

2024–25 PTA Leader



Section 8: Elections & Nominating Committee

LouisianaPTA.org/elections



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Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee is a Special Committee that is responsible for presenting the best qualified nominees for office. A successful election leads to a smooth transition from year to year. All members are invited and encouraged to get involved in this process and not just those on the current Board of Directors. Any member who has paid the current year's dues is eligible to be on the Nominating Committee. All members should have an opportunity to nominate or be nominated for the committee. If not elected to the committee, others may serve in an advisory capacity. Committee members should be fair, ethical, impartial, tactful, discrete, and must keep all deliberations confidential even after elections are held. The current President and the principal **may not** serve on the committee.

The committee is elected by the General Membership, as described in Article IX, Section 3 of the LAPTA Local Unit Bylaws Template, May 2024 revision, which states:

The Nominating Committee of three or five members shall be appointed by a majority vote at a General Membership Meeting with 20 days' notice and at least one month before elections. The committee or the President shall appoint its chair. The committee nominates eligible individuals to serve for each available office and completes the Nominating Committee Report. Further nominations may be made "from the floor." Such nominees must submit written notice of their intent to run to the President and Secretary at least 15 days before elections and have their qualifications vetted. The final and complete list of nominees is published four days before elections. The committee presents its slate of nominees at a General Membership Meeting scheduled in the month(s) designated in Article VI, Section 2.

The Secretary reads those portions of the Bylaws pertaining to the nomination and election of officers to the membership before the election of the committee. Plan to form the committee at a General Membership Meeting before the meeting that will have elections. This would probably be the first or second General Membership Meeting of the year.

The Nominating Committee or President selects the Committee Chair. Schedule the date, time, and location for meetings. The committee should have the Bylaws, Standing Rules, Board and membership rosters, and job descriptions. Committee meetings are open to committee members only. If a member of the committee is running for an office, they may not be a part of the discussion of the office for which they are running. The committee shall review all sections of the Bylaws relating to the duties of the Nominating Committee including the month of the election meeting. This is done at least 30 days before elections. They solicit suggestions for nominees from the membership, current Board Members, and staff. Consider the candidate's qualifications and choose the best person for each position. Individuals currently serving in a position are not automatically allowed to keep that position.

The committee may contact prospective candidates during the committee meeting to explain the duties. Prospective candidates for officer positions should be somewhat knowledgeable about PTA, willing to attend training, enthusiastic for the PTA vision, mission, and purposes, and willing to commit the time necessary for the position. Treat all candidates in a fair and consistent manner. If the committee cannot secure a nominee for a position, it remains open and the President calls for nominations for that position at the election meeting. **This is an update by LAPTA: candidates do not have to be a current member of the PTA when they are nominated but are still required to be a paid member of the PTA during their term in office.**

Select one nominee for each officer position and be prepared to state qualifications of nominees. Make committee decisions by ballot with a majority vote. Prepare a written report signed by all committee members who agree with the report. A sample report is at the end of this section. Reconvene the committee if a slated candidate withdraws.

The committee shall present the report to the Board of Directors for information only. The Committee Chair may present the report to the current PTA President as a courtesy, prior to presentation to the Board. The Bylaws contain complete details for the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee Report is usually read by the Committee Chair before elections occur and it dissolves once the report is read. The report is passed to the President, who conducts the elections.

Elections

Before the election's General Membership Meeting, review Article VI and Article IX of the Bylaws which describe when and how the PTA elects. Publicize the slate of officers at least 20 days before the election meeting. Always have the current membership roster on hand because only current members may vote. After the Nominating Committee presents its report to the General Membership, the presiding officer conducts the election even if they are a nominee. The presiding officer presents each nominee individually and includes further nominations from the floor. Nominations from the floor need to be received in writing 15 days before the election. If a position remains open without a recommendation from the Nominating Committee, then nominations can be received on the spot without the 15-day notice requirement.

