

NACO ELECTION REVIEW COMMITTEE

NCCAE January 9, 2014

OVERVIEW

- Purpose and context
- Membership
- Activities to date
- Summary report to the Board
- Board reaction
- Next steps
- Appendix: Recommendations

PURPOSE AND CONTEXT

- NACo Second Vice President
- Not directed at any campaign or candidate
- Continuing concerns about conduct of elections
 - ▣ Credentials
 - ▣ Costs
 - ▣ Voting
- “Conferences should be about content, not elections”
- “We run the Country’s elections, we should be able to do ours better”

MEMBERSHIP

- Chairman Lenny Eliason, Former NACo President and Commissioner, Athens County, Ohio
- Ron Houseman, NACo Midwest Region Director and Commissioner, Taney County, Mo.
- Joan Garner, Commissioner, Fulton County, Ga.
- Cindy Bobbitt, Commissioner, Grant County, Oka.
- Manny Ruiz, Supervisor, Santa Cruz County, Ariz.
- Todd McGee, Communications Director, North Carolina Association of County Commissioners
- Doug Hill, Executive Director, County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania

ACTIVITIES TO DATE

- Committee conference calls
- Information gathering
- NACo membership Town Hall
- Live committee meeting
- Presentation of recommendations to the NACo Board
- NACo Board forum

RECOMMENDATIONS TO BOARD

- Credentialing
 - ▣ Sign-off and pickup
- Voting
 - ▣ Adjust weighted voting
- Guidelines
 - ▣ Rules and enforceability
 - ▣ Finances and reporting
- Bylaws

BOARD COMMENTARY

- Timing
- Weighted voting
- Credentials
- Guidelines as rules; enforceability
- Alternate communication with membership
- Campaign finance reporting
- Attendance at affiliates

NEXT STEPS

- Committee conference call
 - ▣ Review Board reaction and commentary
 - ▣ Further evaluation of voting mechanisms
 - ▣ Updated recommendations to Board
- Board review at Legislative Conference
 - ▣ Action on elements to be implemented for 2014
 - ▣ Action on bylaws changes and elements to be implemented in 2015 or after

REPORT TO THE BOARD:

Credentialing

1. The committee recommends that the credentials form be sent to the Chief Elected Official and clerk in all member counties and to all Annual Conference registrants.
2. The committee recommends that the credentials form be signed by the Chief Elected Official or a registered delegate to the Annual Conference.

REPORT TO THE BOARD:

Candidates

3. The committee recommends that the guidelines become rules.
4. The committee recommends that the Election Review Committee should be renamed the Election Committee and continue to serve with the responsibility of enforcing the rules, and recommends adding appropriate notice to the Candidates Rules sheet.
5. The committee recommends that the Election Committee be authorized to provide guidance to candidates who have questions on the rules or their applicability, with the committee determinations on such questions shared with all candidates.

REPORT TO THE BOARD:

Candidates

6. The committee recommends that it has the power, after due process, to impose remedies and sanctions up to and including disqualification of a candidate who does not follow the rules. Committee determinations are appealable to the Executive Committee, which shall be required to convene promptly to make a determination on the recommendation, and permit the candidate to respond to the allegation and the determination.
7. The committee recommends that candidate materials should be submitted to the chair of the Election Committee in care of NACo, not to the NACo Executive Director.

REPORT TO THE BOARD:

Candidates

8. The committee recommends that candidates should not be permitted to campaign at steering committee meetings and that a candidate forum should be added to the schedule of the Annual Conference.

9. The committee recommends that a candidate cannot travel to meetings of affiliates or affiliated organizations unless he/she is a member of that group. If the candidate does attend, he/she is forbidden to campaign. All candidates can attend the WIR Conference.

REPORT TO THE BOARD:

Candidates

10. The committee recommends requiring a report of all candidate expenses on March 31 and a week before the first day of the Annual Conference. The report should include all in-kind support as well. For state associations that previously had receptions or open houses at conferences and now has a NACo candidate, the cost difference between previous state association receptions or events and current state association events would be counted as campaign spending.

11. The committee recommends that candidates are not permitted to use any trademarked, registered or copyrighted NACo digital property.

REPORT TO THE BOARD:

Candidates

12. The committee recommends that the rules should apply to the 2014 election.

13. The committee recommends holding a webinar in early February to go over the rules with candidates and other interested parties.

14. The committee recommends that the state association endorsement question be deleted from the candidate data form.

15. The committee recommends adding a question on the candidate data form asking the candidate present his/her platform.

REPORT TO THE BOARD:

Voting

16. The committee recommends delaying any changes to the process of voting at the Annual Conference until the 2014 Legislative Conference to allow the committee to thoroughly review the options under consideration.

REPORT TO THE BOARD:

Bylaws

17. The committee recommends adding the following language to Article XII, Section 1 of the bylaws:
“Membership shall be considered timely if dues are paid by June 30 preceding the Annual Conference or are otherwise paid by the Annual Conference.”
18. The committee recommends striking the sentence in Article XII, Section 2 that reads: “Every fully paid active member shall be allowed to vote.”
19. The committee recommends amending the first sentence of Article XII, Section 2 to read: “Each active member county is entitled to at least one vote on every question put before the annual conference or special meetings of the membership if they meet the requirements of section 3.”

REPORT TO THE BOARD:

Bylaws

20. The committee recommends deleting Article XII, Section 3, Paragraph C.

21. The committee recommends changing Article XII, Section 3, Paragraph D to read: “Subject to such rules as any active member may prescribe with regard to proxy voting of its delegates, a delegate who has received credentials may leave a written proxy with a delegate from the same county, from another active member in the delegate’s state, the head of the delegate’s state delegation, or its state association president or president’s designee.”

REPORT TO THE BOARD:

Bylaws

22. The committee recommends changing the second paragraph of Article XII, Section 4 to read: “Any active member not having an elected or appointed official in attendance at an annual conference or special meeting of the general membership may authorize the president of its state association of counties, or the president’s designee, or other qualified delegate from its state to register, qualify, and vote as its delegate at such annual conference or special meeting.”
23. The committee recommends adding language to the end of the first paragraph of Article XII, Section 4 that reads: “In any roll call vote for the election of an officer where no candidate receives 50 percent plus 1 of the vote, the candidate with the lowest vote total should be removed from the ballot and another roll call vote held with the remaining candidates.”