

MSSNY Task Force on Nomination and Election Process.

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Draft Task Force Findings:

The Task Force was convened by the appointment of MSSNY President Dr Jakubowicz, pursuant to MSSNY policy 207.935. Members of the Executive Committee representing various regions of the state and Chair of Nominations Committee were appointed to serve on the Task Force, with MSSNY Counsel and Executive Vice President as ex-officio members.

MSSNY's current election nominations process consists of the appointment of the Nominations committee by the president after the HOD. Potential members of the nominations committee are proposed by the counties/districts. The committee consists a representative from each of the 9 districts, and 2 at-large members appointed by the President, then published on MSSNY website. This is followed by candidate solicitation from the counties and districts. The candidate solicitation process was expanded to include MSSNY sections in recent years.

The Nominations Committee then meet to review the candidates and deliberate and vote on the slate of candidates to be officially nominated for the position. Except for the AMA delegation, generally only one candidate is nominated for a particular position. The Nominations committee may, at its discretion, nominate more than one candidate for the same office. The committee typically takes into consideration the prior and current service, prior and current contribution, geographic representation, and other professional qualifications. Given the need to afford less populous counties/districts candidates the opportunity for officer nomination, the committee does consider the geographic origin of the candidate. The committee does not disclose its choice of nominated candidates until the final vote is taken by the committee. The report of the Nominations Committee is submitted to the Council Meeting prior to HOD and published on MSSNY website.

The election process allows for candidate nomination from the floor, and candidates have been put forth in the past outside the slate presented by the Nominations Committee. That process was and can continue to be utilized by members and delegates.

Most other state medical societies have a nomination of slate of one nominated candidate for each office. Candidate vetting is done by the Nominations Committee. The election generally occurs at the annual meeting or House of Delegates. The very similar process is used by Connecticut State Medical Society (CSMS), Medical Society of New Jersey (MSNJ), and Pennsylvania Medical Society. (PAMED)

The taskforce held a general membership town hall on December 2, 2025 on nominations and election process. The participants spoke to some of the historical disagreements within certain districts and delegates on the nominee. Required candidate statement and CV were suggested, even though such material is already requested for all candidates prior to HOD elections. Some spoke to having multiple nominees for the same office. Others spoke to the different leadership tracks available to members: Board, Council, Officers, and AMA delegation. A Zoom candidate forum was also suggested. There is consensus that nominated candidate rotation to continue including upstate counties should be continued.

The task force reconvened after the Town Hall to consider available information and deliberated to come to the following consensus: The President, upon candidate nomination solicitation, will request concurrent candidate statement and CV submission to the Nominations Committee. MSSNY started the information request already for this 2026 HOD election cycle. Given the compressed cycle leading up to an earlier than usual HOD, candidate forum would be deferred till a later year. Given the importance of offering opportunities for Western, Central, and Northern New York counties to put forth candidates to be advanced on MSSNY leadership track, the task force recommends the current process and rotation to remain in place to allow flexibility and future upstate representation. Nominated candidate statements and CV's will be made available to the voting delegates. As the above are procedural/administrative changes, no bylaws change is recommended.

Submitted by:

MSSNY Task Force on Nominations and Election Process

207.935 Revision of Nomination and Election Processes for MSSNY Officers to Enhance Democracy

MSSNY acknowledges the importance of revising its current nomination and election processes to align with democratic principles.

1. MSSNY will establish a special committee comprised of representatives from various segments of its membership to review and propose amendments to the existing nomination and election procedures.
2. The special committee shall conduct a comprehensive assessment of the current processes, seeking input from MSSNY members through surveys, town hall meetings, and other inclusive methods.
3. The special committee shall consider best practices in democratic nomination and election procedures within similar organizations and incorporate these insights into the revised MSSNY processes.
4. The revised processes should prioritize transparency, inclusivity, and fairness, ensuring that all eligible members have equal opportunities to participate in the nomination and election of officers.
5. MSSNY commits to providing clear and accessible information about the revised nomination and election procedures to its members through various communication channels.
6. The special committee shall present its proposed revisions to the MSSNY House of Delegates meeting in 2025 for review and approval.
7. Upon approval, MSSNY will implement the revised nomination and election processes in the subsequent election cycle.
8. MSSNY encourages ongoing evaluation and feedback from its members to further refine and enhance the democratic nature of its nomination and election procedures.

