

Texas Medical Association
House of Delegates Standing Rules – Special Circumstances

Preamble

These House of Delegates Standing Rules – Special Circumstances serve as an operational guide and description for how the Texas Medical Association’s House of Delegates will conduct its elections of candidates in contested races and business at the virtual annual meeting, which concludes Sept. 12, 2020. The TMA Board of Trustees, acting as a disaster board, authorized the speakers to create these special circumstances rules during a disaster board meeting June 28. These rules shall be in effect until the adjournment of the closing session of the virtual house.

Special Circumstances Rules for TMA House of Delegates Contested Elections

1. Nominations for the 2020 TMA House of Delegates contested elections are closed.
2. Candidates for contested elections must submit their candidate materials, including a two-minute campaign video to be posted on the TMA website, by July 31, 2020. This material will be made available to delegates and TMA members (web login) on Aug. 1. No other candidate videos will be posted or allowed to be forwarded.
3. Candidates are limited to one mass communication outside their caucus to all delegates and alternates.
4. Caucuses are strongly encouraged to ensure that any contact with candidates provides equal and fair opportunities to each candidate in a contested race. Further, caucuses are prohibited from soliciting additional interviews or speeches from candidates outside the TMA-sponsored virtual event and online speeches.
5. The deadline is Aug. 7 for caucuses to report to TMA their list of delegates and alternates.
6. Candidates in contested races will be asked to take part in a virtual event to familiarize delegates with candidates. This may be open to concurrent viewing by TMA members and recorded to allow delayed viewing.
7. Voting will occur through a secure and confidential electronic method and will be open for one full week, starting Friday morning, Aug. 21, at 12:00 am. A “Voting for Candidates Is Now Open” email will be sent at 8 am on Aug. 21 to each credentialed delegate to his or her preferred TMA email address. Delegates may cast their vote by clicking on an auto-login link in the email, which will take them to the TMA website where they can review each candidate’s campaign information and cast their ballot securely. Voting will close on Aug. 28 at 11:59 pm. An email will be sent on Aug. 28 to each credentialed delegate announcing the close of voting.
8. In the event of the need for a runoff election, the house will be notified of the runoff in a similar manner. Candidate materials will be available. Runoff candidates and caucuses will be allowed a single additional contact with delegates. Runoff elections would be held after the formal house opening on Sept. 4 and closed by Thursday night, Sept. 10, at 11:59 pm. The chief teller will review election results.
9. Validated results of the election will be provided by the chief teller, who will review the voting process, canvass election results, and report the final confirmed election results during the house session Saturday morning, Sept. 12. The full house will then ratify the results of the virtual elections.

Special Circumstances Rules for TMA House of Delegates Business

1. The default recommendation is that all currently submitted items of business will be tabled to the 2021 house meeting with some specific exceptions.
 - a. Business considered at the 2020 house should be limited to essential, urgent, or informational items or reports that could reasonably be adopted by consent.
 - b. 2020 business items will be referred to the Special Session Reference Committee and posted online for written testimony. After reference committee consideration of this testimony, a final Special Session Reference Committee report will be submitted and placed on the consent agenda. Consent items may be extracted during the final house session only for a motion to table the item

to the 2021 house meeting or to refer to the board (for consideration or action) with report back at the 2021 house session.

- c. All other submitted items of business will be tabled to the 2021 house meeting with exception of a motion to refer to the board (for consideration or action) with report back at the 2021 house session.
 - d. Submission of additional items of business will be closed.
2. The speakers, with TMA staff (including specifically the TMA staff assigned to each of the four reference committees), will review all currently submitted items of business and identify items that are considered essential or urgent or reports that could reasonably be adopted by consent. These items may be considered by the House Steering Caucus (made up of TMA caucus and section chairs) and if accepted by the House Steering Caucus be posted for consideration and testimony to the reference committee.
 3. Final Session Consideration of Business: After review by the speakers of the Special Session Reference Committee report, the final report will be posted as the order of business two weeks prior to the final session of the house. The final session of the house will allow parliamentary consideration of the reference committee report recommendations. The speakers will be allowed to table (to the 2021 TMA House of Delegates) any final business considered on the house floor that becomes too confusing, complex, or intricate such that it overwhelms the virtual platform during the final session. This decision by the speakers could be overruled by a two-thirds affirmative vote of the house.
 4. Extraction of Consent Items from the Reference Committee Report as Order of Business for Final Session: Extractions of consent items from the final reference committee report Order of Business will be limited to either a motion to table the item to the 2021 House of Delegates or a motion to refer to the board (for consideration or action) with report back at the 2021 house session.