

AOII Foundation Board Election Advocacy Policy 2021

Overview

The AOII Foundation encourages enthusiastic participation in its Foundation Board ballot development and election process, with the expectation that all such participation 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 (the “Policy”) applies to all members of Alpha Omicron Pi.

The 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 Foundation Board 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, which will be published in March 2021, will receive a copy of this Policy and a statement to sign which commits her to abiding by the Policy and correcting any supporter who violates it.

For the purposes of this Policy, the term “election advocacy activity/activities” includes any attempt to directly or indirectly influence a potential voter’s vote in the Foundation Board election.

All questions about whether an election advocacy activity (or any act that could reasonably be construed as an election advocacy activity) is acceptable should be directed to the Foundation Nominating Committee FNDNC@alphaomicronpi.org

The Foundation Board Nominating Committee will investigate possible violations of the Policy and take appropriate actions, which may include removal of the offending candidate(s) from the ballot.

It is not the intention of the Foundation Board Nominating Committee to police this process. The Nominating Committee expects the spirit of Fraternity and love, self-control, and fair play to be exercised by all members throughout the ballot development and election processes.

Election Advocacy

1. General

- No election advocacy is permitted until after the Nominating Committee has 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 (the definition of which, if disputed, will be subject to the Nominating Committee’s judgment on a case-by-case basis); (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 Committee does not regulate private travel of candidates to AOII events during the election year. If you are serving as a speaker for an official AOII event, your introductory biography must not include information on the Foundation Board position(s) you are seeking.
- 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(s). 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 Foundation.

2. Resources

- The Nominating Committee will provide varied opportunities for Foundation Board candidates to communicate with the membership regarding their views on issues prior to and during the 2021 International Convention. These opportunities may include online forums, question and answer pages, in-person candidate forums, or organized social media postings. 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.
- Fund-raising for election advocacy activities is not permitted.
- No candidate, proxy, supporter, or opponent may incur expenditures for any election advocacy activity.

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 (including, but not limited to, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram) and those public social media posting opportunities provided by the Nominating Committee. No private or public social media groups (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 websites, blogs, or social media groups/accounts/pages/hashtags) for 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.