

## **RULES GOVERNING THE 2021 ELECTION OF OFFICERS OF AFT-MARYLAND**

### **1. THE ELECTIONS COMMITTEE**

- a. The Elections Committee is combined with the Credentials Committee whose members are appointed pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the AFT-Maryland Bylaws.
- b. The chair of the Credentials Committee also serves as the chair of the Elections Committee.
- c. The Elections Committee shall have plenary powers to run the election in conjunction with the third-party company that has been retained to conduct the balloting by mail.  
The committee is authorized to resolve any disputes that may arise, during or out of the election, subject only to the provisions of Article I, Section 8 of the AFT-Maryland Bylaws as modified by the AFT-Maryland executive board for purposes of conducting a virtual convention, which specify the procedures for nomination and election. Questions or concerns regarding the conduct of the election should be directed to the chair of the Elections Committee.
- d. The Elections Committee shall receive the names of the nominees for office no later than 5pm on May 20, 2021. An electronic nomination form provided by AFT-Maryland, will be used for the submission of nominees to the Elections Committee chair at [elections2021@aftmd.org](mailto:elections2021@aftmd.org). Nominations and nominating forms will be accepted beginning on May 10, 2021. A nominee can decline their nomination by emailing [elections2021@aftmd.org](mailto:elections2021@aftmd.org) any time prior to the printing of ballots.

### **2. OBSERVERS**

- a. Each candidate or slate may appoint their own observer who shall be provided by the third-party company retained to conduct the election, BallotPoint Election Services, with access to view online the counting of the ballots.
- b. There may be one observer per independent candidate or two per slate.
- c. Observers may take notes and ask appropriate questions to the extent provided by the online video technology supplied by BallotPoint.
- d. The candidate or slate shall notify the chair of the Elections Committee of the names of the observers by the close of the convention. The chair of the Elections Committee will communicate with the observers the procedures for observing the counting of the ballots.
- e. An observer must be a member of the AFT-Maryland.

### **3. SLATES**

- a. Two or more candidates for office may organize themselves into a slate for election.
- b. Candidates for office may organize themselves into a slate, and they shall designate the name of their slate. No slate can use the name of any other slate that has historically used a certain name. Otherwise, the slate shall determine its own name.
- c. Delegates have a choice of voting for a slate or voting for individuals. Upon casting a vote for a slate, any vote for an individual will not be tallied.

- d. Every candidate and every slate shall contact the chair of the Elections Committee at [elections2021@aftmd.org](mailto:elections2021@aftmd.org) so that proper information can be provided for the printing of ballots no later than 5pm on May 20, 2021. A draft copy of the ballot will be presented to every candidate running individually and every slate for review.
- e. Requests for access to the convention delegates by caucuses, slates and independent candidates to speak shall be made to the chair of the Elections Committee by 5pm May 20, 2021. That session will be held following the conclusion of Convention Session III of the second day (May 22, 2021).
- f. Candidates and slates shall have the option of submitting digital copies of campaign literature, which shall be emailed to the chair of the Elections Committee at [elections2021@aftmd.org](mailto:elections2021@aftmd.org) by close of business (4pm) of the second convention day (May 22, 2021). All materials submitted must be camera-ready and formatted for posting. Each candidate and slate will be allowed up to three pieces of literature that may contain still pictures. The literature will be sent by email to all delegate email addresses provided at registration. In addition, each candidate and slate may conduct further campaigning on their own outside of this process.

#### **4. VOTING PROCEDURE**

- a. A ballot will be sent to each registered delegate, who has checked in to the convention, via first-class U.S. mail by BallotPoint Election Services as soon as practicable following the close of business of the convention. The mailing package will state clearly on the outside that it contains a ballot to vote. The package will contain a postage-prepaid mailing envelope to return the ballot. Under the direction of the chair of the Elections Committee, BallotPoint Election Services shall establish and make known to the delegates the procedure for requesting a duplicate ballot in the event a delegate does not receive his/her ballot. The last day on which requests for duplicate ballots will be processed will be seven days before the count.
- b. Under the direction of the chair of the Elections Committee, BallotPoint Election Services shall regularly check incoming mail for undeliverable ballots and upon receipt of such ballots, work with the chairman or his designee to seek better addresses for the delegates to send them their ballots.
- c. Every ballot shall be signed by the delegate voting that ballot. No ballot shall be counted that is not signed.
- d. The ballot instructions will explain the voting procedure. When a delegate wishes to vote for a slate, that delegate shall mark or fill in the box identifying the slate. Delegates must choose between voting by slate or individually. When the vote is by slate, the delegate is limited to voting for that slate only and may not combine slate voting with individual candidate voting. When a delegate wishes to vote for an individual candidate, that delegate shall not mark the box identifying any slate, but shall mark the box by the candidate's name. The delegate who votes individually may vote for some or all of the vacant positions.
- e. Return ballots must be received at the post office box secured by BallotPoint Election Services no later than 10:30am Pacific Standard Time on June 30, 2021.
- f. Upon receipt of the ballots from the post office box by BallotPoint Election Services, ballots will be transported to its premises to start the process for tabulation. The Elections Committee will be provided with electronic access to each ballot where there are issues regarding the intent of the

voter or compliance with the voting procedures. The designated observers may ask to observe ballots and will be provided online access to view these ballots.

- g. The tabulation of votes will begin at a time to be determined on Wednesday, June 30, 2021, at the offices of BallotPoint Election Services.
- h. The value of each vote is determined by computer by dividing the local's votes to four decimal places and assigning this number to each delegate as required by Article II, Section 3 of the Bylaws.
- i. The convention will be extended until July 1, 2021, when the results of the election will be announced. The Convention will be adjourned following the announcement of the results.

## **5. CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS**

No candidate or supporter may solicit or accept financial support, or any other direct or indirect support of any kind from any non-member of AFT-Maryland.