

## **Guidelines for Appropriate Legislation**

### **Candidate Rules (Excepting Candidates for President)**

- I. Any person seeking state or federal elected office must comply with the following:
  - A. Apply for candidacy with full personal history disclosure and a written statement "Reasons why I seek this office" (limited to 1,000 words)
  - B. Participate in a peer interview process
    1. The Office for Voter Information District Boards (District Boards) [set out below] shall limit the number of prospective candidates interviewed to the 10 most-qualified, based on review of their applications. Each District Board within each state shall appoint one member to concurrently serve on a State Review Panel to review and limit applicants seeking statewide elected seats to 10 of the most qualified for subsequent participation in the group interview process.
    2. Peer groups of three citizens (interviewers) shall interview each prospective candidate. Each interviewer shall participate in 20 interviews. Each interview shall be of 30 minutes' duration. The number of interviews shall be proportional to the size of the electorate for the office sought:
      - i. 200 for US Senate and Governor
      - ii. 100 for US House of Representatives, state constitutional elected offices and District Board (see Office for Voter Information below)
      - iii. 75 for State Upper House
      - iv. 50 for State Lower House (may be altered by District Board(s) if a state is unicameral.
    3. Each interviewer shall rate each prospective candidate at the conclusion of each interview, on a scale of 1 to 10, by secret ballot.
    4. The four candidates receiving the highest ratings shall participate in a primary election. An incumbent seeking re-election does not participate in the primary election.
- II. The Election Forum (set out below) shall be the exclusive venue for public communication regarding the election
- III. Candidates shall maintain pertinent information on the Election Forum web-site. Candidates participation in Election Forum events shall be mandatory. Events shall include debates, press conferences, public meetings and speeches.
- IV. If an incumbent seeks re-election, the candidate receiving the most votes in the primary, and the incumbent shall be placed on the ballot in the general election. If the incumbent does not seek re-election, the two candidates receiving the most votes in the primary shall be placed on the ballot for the general election.

- V. Incumbents seeking re-election must officially announce their intention before the candidate selection process begins. Mandatory participation in Election Forum events for incumbents commences after the primary and continues until the general election.

#### Presidential Candidate Rules

- I. Each state shall select a candidate who shall also be a delegate to the National Presidential Candidate Selection Convention [National Convention] by state wide election.
  - A. Prospective candidates shall
    - I. Make an application to the District Office with a full personal history disclosure and 1000-word written statement "Reasons I seek this office"
    - II. Successfully complete 250 group peer interviews in the state where the candidate resides
  - B. The four highest-rated candidates shall participate in a state-wide election. The candidate receiving the most votes shall represent her or his state as the candidate/delegate at the National Convention
- II. The fifty candidate/delegates shall attend the National Convention to select the four candidates for the primary election.
  - A. Each candidate/delegate shall make a 15-minute presentation to the convention, followed by a 45-minute open discussion. Additional one-hour discussions shall be organized in groups of five such that each candidate/delegate shall meet every other candidate/delegate. At the end of the discussions, each candidate/delegate will cast a private ballot, ranking the three top candidates, each rated on a scale of 1 to 10 (other than herself or himself).
  - B. The four candidates receiving the highest rating of the convention shall proceed to the primary election and be granted all Election Forum privileges and shall adhere to Forum requirements, which are the same for all other offices.
- III. If a president seeks re-election, the candidate receiving the most votes in the primary shall be on the ballot opposing the president in the general election. If a president is not seeking re-election, the two candidates receiving the most votes in the primary shall proceed to the general election. All candidates shall choose her or his vice-president to appear on the general election ballot after being elected by the primary vote.

#### Office for Voter Information: Election and Legislative Forums

- I. Each United States Congressional District shall have an Office for Voter Information (District Office).

- II. Fair, free and open access to all citizens and organizations to share information, advocate, and communicate regarding state and federal elections and legislation shall be the organizing principle and fundamental purpose that guides the activities of each District Office.
- III. Each District Office shall be overseen by a five-member, publicly elected board, (hereinafter referred to as District Board). The District Board shall have sole responsibility for reviewing and selecting prospective candidates for the peer interview process, maintaining the Election Forum and the legislative Forum, and reviewing allegations of expenditure violations and recommending criminal investigations of reviewed allegations.
- IV. The first elected District Boards subsequent to ratification of this amendment shall be formed by a special national election.
  - A. The Secretaries of State in each State shall appoint and oversee a special election staff of fifty temporary workers who shall randomly select 160 citizens per Congressional District to conduct the first peer group interviews of prospective candidates for the District Boards.
  - B. Prospective District Board candidates' applications shall be reviewed and ranked by the interviewers and reduced to a short list of 20 for each district
  - C. One hundred separate interviews of each of the short-listed 20 prospective candidates shall be conducted by three-person groups of interviewers to select the ten candidates which shall appear on the ballot in each congressional district (via the process described in Candidate Rules Section I.B above).
  - D. The five District Office Board candidates receiving the most votes in each district shall form each District Office for Voter Information by hiring full time staff, which shall be in place to provide the intended public services for all ensuing state and federal elections and legislative sessions.
  - E. The first members of the board for each District Office for Voter Information shall be elected to single terms of two, four, and six years. Every member elected subsequently shall serve a single six-year term, staggered alternately in pairs and singly. The board election process shall be as described in (Candidate Rules).
- V. The District Boards shall be organized consistently, as follows:
  - A. Each position described hereinafter shall be filled by a federal civil servant, who shall answer to the elected Board in all matters pertaining to the District Office.
  - B. Each Office shall employ a peer interview coordinator, assisted by a database manager and six administrative assistants, whose task it shall be to oversee and manage the random selection of citizens to conduct all peer group interviews within the district, and schedule all interviews.
  - C. Each Office shall employ a webmaster, assisted by two administrators, to assure the proper functioning of the Election Forum website and the Legislative Forum website. Both websites shall be uniform in design,