Nominations from the Floor: Any self-nominating person not included on the Nominating Committee's slate must notify the President and Secretary in writing about their intent to run and for which position. This must be received at least 15 days before elections. The final slate of officers with any additional self-nominations (nominations from the floor) is published four days before elections. **New nominations from the floor are not accepted during the elections' meeting unless the Nominating Committee did not have a recommendation for that position.**

Non-Contested Election: If there is only one nominee for a position, it is a non-contested election, and the vote may be by voice. However, if a member requests a vote by ballot for any office, the request must be recognized and voted upon by the membership without debate.

Contested Elections: If there is more than one nominee for a position, it is a contested election. Each person is introduced and given two minutes to speak. The vote must be by ballot with only current members voting. Have paper on hand to distribute. It is permissible to use both voice and ballot voting for one election where offices with only one candidate use a voice vote and offices with more than one candidate use ballot vote.

Voters and Ballots: Verify PTA members prior to conducting a contested election by using the membership roster. The presiding officer appoints a Teller Committee. No nominee may serve as a Teller. The presiding officer counts the members eligible to vote in the election. The tellers distribute, collect, and count ballots and provide a signed report to the presiding officer. A nominee may designate a person to observe the ballot count. For each contested office, the Teller Committee Report should include the number of members eligible to vote, the number of votes cast, number of illegal ballots, number needed to elect, list of candidates, and number of votes each candidate received. See the Teller Report Form at the end of this section.

Illegal ballots include two ballots folded together, a ballot including the names of too many candidates, or an unintelligible ballot. If the meaning of an unintelligible ballot is doubtful but the ballot would not affect the results of the election, the ballot may be ignored. Ballots that affect the outcome are shown to the chair who asks the membership for a ruling. The chair of the Teller Committee reads the report for each contested office and gives the report to the presiding officer. The presiding officer rereads the report and announces the results for each office. The secretary enters the Teller Committee Report including counts and totals in the minutes.

An affirmative majority constitutes an election. Re-ballot If no candidate receives a majority of the votes. The voting members must first be recounted. If a member eligible to vote was not present when the original ballot was

cast but arrives in time for another vote, the member is entitled to vote. Following the announcement of the vote, the chair of the tellers moves that the ballots be destroyed. Those elected assume office as specified in the Bylaws. An officer serves until a successor is elected. If a vacancy occurs after the election, the vacancy is filled as prescribed in the Bylaws under Article VI.

Elections Timeline Summary

The following outlines the steps for a proper election based on standard parliamentary procedure. Refer to the Bylaws for further guidance in Article VI: Officers and Their Election.

1. Pick the election date at a General Membership Meeting during the month specified in the Bylaws.
2. **At least 30 days before elections**, at a General Membership Meeting, form the Nominating Committee. Make a public call for candidates and any self-nominating people (nominations from the floor). The Nominating Committee interviews all candidates.
3. **At least 20 days before elections:**
 - a) Publicize the General Membership Meeting and election date.
 - b) Publish the slate of officers chosen by the Nominating Committee.
 - c) Publicly solicit any other self-nominations or nominations from the floor which must be received no later than 15 days before elections.
4. **Four days before elections**, publish the final slate of officers with any additional nominations from the floor. Publish a reminder for when elections will be held.
5. **Election Day:** Hold elections.
6. **Within 5 days after elections:**
 - a) Publish the results.
 - b) Email the results with names and contact information to LAPTA at office@LouisianaPTA.org.

Enter your dates here:

- 1) _____ Date at least 30 days before elections, hold General Membership Meeting to create Nominating Committee. Interviews begin.
- 2) _____ Date 20 days before elections to publicize meeting, election, slate of officers, & solicit nominations from the floor.
- 3) _____ Date 15 days before elections when nominations from the floor closes.
- 4) _____ Date 4 days before elections to publish final slate of all nominees and meeting reminder.
- 5) _____ Date of elections.
- 6) _____ Date within 5 days after elections to publish results. Email results and contact info to LAPTA.

