

Policy No: E-3

Subject: Campaigning for Elected Office

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Effective Date: 1/9/16

Revision Date(s):

Review Date(s):

Review Responsibility: Leadership Development Committee

Policy Statement:

The AASL will promote impartial and unbiased elections for leadership positions and will enforce ALA's Guidelines for Participation in Elections.

Focus:

AASL Members

Purpose:

To define a policy on campaigning for AASL elected office.

Procedure:

1. AASL will work with ALA in the submission of candidate statements to be included in the ballot distributed to all ALA members. Statement length to be determined by ALA.
2. AASL will post the AASL slate of candidates on the AASL website
3. AASL Presidential candidates will receive a combined "ad" in *Knowledge Quest* which will include a photo and statement provided by the candidate. No copy editing will be applied to statements and statements will be published as received. Statement length to be determined by the *Knowledge Quest* editor.
4. Other than the support listed in this policy no additional support or funds may be used to support the campaign of any individual candidate for AASL leadership positions. This includes funds for mailings or production of campaign materials as well as staff time to support the candidacy of any individual candidate for AASL office.
5. Campaign contributions by vendors, either in cash or in kind, have the potential of seriously skewing the election process. Candidates should avoid such contributions; vendors should be encouraged to make financial contributions to recognized ALA endowments and special funds previously established to receive these. (Approved by ALA Executive Board 2008, Amended by Executive Board 2009).
6. ALA units may not endorse candidates. However, for information purposes, divisions and round tables may publish lists of all the members of that division or round table who are running for ALA office in their official communication channels.
7. Specific guidelines are outlined in Policy D-4.
8. AASL volunteers may endorse candidates and can use association electronic discussion lists to express their support as long as they do not use their AASL title or create the impression that they are speaking on behalf of a committee or group within the association or speaking for AASL.
9. Until the slate is officially approved by the Board of Directors potential candidates may not indicate they will be running for office or begin campaigning. Pre-emptive campaigning may lead to removal from the approved slate by the Executive Committee.
10. Candidates may list endorsers by name, but not by AASL title, office or position within the association.

11. AASL Leadership Development Committee and Executive Committee members shall not endorse any candidate.
12. The principle stated in the 1992 Council guidelines is to guarantee “equality of opportunity for all members of the American Library Association to seek elected office regardless of their personal financial resources or their access to organizational or other financial support” and to insure that no candidate is given an advantage by receiving a higher level of support from the Association or its units. Promotional materials distributed by candidates must:
 - a. Show name, address and affiliation of the individual, or group, sponsoring the candidate and providing financial underwriting for the production and distribution of material.
 - b. Other than when specifically stated may not be placed in meeting rooms or general traffic areas of AASL events. Any materials placed in undesignated areas will be removed.
 - c. Any candidate may themselves, or have volunteers, manually distribute campaign materials to members at AASL events.
13. AASL candidates, current elected or appointed volunteers, and members may not use AASL speaking engagements to endorse any candidates. This would include introductions as “candidate for” at AASL events. All AASL candidates will be given time during AASL’s Candidates Forum during ALA’s Midwinter Meeting.