

## NSS CAMPAIGN RULES

(Last revised March 2025)

1. Documents and communications that are required to be delivered to the NSS Secretary are deemed delivered to the Secretary if delivered to NSS headquarters. The preferred method of delivery is email to [petitions@nss.org](mailto:petitions@nss.org), which will automatically provide notification that the item was received and will automatically forward a copy to the Secretary. Documents may be scanned or photographed and emailed as attachments. If it is only possible to send hard copies by mail, they must be sent to this address only:

National Space Society  
c/o Kennedy Space Center  
PO Box 236002  
Cocoa, FL 32923-9901

Documents and communications mailed to any other address will not be accepted.

2. To be eligible to be placed on the ballot as a candidate nominated by petition, a candidate must deliver to the Secretary, by the due date for petitions, a completely filled-out Willing to Run/Contact Information form (all information asked for on the form must be included). The form is appended to this document below and shall be provided in alternative formats on the NSS website at [space.nss.org/candidate-forms](http://space.nss.org/candidate-forms).

3. The Willing to Run/Contact Information form may be submitted in either of two ways:

A. By the same method as petitions are submitted in Section 6-E, or

B. The text of the form may be copied into the body of an email and filled out there. If this method is used, (i) the manner of indicating the choice between At-Large and Regional may be modified, such as by deleting the one not chosen, provided the choice is made clear; and (ii) in place of a signature on the form, the email must originate from the same email address as indicated on the form and either sent directly to [petitions@nss.org](mailto:petitions@nss.org) or forwarded to that address by a third party.

4. No candidate may accept a nomination for both an At-Large and a Regional position. Once the choice of position is made on a submitted Willing to Run/Contact Information form, changing the choice requires the candidate to notify the Secretary of withdrawal from the previously accepted position.

5. Petitions and Willing to Run/Contact Information forms received before September 1 of the year before the election will not be counted.

6. Petitions for nomination for At-Large or Regional seats on the Board of Directors are subject to the following Rules:

A. Nominees must be members of the Society (pursuant to Article V Section 2 of the Bylaws).

B. Nominees for Regional Board seats must be residents of the Region in question (pursuant to Article V Section 2 of the Bylaws).

C. Petitions for At-Large Board seats must have signatures of at least forty (40) members of the Society with at least five (5) signatories from each of any three Regions of the Society (pursuant to Article XI Section 1 of the Bylaws).

D. Petitions for Regional Board seats must have signatures of at least five (5) members of the Society who reside in that Region (pursuant to Article XI Section 2 of the Bylaws).

E. Petitions should be submitted as scanned images or photographs by email attachment (PDF or JPG format preferred) to [petitions@nss.org](mailto:petitions@nss.org). If that is not possible hard copies (originals or photocopies) may be mailed to the address in Paragraph 1.

Warning: Email attachments should be limited to 15MB per email to avoid bouncing (multiple emails can be used if needed). If an image format such as JPG is used, care should be taken that the email program does not shrink the size of the image or there could be a risk of having the item disqualified due to being insufficiently legible. It is the candidate's responsibility to see that their petitions are received and sufficiently legible.

F. Petitions must be delivered to the Secretary of the Society no later than January 15 of the year of the election (pursuant to Article XI Sections 1 and 2 of the Bylaws). If January 15 falls on a weekend or a federal holiday, petitions must be delivered no later than the next business day after January 15. The due date shall be based on the Eastern U.S. time zone.

G. Petitions must be unambiguously identified as nominating petitions for a particular individual for an At-Large or Regional seat (but not both on a single petition) on the NSS Board of Directors for a particular year. Signers of petitions must include their printed names and addresses so their membership can be verified. Membership numbers are requested but not required. Sample petition forms shall be provided on the NSS website at [space.nss.org/candidate-forms](http://space.nss.org/candidate-forms).

H. Only one candidate's name may appear on a given petition, but members may sign separate petitions for more than one candidate.

I. The Executive Committee shall designate a person to be responsible for maintaining the petitions@nss.org email address and for maintaining copies on the NSS website of the required Willing to Run/Contact Information form and the sample nominating petition forms.

