidates. ACOG staff found to be campaigning will be reported to ACOG's Human Resources Department for potential disciplinary action.