See LouisianaPTA.org/elections for further information.

Script for Non-Contested Election

President: “The next order of business is the election of officers. The Secretary will read Article VI: Section 5 of the Bylaws pertaining to elections.”

Secretary: Stands and reads the Bylaws section, which says, “**Section 5. Uncontested and Contested Election.** For an uncontested election where there is only a single nominee for an elected position, a verbal vote is acceptable. For a contested election where nominees are proposed both from the floor and from the slate presented by the Nominating Committee, a ballot vote must be used. Proof of membership is required for participation in either election. A majority vote constitutes an election.”

President: “The Nominating Committee Chair will read the report of the Nominating Committee.”

Nominating Committee Chair: “Mr./Madam President, the Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers: for President, [name]; for Vice-President(s), [name(s)]; for Treasurer, [name]; and for Secretary, [name].” (*The chair hands the written report to the President which is at the end of this section.*)

President:

“For President, [name] has been nominated by the Nominating Committee. There were no further nominations for President from the floor. Nominations are closed.”

For Vice-President, [name] has been nominated by the Nominating Committee. There were no further nominations for Vice-President from the floor. Nominations are closed.”

For Treasurer, [name] has been nominated by the Nominating Committee. There were no further nominations for Treasurer from the floor. Nominations are closed.”

For Secretary, [name] has been nominated by the Nominating Committee. There were no further nominations for Secretary from the floor. Nominations are closed.”

“The Bylaws state a voice vote is acceptable when there is but one nominee for an office. All those in favor of the slate of officers as presented, say aye. (*pause*) All those opposed, say nay. (*pause*) The ayes have it and the slate as presented is elected. Congratulations.”



Script for Contested Election

President: “The next order of business is the election of officers. The Secretary will read Sections 5 of Article VI of the Bylaws pertaining to elections.”

Secretary: Stands and reads the Bylaws section which says, “**Section 5. Uncontested and Contested Election.** For an uncontested election where there is only a single nominee for an elected position, a verbal vote is acceptable. For a contested election where nominees are proposed both from the floor and from the slate presented by the Nominating Committee, a ballot vote must be used. Proof of membership is required for participation in either election. A majority vote constitutes an election.”

President: “The Nominating Committee Chair will read the report of the Nominating Committee.”

Nominating Committee Chair: “Mr./Madam President, the Nominating Committee recommends the following slate of officers: for President, [name]; for Vice-President(s), [name(s)]; for Treasurer, [name]; and for Secretary, [name].” (*The chair hands the written report to the President.*)

President: “For President, [name] has been nominated by the Nominating Committee and [name] was nominated from the floor. Nominations are closed.

The president continues this procedure for each office. If a position is uncontested, you can make a motion to accept those positions before moving forward with a vote on the contested positions.

Allow a few minutes for each nominee to speak for themselves.

President: “As President, I appoint [four people] as tellers for the Teller Committee. Will [specific Teller’s name] serve as chair?” (*pause*) *Teller Committee Report Form is at the end of this section.*

“Current members in good standing are allowed to vote. We have the membership roster here to confirm who is a member. The voting members will rise and count off. A teller will hand you a ballot as you count off. Please take your seat immediately after saying your number and receiving your ballot. Beginning with the member in the front row to my far left, please say ‘one’ and then be seated.”

“There are [number] voting members present. The candidates for President are [name 1] and [name 2]. Using the ballot provided, write your choice for election, and then individually fold your ballot once. Do not combine or fold any votes together.” (*Allow two or three minutes for voting.*)

President: “Have all voted who wish to vote? Will the tellers please collect the ballots?”

Tellers leave to count ballots. The President proceeds with other business until the tellers are ready to report.

President: “The tellers are ready to report.”

