



CAMPAIGNING POLICY

Introduction

Zonta needs the most qualified leaders for office. Candidates for Zonta office need to demonstrate high ethical standards. Zonta wishes to ensure the most qualified candidate is elected and will ensure all candidates have the opportunity to inform the membership in a fair, equitable and appropriate way. The following campaigning policy outlines the behaviors expected.

Campaigning is defined as encouraging voters to vote for or discouraging voters from voting for a specific candidate. A candidate is an individual who intends to run for club, district or international office.

This campaigning policy applies both to candidates on the slate and candidates who are nominated from the floor, and applies from the date of the deadline for submission of the nomination form.

Rules of Procedure of Zonta International, 6, Circularization (2)

Zontians will not use membership lists or act in any other way to contact other Zontians for the purposes of lobbying for or against proposals that will be voted on, or for or against nominations for office or candidates who are running for office, at international conventions, district conferences or other Zonta meetings.

Fundamentals

- Prior to the official slate being issued, there shall be no introduction of a presumptive candidate at any function as seeking nomination for office.
- After the slate has been issued, a candidate on the slate may be introduced at functions as a candidate for the office for which she or he is nominated.
- Candidates running for international or district office may give a presentation promoting their candidacy only at the meeting in which voting for the office takes place, e.g. international conventions, district conferences or area meetings, and at the time allocated in the program.
- The nominating committee may distribute materials prepared by the candidates about their background, qualifications and goals.
- At international conventions or district conferences, candidates on the slate may wear official identification indicating that they are candidates. After being nominated,

candidates from the floor are also entitled to wear such identification. The identification must be removed prior to entering the voting area while elections are taking place.

- Zontians who are attending a district conference or area meeting at which elections are held may confer with other members to discuss the candidates, but they may not instruct delegates how to vote.
- Zontians who are attending an international convention may confer with other members to discuss the candidates, but they may not instruct delegates how to vote.
- If asked, Zontians may orally provide factual information to other Zontians about candidates, but may not, by any means, solicit votes for any candidate.

Examples of Activities that are not Permissible

- Visit, by a candidate to club meetings, area meetings or district conferences with no purpose other than to promote her own or another person's candidacy.
- Using culture, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation or geography to influence votes.
- Distributing at any time any gift, trinket, button, or other promotional material by or on behalf of a candidate.
- Advocating or discouraging the election of a candidate in club, area or district communications, irrespective if this communication is oral, written or through any social media.
- Zonta leader, club or an individual Zontian instructing a voting member/s how to vote. This includes so called block voting or directions to vote for a particular candidate/s.
- The use of social media to promote or discourage support for a candidate.

Enforcement of the Policy

Alleged violations of this policy are to be reported in writing to a member of the board at the level of the office the candidate is seeking, e.g. club board for candidates for club office, district board for candidates for district office, International Board for candidates for international office.

The board may consider alleged violations for examination at a regular or special meeting or, if necessary, by email. The candidate will be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. If the candidate is a member of the board, such person may be present at the consideration of the alleged violations if they are considered at a regular or special meeting,

but may not participate in the deliberations or vote. If the board considers the alleged violations at a regular or special meeting it may, by a two-thirds vote of the entire board:

- Reprimand the candidate privately; or
- Remove the candidate from the slate.

If the international board considers the alleged violations by mail ballot, the vote to impose discipline must be unanimous by the entire board, except that if the candidate who is alleged to have engaged in misconduct is a member of the board, the candidate will not be entitled to vote on this matter.

If the alleged violation comes to the board's attention within three (3) months of the candidate being elected, the board shall follow the disciplinary procedures with respect to removal from office as set forth in the Bylaws of Zonta International.

► Bylaws of Zonta International, Article VII, International Board, Section 11, Article XI International Nominating Committee, Section 6 Article XIII Districts, Section 10(e) and Article XIV Clubs, Section 12(b)

Reference: Amended policy adopted by the ZI Board and posted on website, February, 2018.