

2018 Election Review Considerations (EPP Section 9.2)

Date: 08/21/2017

Item #	Description	Policy Impact	Policy/Bylaws	Considerations/Notes/Actions
For Board Consideration and Action/Approval				
1B	Address and specify confidentiality or release of Candidate Application material.	Y	EPP 6.2.1.3	Provide for the confidentiality or release of Candidate Applications and other candidate-provided information not currently addressed in EPP. For example Petition signatures are confidential. Member Privacy Policy and Open Records Policy provide for confidentiality of Member Records.
2B	Candidate Questionnaire is 400 Word count limit.	Y	EPP 6.2.1.1.5	Suggest adding language which states the Word count does not include questions themselves.
3B	Consider allowing Members or Candidate Applicants to receive Voter History List earlier in Election process; and also after the just concluded Election (that is, list of those participating in concluded election).	Y	EPP 7.12.1	Currently, Candidates receive access after Board approves Qualified Candidates usually at about 2 months prior to Election.
4B	Consider providing detail requirements for spacing and fonts of bios. Require single spaced vs. double and specify font requirements.	Y	EPP 6.2.1.1.4	Add standardization to bio section in EPP. Staff recommends single spacing otherwise we may run into issue with number of pages for bio booklets - additional cost impact.
5B	Consideration of location of Candidate Forum - conduct inside Voting District	Y	EPP 7.5 and 7.7	EPP 7.5 requires a Candidate Forum at HQ; EPP 7.7 currently allows for other locations for "Meet the Candidate" Events. Location of Forum and Events are influenced by accessibility, technical equipment (e.g. , video, sound, internet access, space), Member attendance and cost.

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6B	Amend EPP to reference to or a definition of a Member's Voting District as the "Primary Account", how it is determined, and frequency of when it can be changed.	Y	Bylaws Article II, Section 6 EPP 8.1	<p>Add a reference in EPP that a Member's primary account is established as the voting district for each member. Tariff and Business Rules 110.8.L. Currently, the voting district listed on a member's bill is established by the account designated with the membership fee.</p> <p>Add a provision that a Member with multiple accounts may change the account on which their Membership fee is associated once every 3 years. Three years will complete any 3-year term for a Director election cycle that the Member has previously participated.</p> <p>Tariff 100.8.L: Primary Account – For a member that has multiple accounts, the account of the Member in which the membership fee is assigned and also provides that member's voting district.</p>
7B	Establish additional authentication for valid ballot: for example require Member signature, Membership number or other Member authentication	Y	Bylaws Article II, Section 8 EPP 7.4	Would require additional steps or information from Members in order to cast a ballot. Could reduce voter participation with additional requirements. Mailed ballots could require additional Member information; Online and iPad voting process could be enhanced. The use of SmartHub would validate the eligible voter through the use of login credentials.
8B	Remove technical restrictions currently made on the format of PEC's electronically-provided Membership List.	Y		PEC Currently "locks" some of the functions of the electronic list by have an "erase date", restricting manipulation of data. Original purpose of these efforts was based on Board desire to protect Member data and the possibly longevity of access to the information or possible use for purposes other than PEC business.
9B	Require PEC-taken Candidate photos or Require Current Candidate photos when self-provided, for example - taken within last 5 years.	Y	EPP 7.1 and 7.6	Could standardize photo quality and format. Would ensure correctness of photos.
10B	Require that name provided on Candidate Application for use on Ballot is the name used throughout election process and disallow any changes.	Y	EPP 6.2.1.1	

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11B	Restrict form and format of Ballot Name. For example, use of only Legal Name, use of only Legal Name or "commonly known as" nicknames. Prohibit use of titles, professional designations or credentials.	Y	EPP 6.2.1.1	Might require proof of Legal Name and QEC review of authenticity of nickname use. Reference for example: Texas Election Code, Title 5, Chapter 52, Section 52.003(1): a name shall be placed on the ballot in the form indicated on the candidate's application or, if the application was not filed with the authority, in the form certified to the authority. Subchapter B, Section 52.033 - titles are prohibited. Except as otherwise provided by this subchapter, a title or designation of office, status, or position may not be used in conjunction with a candidate's name on the ballot.
12B	SmartHub launch for single member district voting - considered an "on-line vote"	N	N/A	This enhancement is currently under review by the Elections Committee and could be implemented for 2018 election.
13B	Specify the timing of release of all candidate-provided information.	Y	EPP 6.2.1.3	Candidate names are currently released when made known to the Qualifications and Election Committee (QEC). EPP does not address when other information is made available. PEC staff has released Qualified Candidate information when Election HQ website goes live which is generally 1 week before Mail/On-line voting begins. Staff recommends providing specify on timing of release after release on names to the QEC.
14B	Weekly Voting Turnout Reports - - include District-by-District voting turnout.	Y	EPP 7.12	Staff recommends this enhancement and can achieve in 2018 with election services provider.
Staff Enhancements (Including Administrative Items)				
1S	Add email address to the candidate application	N	N/A	Administrative: Revise Candidate Application
2S	Add additional week in between when the QEC meets and when its report is due to Board. Ensures QEC time to meet, ask questions and receive input from candidate/members.	N	N/A	Staff will adjust election timeline prior to its annual approval.
3S	Background Check Verification Contractor – confirm contractors ability to provide information necessary for qualifications review by QEC	N	EPP 6.2.1.7	Administrative: Possible Solicitation and Procurement Needed

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4S	<p>Candidate Application and Intake Form Enhancements: Add a place for Candidate Applicant to list employment and associations for past 5 years. Currently we utilize the bios/conflict of interest to gather this information and some bios/conflict of interest may not include specific employers and/or dates.</p> <p>✳ Utilize fillable PDF for Intake Form and send electronically prior to Candidate Orientation along with the Copyright Waiver Form.</p> <p>✳ Consider standardization of bio materials to include items such as last 5 years of employment, associations, education to assist with the verification of qualifications.</p>	N	EPP/Bylaws	Administrative: Revise Candidate Application and Implement/Create Fillable PDF Form
5S	Candidate Intake Sheet Enhancement - Add "media" to candidate intake form so that the column reads "Available to members and media upon request." Need to be more specific on release of information to members and media. Provide for Candidate Authorization.	N	N/A	Administrative: Revise Intake Form
6S	Consider and adopt new technologies for format, access and use of PEC candidate videos.	N	N/A	Staff will explore and implement technically available solutions.
7S	Demographic tool from Survey and Ballot Systems (SBS)	N	N/A	Staff to request demographic tool from SBS. Could assist in Voter turnout communications or messaging. Currently available under contract at no additional cost.
8S	Ensure that name provided on Application for use on Ballot is used consistently throughout the process for QEC, public release, Board resolution, and Ballot and all election related materials/communications. Board resolution is the Ballot language, including name as it is to appear on Ballot.	N	N/A	Staff will implement this change.
9S	Questionnaire Enhancement: when sending questionnaire to the applicants, format a standard location and insertion of their name, director district.	N	N/A	Administrative: Update Questionnaire