

2020 BRANCH ELECTIONS

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT IS THE ELECTION PROCESS FOR NAACP BRANCHES?

In general, the following steps make up the branch election process:

- (1) The branch shall mail one notice to each member in good standing, postmarked at least ten (10) days prior to September membership meeting. This mailing notifies members of the September and October meeting dates, places, and times, and notification of the date, place, and time of the November election.
- (2) At the September membership meeting, a Nominating Committee (which includes not less than five and no more than fifteen members) is elected by the branch. The first meeting of this committee must be held no later than ten (10) days after its election.
- (3) At the October General Membership Meeting, the Nominating Committee submits a report in writing of nominees. At this same meeting, an Election Supervisory Committee is elected.
- (4) The Election Supervisory Committee (consisting of five members) shall perform the following duties:
 - a) Supervise the election;
 - b) Supervise the election machinery and other provisions; and
 - c) Create one complete ballot.
- (5) Polling begins on the date specified. Polling booths are used and are staffed by the Election Supervisory Committee. Polling booths must be open a minimum of four (4) hours unless otherwise determined by the Branch's by-laws.

For a more detailed information: Constitution & Bylaws for Units, Branches see Article IX, Section 2; Prison Branches see Article IX, Section

3, also see the **2020 Manual on Branch Election Procedure** description of the process.

WHEN ARE ELECTIONS HELD FOR NAACP BRANCHES?

Branch elections held in even numbered years.

❑ WHO IS ELECTED DURING THIS PROCESS?

Officers and Executive Committee Members At-Large. Elected officers of the branch include: President, First Vice-President, Second Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and additional officers that the branch specifies in its bylaws. The at-large Executive Committee consists of a minimum of ten (10) and a maximum of twenty-four elected members.

❑ WHO CAN RUN FOR OFFICE IN BRANCH ELECTIONS in 2020?

You must be a member in good standing as of **May 1st** to run for office in branch elections, and you must live and/or work within the branch jurisdiction. Unaffiliated life members and members-at-large must additionally be actively affiliated with the Branch by **May 1st**. (Actively affiliated means that the individual must have requested in writing that their membership be transferred to the Branch.) The request may be made through the Branch or directly to the National Office. The National Office must notify the Branch in writing within thirty (30) days of receiving notification. The candidate is responsible for insuring that their membership does not lapse, at which time their name would be removed from the ballot.

❑ WHO CAN VOTE FOR BRANCH OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS?

Anyone who has been a bona fide member of the branch thirty (30) days prior to the date of the election or the date the nominating petition is filed. Unaffiliated life members and members-at-large may vote if they have been actively affiliated with the branch at least thirty (30) days prior to date nominating petition is filed. Youth at least 17 years of age may vote in adult elections as long as they have paid the minimum adult membership fee.

❑ WHAT IF THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH PEOPLE TO RUN FOR ALL POSITIONS?

You should hold elections as normal. Then, after the election process, any unfilled positions may be filled by the Executive Committee per Article VIII. Section 2(e) of the Bylaws for Units.

❑ MUST ELECTIONS BE HELD IN NOVEMBER?

Yes. In addition, branches must place announcements regarding the election in one or more local newspapers of general circulation at least ten (10) days before the date of the November election.

❑ HOW LONG CAN A BRANCH OFFICER OR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER HOLD OFFICE?

For two (2) years or until their successors are elected.

❑ HOW ARE NOMINATIONS MADE?

The Nominating Committee selects qualified applicants. However, if you are interested in running for office, you should contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee to express your interest. Finally, nominations can be made from the floor during the October meeting. This process is called "nominations by petition." During this time, additional nominations can be made, but a nominating petition must be signed by at least three (3) members in good standing. Each person nominated must present a signed consent form at the time their nomination is made.

❑ WHAT ARE THE QUALIFICATIONS FOR BEING ON THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, ELECTION SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE, OR SIGNING A NOMINATING PETITION?

- You must be a member at least thirty (30) days prior to the date you are elected to the Nominating Committee.
- You must be a member at least thirty (30) days prior to the date you are elected to the Election Supervisory Committee
- You must be a member at least thirty (30) days prior to the date you sign a nominating petition.

❑ CAN NOMINEES HOLD POSITIONS ON THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE, ELECTION SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE? CAN THEY BE TELLERS?

Persons who want to be nominated may hold positions on the Nominating Committee, but qualified nominees cannot hold positions on the Election Supervisory Committee nor can they be tellers.

❑ DOES THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE RECEIVE THE BRANCH MEMBERSHIP ROSTER?

No. If the Nominating Committee has questions concerning a potential nominee's membership, they should ask the Branch Secretary to provide such information. The Branch Secretary should be available to provide this information when requested.

❑ WHAT IS THE TIME THAT IS ALLOTTED FOR CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT TO VIEW THE MEMBERSHIP ROSTER?

The time allotment is specified by the Election Supervisory Committee, but it should be a reasonable amount of time, and the same amount of time must be provided to each presidential candidate simultaneously.

❑ ARE BRANCHES AUTHORIZED TO GIVE OUT MAILING LABELS TO CANDIDATES FOR THE OFFICE OF PRESIDENT IF THEY DESIRE?

Branches may provide mailing lists to candidates if they desire, however, it is not recommended. However, mailing lists must be provided equally to all candidates.

❑ CAN YOU RAISE FUNDS FOR YOUR CAMPAIGN?

No. It is not in the best interest of the Association to have candidates for branch office solicit funds to support their campaign initiatives. The risk of exposing the public to confusion regarding the solicitation of individual contributions and contributions to support the branch is too great.

(Decision rendered by President and CEO, August, 1998)

❑ CAN ABSENTEE BALLOTS BE CAST?

No, the right to vote is personal and shall not be exercised by proxy nor by absentee ballots.

❑ WHEN MUST ELECTION COMPLAINTS BE FILED AND TO WHOM?

All election controversies must be submitted to the National Office; Attn. President & CEO; 4805 Mt. Hope Drive; Baltimore, MD 21215, postmarked no later than five days following the date of the election in question. For branches with up to 1,000 members, complaints must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) members in good standing. For branches with more than 1,000 members, complaints must be signed by at least fifty (50) members in good standing.

❑ WHEN DOES THE TERM OF OFFICE BEGIN FOR ELECTED OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS?

The term of each newly elected officer begins on January 1, of each odd numbered year.

❑ MEMBERSHIP

The effective date of membership in the Branch is the date the Branch, either at a meeting of the General Membership or of the Executive Committee of the Branch, the Branch Secretary or the Branch office, receives payment. If someone has sent their membership to the National Office it is the date the Branch receives notice from the National Office, including its portion of the membership. (Article IV, Section 2(a) of the Bylaws for Units)