

CENTRAL NEW JERSEY MENSA
Code of Election Procedures

PREAMBLE

These guidelines are a product of the Board of Trustees of Central New Jersey Mensa (CNJM) as passed on 11/09/00 and revised through 5/12/17. They are subject to further revision, modification, or rescission by the Board at any time.

I. SELECTION OF CANDIDATES

1. Each candidate shall submit a candidacy petition with signatures of at least 5 CNJM members (the candidate's own signature may be used).
2. Qualification for candidacy is membership in good standing of CNJM as defined in the Mensa national bylaws. The most recent membership list available will be used to determine qualification.
3. The candidacy petition shall include the following: office sought, year in which the election will occur, name, phone number, e-mail address and membership number of candidate. Included for each signer will be his or her name, signature, and membership number. Only original signatures will be accepted.
4. If a candidate seeks more than one office, a separate petition will be filed for each office.
5. There will be no drafted candidates. Each candidate will include the following signed statement in the petition:
"I, (candidate's name), seek the office of (name of office) and agree to serve if elected."
6. If a candidate is no longer a member of CNJM as of the closing date of the election, votes cast for that candidate will not be counted.
7. Petitions must be received by the Election Overseer no later than December 31 of the year prior to the election.

II. CANDIDATES' STATEMENTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS

1. The Overseer shall verify that all candidates' statements are submitted in proper order for inclusion in the February issue of the chapter newsletter. The Overseer shall return to the candidate for revision any material that is or appears to be libelous, obscene, or in violation or apparent violation of any applicable laws, statutes or regulations. Such revision must be completed and returned to the Overseer by January 10.
2. If a candidate is standing for more than one office only one statement may be submitted for publication.
3. A candidate's statement will consist of no more than 200 words.
4. If no satisfactory statement is received by December 31, the Overseer shall ask the candidate if he or she wishes to run without a statement or withdraw.
5. If a candidate wishes to run without publishing a statement, the Overseer shall submit this statement:
"CANDIDATE (candidate's name)--NO STATEMENT"
6. The candidates' statements shall appear in the newsletter in the same order that the candidates' names appear on the ballot.
7. At his or her option, a candidate may also provide a photograph, (limited to a head shot), for printing in the chapter newsletter along with their statement, by the candidate statement deadline. The technical requirements for the photograph shall be as required by the then editor of the chapter newsletter.

III. BALLOTS AND VOTING PROCEDURES

1. Candidates' names will be printed on the ballot as stated on the candidacy petitions.
2. Candidates' names will be printed in a random order as determined by the Overseer of Elections.
3. Write-in votes will not be counted.
4. For the offices of President and Vice President, each member may cast one vote for one candidate for each office.
5. At each election of trustees, every member shall have the right to cast one vote for as many persons as there are trustees to be elected. Cumulative voting is prohibited.
6. The ballot will appear on a page of the newsletter that does not include the mailing label.
7. Ballots may be mailed or hand delivered to the Overseer, whose address will appear on the ballot. Each mailed envelope must be submitted with only one ballot. Secrecy of the ballot may be achieved by use of an unmarked inner envelope. Validation of ballots cast will be by means of the voter's name, membership number and signature placed on the outer envelope. If this information is missing, but a name is on the envelope, the Overseer is encouraged to contact the sender immediately to give them the opportunity to provide a ballot with proper validation.
8. Ballots must be received by the Overseer no later than the start of the March monthly meeting.
9. Ballots will be validated then counted at the March monthly meeting in the election year. Validation will be achieved by comparing the member name and member number appearing on the ballot envelope to the current membership. Validation of ballots will occur after the closing of the election. Ballots will be counted after completion of the validation.
10. The Overseer shall appoint at least one and up to 3 tellers to aid in validating and counting the ballots. No candidate may be a teller.
11. Each candidate is permitted to appoint a ballot inspector to observe the validation and counting of the ballots. The candidate may serve in this capacity. A single ballot inspector may represent multiple candidates.
12. All records, ballots, etc. will be retained by the Overseer until the second Executive Board meeting following the election, for a period of not less than 30 days, or until any appeals are resolved, whichever period is the longest.
13. In case of a tie vote for President, Vice President, or the final trustee(s) position, a coin will be flipped to determine the winner.

IV. APPEALS

1. Only candidates may appeal election procedures or results.
2. Any appeal of a decision of the Overseer must be submitted initially to the Overseer in writing within 30 days after the announcement of the election results. The Overseer will respond in writing within 30 days. If the appeal is denied by the Overseer, the candidate will have 30 days after the Overseer's response to appeal to the Mediator in writing. The Mediator will respond in writing within 30 days of this appeal. If the Mediator denies the appeal, the candidate may then appeal to the National Ombudsman, in writing, within 30 days of the Mediator's response, who will make a decision in accordance with the bylaws of American Mensa, Ltd.

V. BALLOT INVALIDATION

1. Ballots cast for candidates are invalidated if the candidate
 - a. ceases to be a member in good standing.
 - b. withdraws from the election, in writing.
 - c. is deceased as of the date of ballot counting.

VI. BEST PRACTICES

1. It is recommended, but not required, that the election overseer prepare and have printed on the back of the ballot, directions, in graphic format, as to how to properly vote the ballot.

May 12, 2017