structure and operation for every Office in every congressional district, but be autonomously moderated by the webmaster and staff in each individual Office.

- D. Each Office shall employ a communications director, assisted by two administrators, who shall oversee and manage all mailings, scheduling of Forum events; outreach programs in universities, colleges, schools and libraries; design and implement internships; and coordinate seminars to share experience and lessons learned with other District Offices.
  - E. Each Office shall employ a media director, assisted by two administrators to arrange all media contact: press releases, conferences, broadcasts, simulcasts, podcasts and recordings.
  - F. Each Office shall employ a logistics coordinator and four assistants to arrange travel for prospective candidates to interviews and Election Forum events, and to schedule events in schools and other public buildings.
  - G. Each Office shall employ a separate director for the Legislative Forum and two assistants to implement its outreach to the community and legislative bodies through public events and to maintain and moderate the Legislative Forum website content.
  - H. Each Office shall employ an investigator and one assistant responsible for reviewing allegations of expenditure violations. Results of investigations shall be reported to the District Board on a regular basis.
  - I. Each Office shall employ special temporary staff of twenty individuals to support Office operations in the nine months prior to the first general election. Assessment of operations after the first election cycle by each District Office, and by national conference of representatives (one from each Office), shall result in recommendations to be passed on to Congress for improvements in carrying out the mandate of the 28<sup>th</sup> Amendment for future elections and legislative sessions.
- VI. The District Boards of each state shall vote to select one member from each state to a separate Office for Voter Information National Board [National Board] to oversee the National Convention and Election Forum for the presidential primary and general elections. The first National Board, subsequent to ratification of the amendment, shall serve terms in alphabetically ordered cohorts of 17, 17 and 16 members, serving terms of 2 ,4 and six years respectively. Thereafter, each National Board member shall serve staggered single two-year terms. The National Board shall also be responsible for the formation and oversight of the Election and Legislative Forum websites.
- VII. An initial annual appropriation of four million two-hundred thousand dollars shall be made to each Office to carry out its mandates as described herein. An additional initial appropriation of nine-hundred thousand dollars shall be made for the employment of the additional staff necessary for nine months prior to the first general election.

## Election and Legislative Forum Websites

- I. The Office for Voter Information National Board shall select, via open competition, a website contractor to design, construct and maintain two websites: "Election Forum.gov" and "Legislative Forum.gov."
- II. The Election Forum website must comply with the following requirements
  - A. Allow free, open and fair access and impartial service to all users
  - B. Ensure verifiable identification of all citizen and candidate contributors, with security and anonymity (if requested) for postings.
  - C. Be of a simple, user friendly design
  - D. Provide for equal, unedited and unlimited access to an exclusive individual page for each candidate.
    1. Universal, uniform, convenient, easy-to-post entries shall be made individually, unassisted, as sworn by each candidate.
  - E. Office for Voter Information District Boards shall be authorized to determine content, categories, and guidelines
  - F. Requests for printed, audio or braille content shall be delivered via US Mail upon request.
  - G. All content and postings shall be archived in perpetuity.
- III. The Legislative Forum shall meet all requirements for the Election Forum website listed above, with the following additions:
  - A. All members of the United States Congress and State Legislatures shall be allotted an exclusive page as described for candidates in II.D above.
  - B. All congressional and state legislative proceedings shall be live-streamed, with all other special needs met as enumerated in II.F above.
- IV. The website contractor shall submit to an annual performance review conducted by the National Board.
- V. Attempted breeches of security shall be prosecuted, resulting in mandatory prison sentences.
  - A. Contractor shall be required to cooperate in breech investigations

## Prosecution

- I. Attempts to influence voting in elections and/or legislation by expenditure of funds, sponsorship or in-kind services shall be prosecuted as federal offence and punishable by imprisonment for a term of not less than 1 year, nor more than ten years and a fine.