7. Candidates are requested to notify NSS Headquarters by January 1 of the year of the election of their intention to run, so that the Nominations Committee can consider them for nomination.

8. Nominees for the Board of Directors election may choose to submit a candidate statement which shall be made available to all eligible voters. Such candidate statements shall be subject to the following conditions:

A. Candidate statements must be delivered to the Secretary no later than February 17 of the year of the election, even if February 17 falls on a weekend or federal holiday. The due date shall be based on the Eastern U.S. time zone. The preferred method of submission is by email to petitions@nss.org, either in the body of the email or as an attached Word or text file.

B. The statement by the candidate may include his or her qualifications, previous service to the Society and other pro-space organizations, endorsements (including all or part of any optional quotations by endorsers), the qualifications of the endorsers, views on Society issues, and what the nominee intends to do if elected.

C. Claimed endorsements may only be from individuals (not committees or other bodies), must include the name of the endorser, and will count as part of the word count.

D. Candidate statements may claim only those endorsements which are unambiguously for the position of Director for the year of the election, which unambiguously grant permission to use the endorser's name as an endorser in the candidate's statement, and which provide an understanding on the part of the endorser that the candidate statement with the endorser's name, along with all or part of any endorsement quotation provided by the endorser, may be made public. The following may be used as an endorsement form which meets all requirements:

*I, [NAME], endorse [NAME] for election as a[n] [AT-LARGE/REGIONAL] Director in the [YEAR] National Space Society Board of Directors Election and grant permission for this person to use my name as an endorser, and all or part of any endorsement quotation provided by me and included here, in a candidate statement which may be made public.*

E. Endorsements may be claimed only if they are delivered to the Secretary no later than the due date for

the candidate statement. Endorsements should be either (1) hand signed by the endorser and scanned or photographed and emailed as an attachment, or (2) submitted in the body of an email that is sent from the endorser's own email address (which may be submitted as a forwarded email). Endorsements submitted by email should be sent to petitions@nss.org. If that is not possible, hard copies of the signed endorsements may be mailed to the address in Paragraph 1.

F. Statements may not include negative remarks about any Society member.

G. Candidate statements shall have a maximum length of four hundred (400) words. A descriptive identification (or title) of the candidate statement such as "Candidate Statement of John Smith" is not part of the statement and is not part of the word count.

H. The title of the candidate statement that appears with the ballot shall consist of the name of the candidate as it appears on the ballot, which shall be as it appears on the Willing to Run/Contact Information form subject to the following: Titles such as Mr, Mrs, Dr., PhD, etc. may not be used (but may be used in the body of the candidate statement). Attributes such as Jr. or Sr. may be used. Preferred nicknames may be placed in parentheses, e.g. Edwin E. (Buzz) Aldrin. The title is not part of the statement and is not part of the word count.

I. Candidate statements are published using a single, uniform font and without formatting such as underlining, bold, etc. However, candidate statements may include bullet lists.

J. To maintain the word limit and to help level the playing field, campaign statements may not contain URLs or suggested web searches.

K. The Elections Committee may edit candidate statements for the following reasons only: to correct errors of fact, to correct inconsistencies with the election rules of the Society, to correct statements which may incur legal liability to the Society, or to make minor editorial modifications such as correcting spelling or grammar errors. The Elections Committee shall take particular care to prevent any statement from including negative remarks about any Society member. A reasonable effort shall be made to discuss any changes with the candidate in question and obtain his or her approval of these changes. If agreement cannot be reached, the views of the Elections Committee shall be followed.

L. No other campaign statements by or on the behalf of a nominee may be included in NSS' special election mailing or published in any issue of any publication of the Society whether paid for (i.e., an advertisement) or not, except as discussed in Rule #12 below.

9. Any candidate may withdraw from nomination up until the printing deadline for candidate statements.

10. Notification responsibilities:

A. A copy of these Campaign Rules shall be maintained on the NSS website so as to be available to members. Failure of the Society to do so shall not invalidate an election.

