

OPEA Campaign And Election Rules

Special Election • January 2010

The Oklahoma Public Employees Association is vibrant and expanding by virtue of its positive championing of state employees. Candidates for OPEA elective offices are expected to campaign in such a way to bring credit upon themselves and foster the growth and unity of the organization. They should exercise discretion regarding campaign tactics and emphasize their own strengths and qualifications. It is the responsibility of the candidates to familiarize themselves and their campaigners with the following rules.

I. Offices for Special Election

A. Regional Director: Serves on the OPEA Board of Directors representing active employees in one of the 11 OPEA regions in which he/she lives. The Regional Director also serves as Chair of the Regional Council in his/her Region.

B. Retiree Director: Serves on the OPEA Board of Directors representing retired employees in one of the two OPEA retiree regions in which he/she lives.

II. Requirements and Certification of Candidates

A. Candidates for Regional Director and Retiree Director shall be a member in good standing as defined by:

1. Dues paying member for two years prior to filing;
2. Not a member of a competing organization as established by the OPEA Board of Directors;
3. Resides in the OPEA Region in which he/she is seeking office, with the exception of out-of-state members, who may run for office in the OPEA Region which is closest to their residence.

B. Certification of Candidates

1. Candidates must be a member in good standing as verified by OPEA records;
2. The Election Board staff liaison, in consultation with the Election Board Chair or designee, will verify the requirements of each candidate.

III. Terms

A. The term of office for Directors in odd-numbered Regions will be from February 1, 2010, through December 31, 2011.

B. The term of office for Directors in even-numbered Regions will be from February 1, 2010, through December 31, 2012.

IV. Filing

C. The filing period for Regional Director and Retiree Director shall be November 18 through December 4, 2009.

D. Filing forms must be received in the OPEA office no

later than 5 p.m., December 4, 2009.

E. Filing forms shall include name, position sought, home address and telephone, agency, agency address and telephone. Biographies, photos and statement for *The Advocate* are due at the time of filing.

F. Filing forms shall be available two weeks prior to the filing period in the OPEA *Advocate* and at the OPEA state office. Interested candidates may receive filing information and forms by contacting the Election Board liaison at the OPEA office.

G. All candidates filing for office shall be certified by the Election Board for placement on the ballot.

V. Boundaries

A. The OPEA Board of Directors shall establish the number of Regions and boundaries for the election.

B. Active members will vote for Regional Director. Retired members will vote for Retiree Director.

C. Members will vote in the Region in which they live, with the exception of out-of-state members, who will receive a ballot for the OPEA Region which is closest to his/her residence.

VI. Process

A. The Election Board, in consultation with the Board of Directors, will choose a vendor to conduct the election.

B. The ballots will be mailed by January 15, 2010. The voting will close on January 29, 2010.

C. Active members will receive ballots for Regional Director in their area. Retiree members will receive ballots for Retiree Director.

D. The results of the election will be initially opened or disclosed at a meeting of the Election Board with at least two members and a staff liaison present. Candidates will be notified of the meeting and allowed to attend or send a representative. The results of the election will not be opened or revealed before the Election Board meeting.

VII. Campaign Rules

A. Publicity in *The Advocate*

1. All candidates shall have their picture, biography, platform and statement of qualifications published free of charge in the first *Advocate* congruent with the closing of candidate filing. The total word limit is 200 words.

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2. Candidates may purchase advertising in *The Advocate* at a cost of \$50 for one-eighth of a page. Content shall be in accordance with the Preamble to these rules.
 3. Advertising shall not be accepted prior to a candidate having been certified in accordance with Section II. B. 2.
 4. OPEA candidates shall meet the same deadlines as others advertisers.
 5. The Editor shall be responsible for determining the placement of ads.
 6. Signature ads must be accompanied by a signed release.
 7. The Editor shall note the content is a political advertisement.
- B. Campaign Material
1. Acceptable Campaign Material:
 - a) Materials shall be purchased by the candidate within the spending limits established in Section VII. D of these rules.
 - b) Materials shall be formatted in such a manner as not to be confused with official OPEA material.
 - c) Candidates shall not use official OPEA letterhead stationery.
 2. OPEA Information

The Association will provide each candidate with a member list for the region in which the candidate is seeking office.
- C. Endorsements
1. The Executive Director and the OPEA staff shall express no opinion on, or in any way be involved in, the OPEA election as a candidate advocate.
 2. To prevent any perception of a conflict of interest, members of the Association Election Board shall not endorse any OPEA candidate.
- D. Spending Limits
- The campaign spending limit for Regional Director

and Retiree Director shall be \$1,500.00

- E. Campaign Expenditure Forms/Procedure
- The OPEA Election Board shall establish a candidate campaign expense form upon which all candidates shall document all campaign expenditures. Said forms shall be submitted to the OPEA office within 10 working days after the closing date to return the ballots. Complaints regarding spending in excess of set limits shall be made by a candidate to the Election Board for investigation no later than 10 calendar days after the announcement of election winners.

VIII. Complaints

Any OPEA member may file a complaint regarding campaign behavior at any time during the campaign but no later than 10 working days after the announcement of election results. The complaint shall be in writing to the OPEA President at the OPEA office.

1. The President shall refer complaints to the Election Board or the Board of Directors, as deemed appropriate.
2. Failure of the Election Board to act on any election complaint shall result in the complaint being referred to and considered by the OPEA Board of Directors.
3. The Board of Directors shall render decisions on any complaints filed no later than 60 calendar days after the complaint is filed.
 - a) Action by the OPEA Board of Directors may include but shall not be limited to:
 - (1) A letter of concern;
 - (2) A personal conference;
 - (3) A referral to the Election Board for procedural violations;
 - (4) The chair shall submit a recommendation accompanied by any relevant documents to the Board of Directors, the complainant and the alleged violator.
 - b) The Board of Directors will consider the recommendation and notify the concerned parties by certified mail of its decision.