

## **ELECTION RULES**

### **2017 NOW National Conference**

#### **Adopted 3/20/2017, as amended 4/17/2017, by the Election Committee**

1. Members of the Election Committee, once appointed, shall not take part in any campaign work for anyone seeking office at the National NOW Conference. The Election Committee may recruit volunteers to help with the logistics of conducting the election. Volunteers may not wear campaign materials while on duty.
2. Each officer ticket may submit to the Election Committee Chair and the National Action Center, for publication on the now.org website, a platform statement not to exceed 750 words and a 300-word-maximum description or statement of each candidate.
3. One electronic copy of the leadership list shall be made available to each ticket. The leadership list shall include state and chapter officers and contacts for any campus action networks, and shall be provided at least 50 days in advance of the conference. The lists shall include names, postal addresses, electronic mail addresses and telephone numbers where available. In any mailing on whatever subject, when the list was supplied to a candidate or his/her organization, the name of the candidate must be so indicated in the mailing. Multiple communications are permissible.
4. All written campaign materials should contain the following disclosure: "paid for and authorized by: name of individual and/or name of the ticket, address." Any written materials at the conference not having this disclosure statement will be confiscated by the Election Committee. The NOW logo will not appear on campaign literature or material except incidentally within a photograph of the candidate.
5. Staff persons acting on their own time and at their own expense may campaign for any candidate for NOW office, but may not be required to do so. National NOW premises, facilities and supplies shall not be used for campaign purposes.
6. The report of the Nominating Committee will be placed in the conference packet. In addition, each ticket may submit to the Election Committee and the National Action Center, for inclusion in the conference packet, two (2) two-sided 8.5x11" sheets detailing the ticket's platform and providing information about its candidates.
7. There shall be no electioneering or campaign materials displayed (except on the human body) or distributed either within 30 feet of the entrance to the polling place or inside the Registration, Credentialing or Polling rooms.

8. No one may wear campaign materials while registering or credentialing Conference participants or while working at the polling place, as a member of the Election Committee or volunteer.

9. Members of the Election Committee may not campaign or contribute to any campaign.

10. During a plenary session of the Election Conference, each presidential candidate shall be allotted 15 minutes to speak on his/her behalf. Each vice-presidential candidate shall be given 10 minutes to speak on his/her behalf. The remainder of the time will be utilized for a Question and Answer period. The length of this Q&A period will be based on the number of tickets in relation to the total time available for Candidate Speeches in the plenary session.

The Election Committee Chair will moderate the Q&A period. All candidates for any given office will be given the opportunity to respond to any question posed to another candidate for the same office. Once a question is asked, the candidate has one minute to answer the question. The opposing candidate(s) will have one minute to respond to the same question. The moderator will take questions in rotation, from one candidate's/ticket's supporters to the next. In addition, each candidate will be given one minute for closing comments. Candidates may cede their time to the other candidate on their ticket.

11. There shall be an opportunity provided for candidate Q & A forums during one or more breakout sessions.

12. Distribution and display of campaign materials is contingent on the submission of the disclosed record of sources of income and expenditures to the Election Committee Chair (sample attached).

a. Disclosure reports may be submitted at the Board meeting prior to the opening of the Conference.

b. Disclosure reports may be submitted any time at the Elections Conference but preferably before the opening of the Conference. No candidate shall be allowed to distribute or display his/her election materials until such report is provided to the Election Chair. These reports shall be posted as soon as is feasible by the Election Committee. These reports shall include actual and anticipated expenditures to date. Individual (monetary and in-kind) contributions in excess of \$50 must be listed by the name of the donor. A final report of campaign income and expenditures shall be provided to the Election Committee Chair no later than 30 days after the Conference. These reports shall be available for any member of NOW upon request at cost.

13. Candidates may not accept contributions from national NOW vendors or their corporate officers. No outside organizations, political parties or their subunits may contribute to a campaign either directly or indirectly or through their corporate officers.

