

Frequently Asked Questions ACS Campaigning and Communication

1. When does campaigning begin for candidates for President-Elect and the ACS Board of Directors?

- Candidates for President-Elect and ACS Board of Directors, including certified petition candidates, may begin campaigning no earlier than one week after the ACS Spring National Meeting. Petition candidates certified after this date may begin campaigning once their petition has been certified by the ACS Executive Director.

2. What is the difference between a Nominee and a Candidate?

- A nominee is a member whose name appears on an earlier ballot from which Councilors select candidates. A candidate is a member whose name appears on the final ballot that elects a person to office.

3. Can nominees campaign?

- Nominees are expected to refrain from active campaigning. “Active campaigning” is not defined, but can be interpreted to include any campaign communications initiated by the nominee.

4. Are ACS candidates for national office permitted to receive financial support from the Society?

- No Society funds, including local sections or division, or in-kind contributions (office space, supplies, etc.) can be used to support or oppose the election of a candidate except to cover the routine travel expenses required for the fulfillment of their governance responsibilities at ACS national meetings if applicable.
- All expenses incurred in the creation, production and distribution of a website and materials or literature to be used for promotion by the candidate are borne by the candidate. Solicitation of campaign funds by a candidate or his/her supporters is strongly discouraged. (And the candidate’s own expenditures should be prudently limited.)

5. Are candidates permitted to use the ACS logo?

- The ACS logo may not be used on any materials used for campaign purposes, including the candidate’s website.

6. Are candidates permitted to make campaign statements at ACS venues (regional meetings, Councilor Caucus, division or local section meetings)?

- Candidates may not make campaign statements at any ACS Regional Meeting, Councilor Caucus, division business meeting, local section meeting, or related meetings, without the other candidates for that office being invited to be present and accorded equal time to speak.

7. How is a request to run information on a candidate in a local section or division publication handled?

- Equivalent consideration in Society publications shall be given to all candidates. Local Sections and Divisions requesting candidate Position Statements shall make such requests to the Secretary of the Society at ACS Headquarters to ensure that all candidates are concurrently informed of the request.

8. Is there a charge for mailing lists for campaign purposes?

- Membership lists for a select group of ACS members are available for a fee from the Executive Director of the Society. Candidates must abide by the ACS usage restrictions associated with the release of membership lists.

9. Are there are restrictions regarding the use of email for campaigning?

- The mailing of campaign materials other than those sent by the Society, including mass e-mails, is considered supplementary, but can be used judiciously, as many members consider this type of activity intrusive or bothersome.

10. What are the rules for campaigning by incumbents?

- N&E has determined that it is permissible for a candidate who holds ACS office to engage in campaigning as follows, if:
 - the activity directly relates to the customary official duties of that particular incumbent and their involvement in it is an appropriate exercise of those duties;
 - their involvement in the activity is not discretionary, i.e., a substitute could not effectively take their place in the activity;
 - their involvement in the function is timely and could not reasonably be scheduled before or after the campaign period;
 - they will neither make nor exhibit any reference to their candidacy or campaign views during the activity.

11. Can a candidate present an award at the ACS Awards banquet?

- Candidates should not present awards at the ACS Awards banquet; a substitute should be identified.

12. Can a candidate teach a leadership course or present an invited talk at a regional meeting?

- Situations of this nature are reviewed by N&E and the opposing candidate's input is often sought as to whether there are any concerns. Once N&E has collected the information, a decision is communicated to the candidate.

13. Is an incumbent permitted to write an article to be published in C&EN, or a local section or division newsletter during the campaign period?

- Requests to publish newsletter articles and C&EN comments are reviewed by N&E. The committee will determine if the request requires an exception from the general prohibition against such articles and comments by any single candidate. Prior to submitting the request, the incumbent should attempt to identify a substitute to write the article, as such an action will minimize an unfair advantage to the other candidate. However, if a substitute cannot be identified and N&E believes an exception is warranted, the committee will contact the opposing candidate for their input. If the opposing candidate is amenable to the article being published, then N&E will weigh the request and communicate a decision.

14. What are the guidelines in regards to communications?

- The Society will communicate the candidates' position statements and biographical information to the membership by including those materials on the ACS website, in *Chemical & Engineering News* and in the ballot materials sent to members. Candidates are urged to focus on their qualifications and/or address past or future ACS Position Statements, policies, or actions in their own statements to the ACS membership. Candidates and their supporters are strongly discouraged from engaging in any activities that could be interpreted as negative campaign tactics.

15. Can candidates use the ACS Network for posting campaign materials and for discussion?

- Candidates may use the ACS Network for campaigning, as long as the ACS campaign guidelines are observed.

16. Can a candidate serve as an ACS Tour Speaker?

- It is permissible for a candidate to serve as ACS Tour Speaker if he/she was on the schedule prior to becoming a nominee or candidate. However, the candidate is expected to refrain from campaign while participating on the tour. (Nominees are never allowed to campaign.)

17. Can a candidate serve as an ACS Career Consultant during the campaign?

- It is permissible for a candidate to serve as an ACS Career Consultant during the campaign. However, it is expected that a candidate should avoid active campaigning while serving as a career consultant.

18. Can a table or booth be provided to candidates at regional meetings for campaigning?

- If a candidate would like an exhibit booth at a Regional meeting, he/she must present the request and pay for it through the Regional meeting organizers. For a table to be used at the hotel outside of a meeting, the candidate must discuss this with the hotel.

19. Can members of the Board of Directors endorse candidates?

- Members of the Board of Directors, the ACS Executive Director, Secretary, Treasurer, Elected Officers of the Society, Members of the Committee on Nominations and Elections and all others having a similar status in the Society shall not endorse, support or oppose candidates, nor campaign on behalf of candidates for President-Elect, Director-at-Large or District Director.

20. When the campaign guidelines are violated what is the recourse?

- Any violation(s) can be reported to the ACS Committee on Nominations and Elections for review and discussion, and significant infractions that are verified by N&E will be reported to the ACS electorate and/or submitted to the Council Policy Committee for investigation.

For additional information, refer to the ACS Constitution and Bylaws (Article X and Bylaw V “Manner of Election”) and the ACS Guidelines on Campaigning and Communication).