

Nominating Committee Guidelines for Selecting Candidates for ALA Council

ALA Bylaws, Article III, section 1 (c) states: [The Nominating] committee shall nominate annually candidates for members-at-large of Council for three-year terms. The number of nominees shall not be fewer than one-and-one-half times the anticipated number of member-at-large vacancies to be filled at the next election.

These guidelines were developed under the direction of the ALA Executive Board, at the request of Nominating Committee chairs, to assist future Nominating Committees in carrying out their responsibilities.

It is recommended that the Nominating Committee contact the leadership of the ALA divisions, roundtables and affiliates to encourage qualified members to put their names forward. This will ensure a diverse pool of individuals from which to choose the final Council slate.

Information about potential candidates will be available to the Nominating Committee in mid-August via the Potential Candidate Biographical Form which will also include the candidate's Statement of Professional Concern.

Guidelines

- Any personal member is available for nomination. Consideration should be given to creating a slate that is diverse in the following areas:
 - Ethnicity (as much as can be determined)
 - Geographic
 - Type of Library (school, academic, etc.)
 - Level of employment (Directors/CEOs, Middle Managers/Deans, Information Specialists, etc.)
 - Time in Library-related Jobs – from LIS students up through early, mid, and late career
- The Nominating committee may select sitting Councilors whose terms will be expiring.
- Individuals who have previously served as Councilors may be selected by the Nominating Committee.
- Individuals who ran unsuccessfully in the previous two elections may be invited to run again.
- All potential candidates are required to fill out a "Candidate Biographical Information Form" which asks them to describe their ALA activities as well as activities in other organizations. They are also required to provide a "Statement of Professional Concern." The information provided on this form will help the Nominating Committee in considering a candidate's overall characteristics/attributes, including, but not limited to:

- Demonstrated understanding of the Association
 - Activity and achievements in local, state, and national library organizations, including ALA and its divisions and roundtables
 - Relevant extra-library experience or knowledge
 - Acknowledged understanding and sincere willingness to work and fully participate in the operation of ALA Council and ALA governance in general.
 - Special talents, knowledge sets, particularly notable accomplishments.
- The Nominating Committee is only obligated to create a slate that is not fewer than one-and-one-half times the anticipated number of member-at-large vacancies to be filled at the next election, as prescribed by ALA Bylaws. The committee may utilize whatever criteria they deem appropriate to create the slate. Any ALA member not slated by the Nominating Committee has the option of running by petition.

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