



Nominations and Elections Questions & Answers

Q. Why do we have elections?

A. Our Catholic Women's League National Policy & Procedures, and Constitution and Bylaws mandates us to hold council elections every two years, in either January or February.

Q. When are elections?

A. Our National Policy and Procedures Manual states that Parish Councils shall hold their elections at their January or February Annual Meeting of Members.

Q. Why are elections held every two years?

A. Elected positions are held for a two-year term therefore, elections must be held every two years to elect a new executive. This provides opportunities to other members and keeps the council vibrant with new ideas and leadership.

Q. Are all positions held for a two-year term?

A. No, the Treasurer and standing committee chair positions may hold office for an additional term through an election, but not more than that.

Q. Why are there term limits?

A. Term limits encourage growth and opportunity within our membership. They also allow for change and fresh ideas, which keeps councils thriving. Additionally, term limits help prevent alliances from forming, which can pose negative issues for councils.

Q. Can anyone run or be nominated for an elected position?

A. All eligible members in good standing (membership fees have been paid), except for the outgoing president and past-president may be nominated or run for election.

Q. How will we know who is eligible to run or be nominated to run?

A. An eligibility list is prepared to cross reference who is eligible. Our National Manual Policy & Procedures mandates that each voting member is to have access to such list.

Q. *What experience do I need to have to run or be nominated for election?*

A. None. You only need to have a willingness to learn and serve.

Q. *Who runs the elections?*

A. The elections are run by a Nominations and Elections Committee, appointed by the current President. The President nor her executive can take part in running the elections.

Q. *Who can be appointed to the Nomination and Elections Committee?*

A. The Chair of the committee should be an experienced member someone who is not eligible to run for office. The two committee members, should also be experienced members and preferably not eligible to run for office.

Q. *Why do we need a Nominations and Elections Committee to run our elections?*

A. The committee's role is to ensure that the elections are confidential, fair, and in compliance with the Catholic Women's League policies and rules. It also ensures that there is integrity in the process.

Q. *Who oversees the Nomination and Elections Committee?*

A. A Committee Chair is appointed by the current President. The current Past President is generally appointed as Chair of this committee. If the Past President is unable to fulfil this responsibility, the President may appoint another past president to this role.

Q. *What happens to the current President after the election?*

A. She will automatically move to the position of Past President.

Q. *What happens to the Past-President and other members on the executive who have served their term limit?*

A. They will step down from the executive and return as general members of the council. If they are eligible, nominated and elected to another position, they could return to the executive in a different role.

Q. *What positions are open for nomination?*

A. Enclosed, you will find a list of positions open for nomination.

Q. *What happens if I nominate a member or a member nominates me?*

A. The Nomination and Elections Committee must confirm with every member nominated if they will agree to let their name stand for election before their name is listed on the ballot.

Q. Do I have to run in the election if I received a nomination to run?

A. No, you must consent after the nomination is made. You will be contacted by a member of the nominations and elections committee to seek your approval and acceptance to run.

Q. Can a member nominate themselves?

A. Yes, just as long as they are on the eligibility list and are eligible to run for that particular position.

Q. When are nominations due by and who do they go to?

A. Nominations must be received by the Nominations and Election Chair by the due date listed on the Nomination Form. Late nominations will not be accepted. All Nomination Forms MUST be signed and sealed in an envelope.

Q. Will anybody be able to see who I nominate?

A. No. All information gathered by the Nomination and Elections Committee must be held in the strictest of confidence. The Committee Chair is the ONLY person who sees the signatures on the Nomination Forms. Her Committee Members are not privy to that information.

Q. Is every member allowed to vote on election night?

A. All members can vote if they are present, and if the meeting has quorum, which is 10% of the membership.

Q. How will my vote remain confidential on election night?

A. Voting will take place by ballots. On the night of the election, the confidential process will be explained to the members. Members will receive one ballot for each position elected. These ballots will be handed and collected by the Nominations and Elections Committee. The elections are run by a Nominations and Elections Committee in a confidential manner. Members are not allowed to talk or share who they voted for during this process.

Q. Who counts the ballots and announces the elected executive officers?

A. Ballots are counted by the Nominations and Elections Committee, along with the Spiritual Advisor. The elected officers are announced by the outgoing President.

Q. What happens with the nomination forms and ballots after the elections?

A. Every nomination form and election ballot is destroyed by the committee immediately following the elections.