American Academy of Periodontology
Election FAQs

Updated November 2025

General

Which positions are voted on in the AAP election?
- The Academy holds an annual election for both National and District level positions, including:
    - National: AAP Secretary/Treasurer; American Board of Periodontology (ABP) Director(s)
    - District: AAP Board of Trustees; AAP Officer Nominating Committee; and the Nominating Committee for the ABP
- Note: Because district positions have staggered terms, positions on the ballot may vary year to year. It is not uncommon for a District to have no vacancies in a given year. National level positions will have vacancies every year.

When does the AAP election campaign period run?
- The AAP Election campaign period runs from January 1 until June 30.
- No candidate or any other member of the Academy may actively campaign prior to January 1 or after June 30.
    - Active campaigning is any effort by or on behalf of a candidate to inform members of the Academy, or any substantial subset of members, that an individual is running for office.

How is the AAP election managed?
- Our independent election vendor, Survey Ballot Systems, manages the administration of the election process, including the distribution, collection, and tallying of the votes.
- The Election Oversight Committee (EOC) is the regulatory body which ensures all candidates remain within the Academy's election guidelines. The EOC consists of Senior District Trustees.
- Administrative support for the election is provided by the AAP Governance Team.

Who should I contact with questions about the election process, policy, and procedures?
- Please contact a member of the Governance team.

Campaigning

What is a "mass communication"?
- A mass communication is defined as a written (including electronic) communication that is similar in content and that is sent simultaneously or within a very brief time-period to more than one member of the Academy. Mass communications include emails, social media posts and messages, texts, flyers, and any other form of written communication.

What mass communications are allowed during the campaign period?

- Candidates are permitted to send up to three electronic communications to their constituents throughout the campaign period (one each in the months of April, May and June). These communications are sent by the AAP Central Office to eligible voting members on behalf of the candidates.
- Statements are encouraged but optional. The maximum word count is 250 words.
- Prior to deployment, the electronic communications are reviewed and vetted by the EOC to ensure they adhere to the Academy's rules and regulations.
- No other mass communications are allowed during the campaign period. Any additional mass communications, sent by or campaigning on behalf of the candidate, violate Academy policy.

Can a non-candidate member send a mass communication campaign for a candidate? What about a State or Regional society, or family members?

- No. The Academy's election policy prohibits mass communications sent by any party, including candidates, non-candidates, family members, and State and Regional societies, except for the three EOC-approved electronic communications discussed above.

What should I do if I receive a mass communication that violates the Academy's election policy?

- In the event you receive a mass communication outside of the permitted campaign messages, please notify the AAP CEO. The EOC will then review the incident to determine if a policy violation occurred.

Can members opt out of receiving campaign-related communications?

- Yes. Members can opt out at perio.org or by clicking "unsubscribe" at the bottom of any campaign-related message.

Are there any other restrictions to campaigning?

- Candidates are not permitted to fundraise for their campaign. Nor are candidates allowed to use telemarketers or any other paid advertising.
- Candidates invited to speak at educational programs may only note that they are a candidate for an Academy position. All other campaigning is prohibited at educational programs.
- Candidates invited to speak at a regional or state society meeting may mention their candidacy, discuss issues confronting the Academy and its members, and set forth their on those issues.
- Candidates are not permitted to post or comment on the AAP Open Forum during the campaign period.

Voting

When is the AAP election held?

- The AAP Election takes place from June 1 – June 30.

Who can vote in the AAP election?

- Current Active and Life Active members are considered eligible voting members. All other membership categories are ineligible to vote.

Where can I find information about the candidates?

- Candidates will be featured in a biographical booklet that is included with all ballots. The bio booklet includes educational & professional history and a statement from candidates who opted to include this information.
- Candidate CVs will be posted on the website as available.
- AAP Officer candidates will have features published in the first quarter issue of *Periospectives*.

How do I vote?
- All voting is now conducted electronically—paper ballots have been discontinued.
- Voting members will receive their unique member ID and voting credentials by mail in May and by email from noreply@directvote.net on or before June 1.
  - o **Tip:** Add this email address to your approved senders list or address book to ensure the message is delivered to your inbox.
  - o To vote, follow the link provided in the email (or visit the voting website listed in your postcard mailing) and log in using your member ID and passcode.
  - o The online ballot is open from June 1 to June 30.