MSSNY reaffirms its commitment to democratic values and acknowledges the importance of continuously evolving its processes to better serve the needs and expectations of its diverse membership. (HOD 2024 – 216)

ARTICLE V. COUNCIL

SECTION F – COUNCIL COMMISSIONS AND COMMITTEES

2. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the president from a list of not less than three nor more than five names submitted by the respective district branches, in conformity with Article VI, Section B, paragraph 3. It shall consist of 11 members, 1 from each district branch and 2 members at large.

In the event that a member of the Nominating Committee who has been selected as the representative of a particular district branch (or an alternate) shall be unable to attend the meeting of this committee, the president shall appoint an at large member from the district branch whose representative is absent, to represent the interests of that district on the Nominating Committee. It shall be the duty of this committee to propose and nominate members of the Medical Society of the State of New York for all vacancies to be filled at the ensuing annual meeting of the House of Delegates. These recommendations shall be made to the House of Delegates in the same manner as prescribed in Article IV, Section D, paragraph 2.

Article VI: OFFICERS

B – DUTIES

President

Within three months after assuming the office of president, the president shall appoint, as prescribed in Article V Section F2, a nominating committee, whose names the president shall cause to be published in the official publication of Medical Society of the State of New York.

Article XI: ELECTIONS

The officers, councilors, and trustees of the Medical Society of the State of New York, and the delegates to the American Medical Association shall be nominated and elected at the annual meeting of the House of Delegates. In odd numbered years beginning with the year 1999 at least one resident physician shall be elected to a full delegate position and at least one medical student shall be elected as an alternate delegate to the American Medical Association. In even numbered years beginning with the year 2000 at least one medical student shall be elected to a full

delegate position and at least one resident physician shall be elected as an alternate delegate to the American Medical Association.

In the event that a member of the Medical Society of the State of New York delegation to the American Medical Association is elected to the position of Speaker or Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association said individual shall automatically serve as a full delegate of the Medical Society of the State of New York to the American Medical Association for the term of service as Speaker or Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association. [1]

A member of the Medical Society of the State of New York who is in arrears for component county medical society dues or state society dues or assessments shall not be eligible for nomination to any office, the Council, the Board of Trustees or as a delegate to the American Medical Association or entitled to vote for any officer, councilor, trustee or delegate.

In the event that the Speaker and the President declare an emergency situation has prevented elections from being held at the Annual Meeting of the House of Delegates, the Speaker shall approve a procedure to conduct elections which may be by written or electronic ballot or by other appropriate media to be sent to voting delegates no later than one month after the scheduled conclusion of the annual meeting. Current office holders shall continue their terms until voting results are final.

SECTION A. BALLOTING

All elections for officers of the State Society and delegates to the American Medical Association shall be by ballot. When nominations are announced, should there be only one candidate for an office, the speaker shall direct the secretary to cast one ballot for the candidate on behalf of the delegates.

The speaker shall appoint a Committee on Rules and Order of Business which shall recommend election and balloting procedures to be approved by the House of Delegates.

For the election of delegates to the American Medical Association, the delegates shall be declared elected in the order of the highest number of votes cast until the allotted number shall have been chosen; a corresponding number in the next highest order of votes cast shall be declared alternate delegates.

When the full quota of elected delegates or alternate delegates is not available for attendance at the meeting of the House of Delegates of the American Medical Association, the president of the Medical Society of the State of New York shall appoint and certify a sufficient number to complete the quota.

A duly elected delegate to the American Medical Association who does not serve as such because of reduction in number of delegates to which the Medical Society of the State of New York is entitled shall fill any vacancy which may occur in the delegation before alternate delegates are designated for that purpose.

The delegates and alternate delegates shall take office at the beginning of the calendar year following their election and shall serve for a term of two years, except in the case of medical student or resident physician delegates or alternate delegates, who shall serve for a term of one year.

[1] Pursuant to the AMA Bylaws, the State Medical Society represented by the delegate elected to be Speaker or Vice Speaker of the House of Delegates of the AMA is entitled to an additional delegate for the term of service of the Speaker or Vice Speaker with full rights and privileges in the House of Delegates.[/fusion_text][[/fusion_builder_column]][/fusion_builder_row][[/fusion_builder_container]]

Article XI: NOMINATING COMMITTEE

SECTION 2

The election process is started in mid-July when the county medical societies and district branch presidents are contacted to request representatives for appointment to the Nominating Committee. The President of MSSNY is then provided with those nominations and the Nominating Committee is appointed according to the Bylaws Article XI, Section 2 which states: The Nominating Committee shall be appointed by the president from a list of not less than three nor more than five names.