

Election Advocacy Policy

2020-2021

The Fraternity encourages enthusiastic participation in its election process, with the expectation that all sisters will be guided by the values expressed in our Ritual. We are confident that sisters will balance their enthusiasm with awareness that all of our actions in public-- whether in person or via social media-- reflect upon our Fraternity.

This Election Advocacy Policy applies to all members of Alpha Omicron Pi.

There is no campaigning. Some forms of election advocacy within the parameters of this Policy are permitted. For the purposes of this Policy, the term “election advocacy” includes any attempt to directly or indirectly influence a potential voter’s vote in the XB election.” This Policy is designed to: (1) specify permitted and prohibited election-related activities; (2) ensure that each member of Council has opportunities to be informed about the qualifications and intent of each candidate; (3) provide fair and equitable opportunities for members and XB candidates to interact about issues, goals, and priorities; and (4) foster respectful, dignified, courteous, and constructive exchanges of information and opinions.

Each candidate on the ballot will receive a copy of this Policy and a statement to sign which commits her to abiding by it and correcting any supporter who violates it.

All questions about whether an election advocacy activity is acceptable should be directed to the Nominating Trustees in writing and signed via email (nt@alphaomicronpi.org). The Nominating Trustees will investigate possible violations of the Policy and take appropriate actions, which may include removal of the offending candidate from the ballot.

The Nominating Trustees expect the spirit of Fraternity and love, self-control, and fair play to be exercised by all members throughout the election processes.

1. General

- There is no campaigning. Election advocacy as outlined in this Policy is permitted after the NTs have announced the ballot during March 2021.
- The following activities are allowed and are not considered to be election advocacy: (1) private conversations with personal friends; (2) attendance or serving as a speaker at any official AOII event; or (3) undertaking any task necessary and usual for the performance of an appointed or elected AOII position.
- The Nominating Trustees do not regulate private travel of candidates to AOII events during the election year.
- All election advocacy activities must be conducted openly, with respect, and with focus on positives about what a particular candidate can do for AOII without any

reference or allusion to perceived shortcomings or weaknesses of any other candidate. Disparaging comments or attacks will not be tolerated.

- All election advocacy activities must be focused on pertinent issues and visions for the future of the Fraternity.

2. Resources

- There is no campaigning. The Nominating Trustees will provide multimedia opportunities for membership to learn more about the candidates and their views. Additionally, information about each candidate will be included in the Call to Convention.
- No candidate, directly or through proxies or supporters, may enter into a formal or informal agreement with any other candidate, and/or any candidate's proxies or supporters to conduct election advocacy activities together or for their mutual benefit, or to otherwise affect the interests of any other candidate.
- No candidate, proxy, supporter, or opponent may incur expenditures for any election advocacy activity. Fund-raising for election advocacy activities is not permitted.

3. Communications

- Personal telephone calls may be used for election advocacy. Use of automatic calling services (robocalls) is prohibited.
- Personal text messages may be used for election advocacy. Use of automatic texting services is prohibited.
- Election advocacy via social media is allowed only through *personal* social media accounts and those public social media posting opportunities provided by the NTs. No private or public social media groups or campaign-style social media account (AOII-related or others) are considered personal accounts for the purpose of this policy. Sisters are encouraged to pause and reflect before posting thoughts to social media.
- Mailing lists, listservs, and/or social media groups, pages, or accounts to which a member has access due to her AOII roles or involvement may not be used for election advocacy.
- No one may develop any form of electronic communication (including emails, websites, blogs, or social media groups/accounts/pages/hashtags) the purpose of which is to directly or indirectly conduct any form of election advocacy.
- Campaign style materials, such as brochures and advertisements, and mailings through any physical postal service are prohibited.
- Campaign style social media materials, such as special sites, pages, accounts, or advertisements, are prohibited.