

Canon 4

Conduct of Elections

- Section 1. All elections at any annual or special meeting of the Convention shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this Canon.
- Section 2. Elections for all positions, except for the election of a Bishop, shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of this part of Canon 4:
- 2(a) On the first day of the meeting of the Convention and as an early order of business, nominations shall be made for each office and position to be filled by election at such meeting. After receipt of the report of the Committee on Nominations, or in the absence thereof, nominations may be made from the floor.
- 2(b). For the purpose of voting upon each office and position to be filled by election, except those for which the number of nominees does not exceed the number to be elected, the Secretary of the Diocesan Convention shall prepare and furnish to the Convention suitable ballots. Each ballot shall contain the name or symbol of every person nominated. Where the vote is required to be by Orders, ballots of different colors shall be prepared for each Order. Only accredited delegates shall vote, and no delegate shall vote more than one ballot in any election. No ballot shall be voted as the proxy vote of any delegate, present or absent.
- 2(c). In the election of the Secretary of the Diocese, Secretary of the Diocesan Convention, Treasurer, and Historiographer, each office shall be voted on separately and a majority vote of the delegates voting for each office shall be required for election. In the event that no candidate shall receive a majority vote on a particular ballot the candidate with the least number of votes on such ballot shall be eliminated from the next ballot. Balloting shall continue until one candidate shall receive a majority vote.
- 2(d). In the case of the election of Members of the Standing Committee, each member to be elected shall be voted on separately by orders and a majority vote in both orders for a candidate shall be required for an election. In the event that there shall be more than two nominees for a particular office, and no single candidate shall receive a majority vote in both orders, the candidate receiving the least number of votes in both orders shall be eliminated from the next ballot. Balloting shall continue until one candidate shall receive a majority vote in both orders; providing that if at the conclusion of the third or any subsequent balloting for one or two candidates there is no election, a candidate shall nevertheless be declared elected if the candidate receives on such balloting the combined favoring vote of a majority of the accredited Lay and Clerical delegates registered at the Convention.
- 2(e). In the case of election of deputies and alternate deputies to the General Convention, each delegate shall vote for four Lay Deputies or alternate Lay

Canon 4
Conduct of Elections

Deputies and four Clerical Deputies or alternate Clerical Deputies, as the case may be. In the event that there are more than eight lay or eight clerical nominees, there shall be a nominating ballot on the nominees of such order with the vote not being by orders but by all the delegates. All but the eight nominees in such order receiving the highest number of votes shall be eliminated.

Following the conclusion of such nominating ballots as defined in the prior paragraphs, the lay and clerical delegates, voting separately, shall vote on the eight nominees of each order. Any candidate who receives a majority vote of both orders shall be declared elected. In the event four candidates of each order do not receive a majority vote in both orders on the first ballot, the candidate or candidates elected and those receiving the least number of votes in each order shall be eliminated from the next ballot. Balloting shall continue in the same manner for the remaining positions not elected until a total of four candidates of each order shall receive a majority vote in both orders.

- 2(f). At any time that there shall be no more than two candidates contending for the same office in an election conducted pursuant to this Canon, and two successive ballots shall have been taken, both of which shall have resulted in tie votes between such candidates, then such election shall be decided by lot, any provision in the preceding sections to the contrary notwithstanding. A failure to obtain a concurrent vote from each order, in any election in which a majority vote in both orders is required for election, shall not be deemed to be a tie vote for purposes of this Canon.

Section 3. Election of a Bishop. The following procedures (aka “rules”) for election of a Bishop shall apply, taking into account the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of The Episcopal Church (“TEC”) and The Episcopal Diocese of Indianapolis “Diocese”). In the event of a conflict between the Constitution and Canons of TEC and these provisions, the provisions of the Constitution and Canons of TEC shall prevail.

3(a). The Ecclesiastical Authority of the Diocese shall set the date for election of the next Bishop. The date shall be published to the Diocese as soon as practicable after it has been determined. The Ecclesiastical Authority shall preside at the election. The regularly adopted Rules for Diocesan Convention-Decorum and Debate- shall be applicable during the election for the bishop.

3(b). In accordance with Diocesan Constitution III.8, only those clerical and lay deputies properly seated may be present for the election.

Canon 4

Conduct of Elections

3(c) To preserve the decorum and confidentiality of the proceedings, no personal electronic devices of any kind (cell phones, pagers, etc.) will be allowed on the floor during the election. The Standing Committee will make arrangements to collect such electronic devices before the doors are closed for the election and thereafter to return such devices to their owners.

3(d) The Standing Committee shall determine the procedures for the election, taking into account Diocesan Constitution III.8 and III.9, including appointing persons to receive and count ballots and to announce the results of such ballots. Such procedures may include utilizing the same persons as are used to receive and count ballots for other elections. A lead teller shall be appointed by the Standing Committee who shall supervise the balloting process and certify the election results.

3(e) The time for the election of the bishop shall be as soon as practicable once the Diocesan Convention (or Special meeting) is convened. The Standing Committee shall publish the time of opening and closing of the first (and any necessary subsequent) balloting periods from the floor of the Convention. The time of opening and closing of the first balloting period may also be included in the agenda for the Convention if practicable. The time for balloting shall be not less than ½ hour per ballot, if more than one ballot is necessary.

As soon as the results of a ballot are known, they shall be delivered to the Ecclesiastical Authority, who shall announce the results to the entire body. If a subsequent ballot is necessary, the Ecclesiastical Authority, after conferring with the Chair of the Standing Committee, shall announce the next balloting period (and for each subsequent balloting period until a candidate is elected pursuant to the requirements of Diocesan Constitution III.8).

Balloting may be done via paper or electronic equipment, or such other means as the Standing Committee determines is best appropriate.

3(f) Once an election has occurred according to the requirements of Diocesan Constitution III.8, all clerical and lay delegates shall be requested to sign the Testimonial of Election required by TEC Canon III.11.3(a)(3). The Standing Committee shall insure that sufficient copies of such Testimonial Election are available to the clerical and lay delegates for signature.

Reasons for proposed changes: Currently, there are no provisions in our Diocesan Canons relating to election of a Bishop. The TEC Constitution and Canons state that such as election shall occur according to rules adopted by the Diocese conducting the election. It seems appropriate to adopt some general rules about electing a Bishop

Canon 4
Conduct of Elections

that provide guidance and assistance the next time an election for a Bishop occurs while recognizing that situations change, technologies change, and there is some value in enabling the Standing Committee, the Search and Transition Committees to adapt to needs at the particular time.