Who should I contact if I'm having trouble voting online?
- If you experience technical difficulties voting online via the link emailed to you by Survey Ballot Systems, please contact Survey Ballot Systems at support@directvote.net for technical assistance.
- If you did not receive an email containing the link to the voting website, or if you do not know your Member ID, please contact the Governance Specialist, Maureen Gallagher at volunteer@perio.org.

When will the election results be announced?
- Election results will be reported to general membership in mid-July via email. They will also be posted on the website and published in the third quarter issue of *Periospectives*. These results will not include the tally totals.
- Candidates will be notified of the election results in early July prior to reporting to general membership. Candidates will receive tally totals for the position they ran for and are expected to keep the tally totals in strict confidence.

For Candidates

I need to step down from running in the election. What do I do?
- In the event you are no longer able to commit the necessary time for the position you have sought, please submit your request to withdraw from the election in writing to the Governance specialist, Maureen Gallagher.
- Depending on the point at which a candidate withdrawals from the election, an alternate candidate may be asked to appear on the ballot when one is available.

Important Contacts

Governance Specialist: Maureen Gallagher – maureen@perio.org; (312) 573-3249
Governance Senior Manager: Jodi Sassana – jodi@perio.org; (312) 573-3265
CEO: Erin O'Donnell Dotzler – erin@perio.org; (312) 573-3247
Governance Department – volunteer@perio.org

AAP Elections Annual Timeline

July 31
- *ABP Director Positions Only* Deadline to submit candidate application form to AAP central office
- *ABP Director Positions Only* Deadline to submit petition with 100 signatures of Active / Life Active members (required only for candidates who desire to be nominated by petition)

August 31
- *AAP Officer Positions Only* Deadline to submit candidate application form to AAP central office
- *AAP Officer Positions Only* Deadline to submit petition with 100 signatures of Active / Life Active members (required only for candidates who desire to be nominated by petition)

December 15
- *ABP Director and AAP Officer Positions Only* Deadline to submit written request for nomination by petition to the AAP CEO (if not nominated by the relevant nominating committee)
  - *Note: Candidate must have previously adhered to the respective deadline for submitting the candidate application form and petition*
- *District Positions Only* Deadline to submit petition 25 signatures of Active / Life Active members from home district to the CEO of the Academy (required only for candidates who desire to be nominated by petition)

January
- **January 1:** Campaign period runs from January 1 – June 30
- **Second Friday in January (Friday, January 9, 2026):** Deadline to return candidate and alternate paperwork to AAP Central Office.
  - *Note: Failure to submit required forms by this date disqualifies a candidate to run in the election.*
  - *AAP Officer Positions Only -* Deadline to submit a letter to the membership of no more than 1,250 words describing candidate's qualifications and the reasons that voters should vote for that candidate, in addition to candidate's CV. Pending approval by the Election Oversight Committee (EOC), the letter will be published in the 1st quarter issue of *Periospectives* as well as the Academy's website.
- **January 15:** Candidate virtual forum video submissions (if applicable) are due January 15 for national-level candidates (Secretary-Treasurer and ABP Directors) in years when the Election Oversight Committee (EOC) hosts a virtual candidate forum. Eligible candidates will receive submission instructions directly from AAP staff if a virtual forum is approved.

Early February
- Academy will publish names of all candidates on website

March 15
- Deadline to submit 250-word statement to membership for April communication, pending EOC approval *(optional)*

April 15
- Deadline to submit 250-word statement to membership for May communication, pending EOC approval *(optional)*
- Deadline to submit Candidate Information Form for Ballot Book *(optional)*

May 15
- Deadline to submit 250-word statement to membership for June communication, pending EOC approval *(optional)*

May 31 (or earlier)
- Voting members of Academy will receive their ballot for election

June 1: Election runs June 1 – June 30

Mid-July: Election results shared with membership; only outcomes will be shared, not the vote count