**14. Travel reimbursement from the National NOW Treasury for incumbent officers and others shall not be allowed beginning 30 days prior to the opening of the National Conference.** Action Center staff members, including officers, assigned to work on the conference are exempted from this prohibition, providing they do not campaign during such travel and are not themselves candidates for office.

15. The following rules shall constitute the press guidelines for candidates for national office:

a. The goal of the NOW press office is first and foremost to develop favorable coverage of NOW in the national media. The office will work to create positive images of all candidates running for national office in NOW on a non-partisan basis.

b. NOW's policy statement regarding Who Speaks for NOW; adopted by the National Board in July of 1978, must be observed. (See the Administrative Policy Manual.)

c. In speaking to reporters, candidates and their staffs should remember that their words create the world's impression of NOW. Therefore, campaign rhetoric that attacks NOW members or their motives should be avoided during interviews. It is clearly better if each NOW candidate is viewed as a champion of ideas rather than the enemy of her sisters. Discussion of internal politicking should be avoided in front of reporters.

All NOW members should be cautious in speaking to reporters, as even "off the record" comments may find their way into print, with the member's name attached. Embarrassment to both the individual member and to the organization should be considered prior to interviews, and should obviously be avoided.

16. Violations of these rules should be promptly reported to the Chair of the Election Committee. The chair will consult with the Election Committee to determine if a campaign violation has occurred and the Committee may assess a fine of up to \$100.00 against either the individual or the ticket, depending on the circumstances and the severity of the violation.

17. All candidates for NOW National Officer positions must sign the Code of Ethics Rules for NOW Officer Elections, the provisions of which shall be enforceable by the Election Committee in the same manner as all other Election Rules for the year in which the election is taking place.

**Code of Ethics Rules for NOW Officer Elections**

As a candidate, I support NOW's commitment to truthful, fair and clean campaigns for elected office.

**Assumptions:** I understand the importance of free, open, sincere and intense debate in maintaining exemplary representative leadership. I believe that electoral campaigns are subject to unacceptable levels of negativism, attack advertising, and other practices which demean civil society. I understand that each candidate is fully responsible for fair and ethical practices by or on behalf of his or her campaign. These core values are fundamental to our members and are widely shared throughout NOW: honesty, fairness, respect, responsibility, and compassion.

**Principles of Fair Campaign Practices:** My campaign will be committed to the principles of honesty, fairness, respect for my opponent(s), responsibility, and compassion.

**Honesty and Fairness:** I shall emphasize my views, beliefs and experiences. I am committed to an open and public discussion of issues and presenting my record with sincerity and frankness.

**Respect:** I shall behave in a respectful manner toward my opponents and their supporters. I shall not use, or allow to be used, personal attacks, innuendo, or stereotyping.

**Responsibility:** I shall not knowingly or recklessly misrepresent my record or that of my opponents. I shall ensure that my campaign staff and campaign supporters will observe these principles of fair campaign practices. I take full responsibility for all advertising or other statements created or used on my behalf by members and supporters. I shall conduct my campaign with open and public discussion of the issues as I see them, presenting my record and policies with intensity, sincerity and frankness, and criticizing without fear and without malice the record and policies of my opponents. I will not condone or allow outside party advertising which does not meet the principles contained in NOW policy. If such practices are used by outside parties without my approval, I shall repudiate it immediately and publicly upon my knowledge of its occurrence.

**Compassion:** In the conduct of my candidacy, I shall show compassion at all times for my opponent(s). I shall remember that the campaign process is fundamental to representative democracy and that my behavior in the campaign affects the integrity of our organization.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Running for \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## CAMPAIGN DISCLOSURE FORM 2017 OFFICER ELECTION

Candidates' Names: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check One:  Pre-Conference Report  Final Report (Due 30 days after election)

<b>SUMMARY</b>	
<b>CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>AMOUNT</b>
Cash Contributions	
In-Kind Estimated Value	
<b>TOTAL</b>	
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>	
Actual to date	
Anticipated additional expenditures	
<b>TOTAL</b>	

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**EXPENDITURES**  
(attach additional pages if necessary)

Date	Payee or Vendor Name/Address/Phone	Purpose of Expenditure	Actual to date	Anticipated

--