Teller Committee Chair: “The Teller Committee reports that the number of members eligible to vote is _____. The number of votes cast is _____. The number of illegal votes cast is _____. The number of votes needed for election is _____. (Candidate Name 1) received (#)_____ votes. (Candidate Name 2) received (#)_____ votes.

President: “[Name], having received a majority of the votes cast, is elected President. Congratulations.”
Continue to the next officer position.

Nominating Committee Report

The Nominating Committee of the _____ PTA/PTSA submits the following slate of officers for the year _____:

For President: _____

For Co-President: _____

For Vice-President: _____

For Second Vice-President: _____

For Treasurer: _____

For Secretary: _____

For [Other]: _____

For [Other]: _____

In the event the committee cannot secure a nominee for a position, it remains "open."

Members of the Nominating Committee:

_____ Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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_____ Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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_____ Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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_____ Name	_____ Signature	_____ Date
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*Nominating Committee members sign the report if they **agree** with the nominations. Members not in agreement with the recommended slate of officers do not sign the report and are eligible to make nominations from the floor.*

Retain this official report as part of the Secretary's minutes.

Teller Committee Report

Name of PTA/PTSA: _____

For the Office of _____

_____ Number of present members eligible to vote

_____ Number of votes cast

_____ Number of illegal votes cast

_____ Minimum number of votes needed for election (majority of the number eligible to vote)

Candidate Name: _____ received _____ votes.

Candidate Name: _____ received _____ votes.

Candidate Name: _____ received _____ votes.

Candidate Name: _____ received _____ votes.

Teller Chair makes a motion to destroy all ballots after reading the Teller Committee Report.

Members of the Teller Committee:

_____	_____	_____
Name	Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Name	Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Name	Signature	Date

_____	_____	_____
Name	Signature	Date

Retain this official report as part of the Secretary's minutes.

OPERATING GUIDANCE

Support for Local PTA Units by LAPTA



PTA Members as Candidates for Public Office

The Louisiana Parent Teacher Association recognizes the fact that the experiences and interest gained by its members through participation in PTA activities make them particularly qualified to serve the community as elected officials such as members of the local school boards of education.

PTAs are 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and must remain neutral and nonpartisan during elections. PTA members running for office may not seek PTA endorsement to support their election. If a PTA member runs for an elected office, no endorsement by the PTA should be given or implied. The inclusion of a reference to PTA service or honors on a list of the candidate's qualifications for office is permitted.

PTA members who are likely to be recognized locally as being active PTA spokesmen or leaders, and who choose to enter the political or legislative arenas in their private, non-PTA capacities are strongly urged to avoid even the appearance that their private activities have, in any way, the endorsement, approval, or support of the PTA.

PTA members who consider public office while they serve as PTA spokesmen are urged to weigh the impact their candidacy, appointment, or election could have on PTA's tax-exempt status.

Neither government regulations nor PTA policy prohibit local or state PTA officers and other leaders from serving on commissions or other boards active in areas of concern to the PTA, provided that such membership is not designed to support partisan interests such as those of any political party or candidate.

During a campaign, candidates for public office do not discuss political or legislative matters at PTA meetings unless appearing at a candidates' forum where all candidates for designated offices have been invited to speak.

Individual candidates cannot be invited to address PTA meetings, even if they are PTA members, unless all other candidates are invited. This avoids the reality or appearance of bias or support of an individual candidate.

There is no restriction on a member who is running for office from performing his or her regular PTA duties. In addition, there are general basic responsibilities of nonprofit boards that should be strongly considered by members seeking office:

1. Avoid even the appearance of a partisan political activity that might embarrass the Board or the association and disclose any possible conflicts to the Board in a timely fashion.
2. Maintain independence and objectivity and do what a sense of fairness, ethics, and personal integrity dictate, even though not necessarily obliged to do so by law, regulation, or custom.
3. Be mindful to keep PTA and campaign activities separate.
4. Do not ever use any PTA email lists or contacts to promote a political candidate.