B. Nominees are responsible for ascertaining deadline dates, current rules and requirements, and if materials have been received.

11. The Society membership list (defined as member contact data stored in or extracted from the Society Membership Database), Society websites, Society social network accounts, and Society-managed email lists and discussion groups, may not be used in campaigns (including campaign-related telephone calls).

12. Notwithstanding Rule 11, the following applies to Chapters:

A. Campaign material may appear in Chapter or multi-Chapter publications including websites or social network accounts controlled by the Chapter. However, such publications may not be distributed outside normal distribution channels or in numbers larger than normal circulation.

B. Lists of the addresses of the Chapters may be used for Society election campaigns.

C. Lists of Chapter members may be used in Society election campaigns provided the Chapter in question approves of such use. For purposes of this Rule, Chapter members are defined as those who meet all requirements for membership by the Chapter and who do at least one of the following: (1) pay annual Chapter dues of one dollar or more, or (2) personally fill out and submit to the Chapter a Chapter membership application (whether paper or electronic), or (3) actively (i.e. not by inaction) personally communicate to the Chapter a desire to become a Chapter member. NSS members who live within any geographic area associated with the Chapter, or who simply receive Chapter notices, are not Chapter members for purposes of this Rule unless they meet the above criteria.

D. Chapters are strongly urged to avoid personal attacks on any member of the Society in publications and mailings under their control.

13. Employees of the Society may not donate money, goods in kind, or volunteer labor to, or make endorsements regarding, any Society campaign. Paid campaign workers may not be used in any Society campaign.

14. Significant violations of the Society election rules shall be considered to be cause for the revocation of membership (as provided for in Article III Section 6 of the Bylaws) or the expulsion of a Chapter (as provided for in Section 14 of the NSS Chapter Rules).

15. Once the Elections Committee has been selected for a particular Board of Directors election, any person or Chapter affected by these Rules may request that the Committee or its appropriate delegate(s) provide advice as to whether particular actions are, or are not, in accordance with the Society's Bylaws and this document.

16. The above Rules 11 through 15 shall also apply to campaigns in favor of or opposed to a proposed Bylaw amendment (or amendment to the Articles of Incorporation, or plan for merger, consolidation, or voluntary dissolution) which is sent to the membership for vote.

17. In accordance with Article XI Section 5 of the Bylaws, the Elections Committee by majority vote may recommend disqualification of a candidate for the Board of Directors because of violations of campaign rules.

18. Each of the eight Regional Board members of the Board of Directors shall represent one of the eight Regions of the Society. These Regions are defined by the following list:

(1) Asia/Pacific: Asia (including all of Turkey, Israel, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, but not Russia), Australia, Antarctica, Southern California (California zip code areas 93499 and below), Hawaii, and islands in the Pacific, Indian, and Antarctic Oceans.

(2) Northwest North America: Northern California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, Alaska, Yukon, Northwest Territories, Nunavut, and islands in the Arctic Ocean.

(3) Southwest United States/Latin America: Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Mexico, Central America, South America, and islands in the Caribbean Sea.

(4) Central North America: Nevada, Utah, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Idaho, Wyoming, Nebraska, Iowa, Montana, South Dakota, North Dakota, Minnesota, Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Manitoba.

(5) Southern United States: Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Arkansas, Georgia, South Carolina, Tennessee, North Carolina, and Kentucky.

(6) Midwest United States: Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Michigan.

(7) Mid-Atlantic North America: Virginia, West Virginia, District of Columbia, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey.

(8) Afro-Europe/Atlantic: New York, Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland, Europe (including all of Russia and Ukraine), Africa, and islands in the Mediterranean Sea and in the Atlantic Ocean excluding the Caribbean Sea.

**[This form is required. To be valid, all items on this form must be filled out.]**

## **WILLING TO RUN / CONTACT INFORMATION FORM**

I hereby declare my candidacy for election as a petition candidate to the National Space Society Board of Directors.

Position (choose one only):

\_\_\_ At-Large seat

\_\_\_ Regional seat for Region \_\_\_

Name (as you wish it to appear on the ballot):

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Signature: