

**National FFA (@NationalFFA)
Parliamentary Procedure Leadership Development Event**

2023 National Convention Preliminary Round Team Problem Solving Practicum

Directions:

As a team, provide a professional parliamentary opinion to the questions posed as a response to the scenario, composing your answers on the computer provided using the word processor software. Please be sure to provide appropriate citation – from a parliamentary authority (including page numbers) or other provided reference. You may use both the digital Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised as well as other provided material.

Scenario:

You and your team have been asked to review the following information on the responsibility of officers. Recent questions have occurred from this section of the bylaws and your assistance is requested in making sure the organization's members understand their bylaws.

Relevant information from the group's bylaws are listed below.

Article IV

Section 1. Nominations. A Nominating Committee of four members shall:

- A. be elected by voice or ballot vote at the organization's Annual Meeting. A member shall not serve a second consecutive time on the committee. A majority vote shall elect. Vacancies on the nominating committee shall be filled by the Executive Board. The members of the committee shall elect their chairman.
- B. The nominating committee shall:
 - 1. at the Annual Meeting, present at least one name for each office to be filled subject to the requirements for eligibility: and
 - 2. submit a report to be included in the Call for the Annual Meeting at which the election is to be held.

Section 2. Elections.

- A. The officers shall be elected at the Annual meeting.
- B. Nominations may be made from the floor, provided consent has been obtained from the nominee.

ARTICLE V

Section 1. Officers. The officers of the organization shall be a president, a vice-president, a secretary, a treasurer, and a historian.

Section 2. Term of Office. Officers shall assume their duties at the close of the meeting at which they are elected. Officers shall serve for a term of two years or until their successors are elected. No officer shall serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office with the exception of the treasurer.

Section 3. Vacancy in Office. In the case of a vacancy in the office of president, the vice-president shall serve as president for the remainder of the term. A vacancy in both the

president and vice-president position simultaneously, or any other office, shall be filled by the executive board.

Section 4. Duties. Officers shall perform the duties provided in this section and such duties as are prescribed for the office in these bylaws and in the adopted parliamentary authority.

Questions

- 1. Member Smith is an outstanding member of the organization. Many members want to nominate her for office—but want to nominate her for both secretary and treasurer. Can a member be nominated for more than one office?**

Yes.

RONR 46:7 “The same person can be nominated for more than one office, even if voting for all offices is to take place at the same time on a single ballot. If one person is elected to more than one office under these conditions, the case is resolved as described in the second paragraph of 46:31(1).” (RONR 46:7)

RONR 46:31(1): Ballot Election. Two alternative procedures for the sequence of nominating and voting in elections by ballot can be prescribed or adopted, as mentioned above. The first method requires the least time, while the second affords greater flexibility in choosing officers. These procedures are as follows:

1) All nominations can be completed before any balloting takes place—in which case voting for all offices is commonly done by a single ballot. This method is suitable for use in conventions where voting takes place at a “polling place” apart from the convention meetings. It may also be a preferred method in any large meeting where the time required for balloting is an important consideration. The elections should take place early in such a meeting, to allow time for any necessary additional balloting for any office for which no candidate receives a vote sufficient for election. Votes can be cast for any person who is eligible for election, even if he has not been nominated. The procedure followed in balloting, in counting the votes, and in reporting the results is described in 45:18-43. The tellers prepare a tellers’ report for each office involved, in the form shown in 45:37. When these reports are completed for all offices, the chairman of tellers, after reading them to the assembly, submits them to the chair, who, as he reads each one of them again, declares the result for that office. In each case where a candidate has a majority, the chair declares that candidate elected. For offices for which no candidate has a majority, the chair announces, “no election.” When the tellers’ reports for all offices have thus been read, the chair directs that new ballots be distributed for those offices for which no candidate attained a majority (see also below).

When voting for multiple offices by a single ballot, the members are not able to take the result for one office into account when voting for another office. For this reason, a candidate is never deemed elected to more than one office by a single ballot unless the motion or rules governing the election specifically provide for

such simultaneous election. When there is no such provision, a candidate who receives a majority for more than one office on a single ballot must, if present, choose which one of the offices he will accept; if he is absent, the assembly decides by a ballot vote the office to be assigned to him. This question, which is debatable, requires a majority vote for adoption. The assembly then ballots again to fill the other office(s). (The assembly is free, however, to elect the same person to another office on a subsequent ballot, unless the bylaws prohibit a person from holding both offices simultaneously.)

2. There is one office for which there are two candidates—neither of which are overly exciting. Members are talking about the possibility of electing a member by write-in votes. Is this possible?

Yes. [Important passages italicized]

RONR 45:18 Voting by Ballot. Voting by ballot (also known as secret ballot) is used when secrecy of the members' votes is desired. A ballot vote is a vote taken by instruments, such as slips of paper or electronic devices, by which members can indicate their choices without revealing how individual members have voted. *On a ballot vote in an election or other vote involving multiple possible choices, members are able to write in or fill in a vote for any eligible person or choice and are not confined to voting for or against candidates that appear on the ballot.*

RONR 45:25 *In elections, "for" and "against" spaces or boxes may not be used. They are applicable only with respect to votes on motions. In an election, a voter can vote against one candidate only by voting for another who has been nominated or by writing in the name of another candidate.*

RONR 46:2 Strictly speaking, nominations are not necessary when an election is by ballot or roll call, since each member is free to vote for any eligible person, whether he has been nominated or not. In most societies, however, it is impractical to proceed to an election without first making nominations. *While members are always free to "write in," on a ballot, the name of an eligible person who has not been nominated, or to vote for an eligible non-nominee during a roll-call vote, under normal conditions it is likely that most members will confine their choice to the nominees.*

3. Member Kirk has been renominated for a second term as president and is the only candidate for the office. Can Member Kirk be elected by "acclamation" under the circumstances provided?

Yes.

RONR 46:40 If only one person is nominated and the bylaws do not require that a ballot vote be taken, the chair, after ensuring that, in fact, no members present wish to make further nominations, simply declares that the nominee is elected, thus effecting the election by unanimous consent or "acclamation." The motion to close nominations cannot be used as a means of moving the election of the candidate in such a case.