

## **Board of Trustees Election Campaign Rules**

These Obesity Medicine Association (“OMA”) Candidate Campaign Rules (the “Rules”) for Board of Trustees elections outline the activities by which candidates can campaign for a position as an OMA Officer or member of the OMA Board of Trustees (the “OMA leadership”).

OMA leadership elections are collegial competitions, and candidates for such positions may engage only in positive campaigning. As such, OMA will not tolerate any negative campaigning and has the authority to remove candidates from the election process if violations occur.

A carefully considered nominations and election process has been established in the OMA Bylaws. Each candidate shall have an opportunity to provide requested information about their qualifications and interests in serving in the respective OMA leadership position they are seeking. Such information shall be reviewed and approved by the OMA Nominating Committee and Executive Director and will accompany the electronic ballot when disseminated to the membership. E.g., Current activities of candidates in acknowledged competitive professional societies or associations, such as active board of trustee memberships in competitive organizations, may lead to disqualification of candidacy.

Failure to abide by these rules may result in the OMA Board of Trustees taking remedial action, including, without limitation, suspending the election process, declaring the ineligibility of a candidate, or other remedial action.

### **Candidate Campaign Materials**

Campaign materials shall mean any document, electronic transmission, object, or other information and materials that has the purpose or effect of promoting the candidacy of an individual for an OMA leadership position. As applicable, all campaign materials must carry an identification of their source. Production and distribution of campaign materials constitute campaign activities, and actual expenses incurred must be by the candidate, not OMA or any third party or via direct or indirect sponsorship of the candidate by a third party.

Campaign materials shall refrain from including any negative remarks as to the other candidates or the OMA or OMA staff and shall not contain any lude or offensive illustrations or language in promoting the candidate.

The OMA will provide each verified candidate with a candidate’s web presence created by OMA staff that features the following for each candidate nominated that the nominee would be required to provide equally:

1. Candidate Campaign Rules
2. OMA Conflict of Interest Policy and Disclosure Rules
3. Photo of the candidate
4. Biographical information listed on the leadership application
5. A Personal Candidate Statement (no more than 500 words) that provides insight in the candidates personality and opinions regarding the following:
  - a. Tell your peers who you are in regards to your current role and position held and your professional aspirations.
  - b. Why do you want to become an OMA Board of Trustee member, and why do you think you would make an effective and collegial OMA Board of Trustee member?
  - c. Do you know what the OMA’s current goals and objectives are, and what are your top 3 goals and objectives that you see most important for the OMA to accomplish and why?
  - d. How do you think your talents and skills will best serve the OMA and its members?
  - e. Why do you have a passion for obesity medicine?
6. Possible candidate conflicts of interest and disclosures as submitted on the OMA Conflict of Interest Policy and Disclosure Statement

## OMA Policy on Using Social Media for Campaigning

Candidates for OMA leadership positions may use their own social media websites and applications such as, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and LinkedIn to campaign. However, candidates are not allowed to campaign on any OMA social media sites, including the OMA LinkedIn Group.

At no time will the OMA provide anyone with member or non-member contact information, social media profiles, or any other contact channel information. All campaign contacts will have to be obtained by the candidates on their own accord.

## Endorsements of Candidates

Candidates for OMA leadership positions **cannot** claim to be endorsed by third parties.

## Under these Rules, Candidates, OMA Members, or Other Third Parties May Not:

- Use or purchase OMA membership lists for campaigning purposes
- Engage in false or misleading campaign activities
- Utilize confidential information or violate other OMA policies in campaign activities
- Pursue blast or bulk e-mails, blast or bulk-faxes, or bulk mailing for campaigning purposes
- Campaign during any CME activities
- Engage in any form of negative campaigning, including speaking about an opponent, disparaging the opponent in any way, or encouraging others to do the same
- Use or distribute OMA funds to support, publicize, or encourage support or endorsement, or to oppose the candidacy of an individual or group of individuals
- Lend the use of OMA facilities or conference locations, such as office space, equipment, supplies, or official letterhead of OMA, to support or oppose the candidacy of an individual or group of individuals
- Use the OMA logo or any other OMA trademark or intellectual property to promote a candidate for office, or on any related campaign material
- Give a gift or anything of value to an OMA member in exchange for a vote or endorsement for selected office at any time
- Use third-party funds or sponsorship funds to promote the candidate or their candidacy in any way