Rules for AVMA Officers Election Campaigns

A. The AVMA Board of Directors, with input from the House Advisory Committee, has established the following rules for the conduct of campaigns. The rules apply to all candidates for election to the offices of president, president-elect, and vice-president.

B. Eligibility

1. The qualifications for eligibility for candidates for elected offices are established in the Bylaws (Article VI, § 12) and the Manual of the House of Delegates. The House Advisory Committee (HAC) shall verify the eligibility of candidates.

2. Candidates must submit an Officer Position Application form and a resume to the Office of the Executive Vice President prior to the last scheduled meeting of the HAC before the House of Delegates (HOD) session during which the election will be held to allow time for the HAC to examine and verify the candidate’s credentials. Candidates are encouraged to submit their applications by April 1.

3. Candidates may be nominated from the floor of the HOD session during which the election is held so long as the HAC is first given the opportunity to examine and verify the candidate’s credentials.

C. Campaign schedule

1. The campaign begins with an official announcement by candidates at the Candidates’ Introductory Breakfast, held in conjunction with the Regular Annual Session of the House of Delegates. No other functions on behalf of candidates, including but not limited to, banquets, open houses, and receptions, will be permitted at the official AVMA convention center or any official AVMA convention hotels during the Regular Annual Session of the House of Delegates and annual convention.

2. During the campaign, candidates will be permitted access to the HOD Forum. No AVMA resources, including the HOD Forum, shall be used by candidates or those considering candidacy prior to the beginning of the campaign.

3. Prior to the Candidate’s Introductory Breakfast, AVMA places no additional restrictions on activities by or on behalf of those considering candidacy.

4. To encourage all candidates to reach the officers and delegates of the Principal Veterinary Organizations and
Constituent Allied Veterinary Organizations, the Veterinary Leadership Conference will include an opportunity for each candidate to speak during a general session.

5. To familiarize them with AVMA leadership activities, candidates are invited to attend (and be reimbursed for customary expenses) all Board of Directors meetings during the year of their candidacy. In addition, candidates will be given access to the AVMA Governance Portal and to the Board of Directors meeting agendas and accompanying recommendations.

D. Travel Expenses
1. Candidates who have met the requirements for eligibility as stated in Paragraph B, above, will be reimbursed by the AVMA for travel expenses, on the same basis as delegates, for the following meetings:
   a. AVMA Regular Annual Session, at which the candidate will present an introductory speech at the Candidates’ Introductory Breakfast
   b. AVMA Leadership Conference and HOD Regular Winter Session

Candidates for AVMA office are encouraged and expected to conduct their campaigns at the highest level of professional ethics.

1. A written complaint alleging a violation of these rules will be reviewed by the Judicial Council, which shall take any action it deems appropriate to investigate such complaint. Complaints must be in writing, including without limitation electronic communications.

2. The Judicial Council is authorized to take any or all of the following actions with respect to a candidate who it finds to have committed an infraction of the rules:
   a. Send a letter of reprimand to the candidate.
   b. Withdraw the candidate’s eligibility for AVMA funding, effective on a date specified by the Council.

3. For each complaint where the Judicial Council finds an infraction of the Rules, the Judicial Council’s findings and action thereon will be reported to the Board of Directors, the House of Delegates, and the complaining party.