

Randolph Electric Membership Corporation

Policy No. 433

SUBJECT: Rules and Regulations for Board Campaigns and Elections

I. OBJECTIVE:

To establish reasonable campaign and election guidelines to ensure the integrity of the Cooperative's Board elections, while affirming the authority of the Credentials and Election Committee over election matters.

II. POLICY:

A. Bribery

Members, including candidates for the Board, may not procure, by the payment, delivery, or promise of money or other article of value, another to vote for or against any particular candidate or measure at any election conducted by the Cooperative.

B. Threats

1. Members, including candidates for the Board, may not, by threats or any other form of intimidation, procure, offer, or promise to attempt to procure another to vote for or against any particular candidate or measure in any election conducted by the Cooperative.
2. Members, including candidates for the Board, may not threaten, mistreat, or abuse voters with a view to control or intimidate them in the free exercise of their voting rights.

C. Interference

Members, including candidates for the Board, may not:

1. unduly influence or attempt to unduly influence voters in the preparation of their ballot;
2. endeavor to induce voters to show how they marked their ballot;
3. aid or attempt to aid voters in marking their ballot;
4. use another member's voting credentials or vote or attempt to vote on behalf of another member; or

5. take any action tending to harass or intimidate any voter.

D. Vandalizing or Removing Political Campaign Signs

Members, including candidates for the Board, may not deface, vandalize, tamper with, or remove a lawfully placed political campaign sign prior to the election, without the permission of the candidate. This section does not apply when a political campaign sign is removed because of noncompliance with applicable law or removed by any Cooperative official for violation of any established campaign standard.

E. Campaign Signs on Poles

Members, including candidates for the Board, may not place campaign signs on electric or other utility poles.

F. Access to Cooperative Information

Incumbent and challenger candidates shall have equal opportunities to request and obtain access to Cooperative information, subject to other standard rules and procedures.

G. Distribution of Campaign Literature During In-Person Balloting

1. Board candidates may not distribute any type of campaign literature or place any political posters within two hundred feet of any entrance used by the voters to enter the polling place on a Cooperative election or voting day where in-person voting is scheduled to occur.
2. If the candidate enters the polling place where in-person voting is scheduled to occur, the candidate may not display any campaign materials, including campaign stickers, buttons or other paraphernalia.

H. Election Observers in the Event of In-Person Balloting

1. In the event of in-person voting, each candidate may appoint one Election Observer who should be introduced to the Credentials and Election Committee and Cooperative staff as soon as possible on election day.
2. The Election Observer will be permitted to observe the voting process and the vote counting and report any irregularity or problem.
3. The Election Observer will not be allowed to campaign for any candidate during the voting process.

I. Credentials and Election Rules

It is recognized that the Credentials and Election Committee has discretion to establish and implement such other rules and regulations concerning the conduct of campaigns and elections as it deems just and proper, including but not limited to the delegation of authority over voting procedures to outside election professionals.

J. Violations

As determined by the Credentials and Election Committee, intentional or willful violation of these standards may result in disqualification of the candidate.

V. RESPONSIBILITY:

The Credentials and Election Committee is responsible for the administration of this policy.

EFFECTIVE DATE: April 25, 2024