

**DIOCESE OF PENNSYLVANIA  
241st CONVENTION  
OCTOBER 19, 2024**

**R-4**

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**AMENDING STANDING ORDER V AND CANON 4.7.5  
REGARDING NOMINATIONS FOR DIOCESAN OFFICES  
TO MOVE THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS FROM 60 DAYS  
PRIOR TO CONVENTION TO 14 DAYS AND TO CONFORM  
THE ORDER AND CANONS TO CURRENT PRACTICE**

Resolved: Convention Standing Order V of the Diocese of Pennsylvania, and Canon 4.7.5 shall be amended as follows:

V. Nominations and Elections

~~**Nominations to offices to be filled by the Convention.**~~

~~1. Not less than four months in advance of each Annual~~Stated~~ Convention ~~the Bishop shall appoint a committee of at least ten Communicants of the Diocese, at least five of whom shall be Clergymen and at least five Lay persons, to make nominations for all Diocesan offices to be filled at such Convention.~~ the Nominating Committee shall publicize a list of all positions to be filled by election at the upcoming Annual Convention, and shall include the names of the persons currently serving in the above offices, indicating whether they are eligible for re-election. The Nominating Committee shall present a preliminary list of its nominees to the Committee on Elections not less than 60 days prior to the Annual Convention, and the final list of its nominees to the Committee on Elections not less than 14 days prior to the Annual Convention . The Committee on Elections shall promptly arrange to publicize these lists to the Parishes and Missions.~~

~~2. — The Committee on Elections shall place on the list of nominations the offices to be filled at the ensuing Annual~~Stated~~ Convention and the names of the persons currently serving in the above offices, indicating whether they are eligible for re-election.~~

~~1. 2. Persons desiring to nominate themselves or another person for any Diocesan office shall communicate their intention to the Nominating Committee by such means as the Nominating Committee may prescribe. Any ten persons, Clerical or Lay, entitled to vote in the last Convention or eligible to vote in the Convention, may nominate any person or persons for election to office. Such nominations shall be in writing with supporting signatures on one or more pages, and directed to the Chairman of the Committee on Elections, to arrive in his care not later than 30 days prior to the date of the Convention. (Adopted October 20, 1972)~~

3. The ~~Chairman~~ of the Committee on Elections shall ordinarily be the Secretary of the Convention, and **the Chair or another person that the Chair shall designate** shall notify all nominees that they have been nominated and of their right to withdraw. (~~Adopted October 20, 1972~~)

4. Not later than ~~ten (10) fifteen (15)~~ days prior to the Convention, the ~~Chairman of the~~ Committee on Elections shall **arrange** to publish and **make available** send to all delegates ~~the~~ list of those nominated by the Nominating Committee for all offices to be held, **and a list of all nominated by petition for those offices**, with the names of those who are incumbents and eligible for re-election also indicated. If only the required number of candidates to any office have been nominated, the report shall so state. (~~Adopted October 20, 1972~~)

5. Nominations from the floor shall be accepted, ~~but the Presiding Officer is directed to limit the number of nominating and/or seconding speeches and the time each speaker is allowed as shall best serve the Convention, subject to the approval of the Convention.~~ (~~Adopted October 20, 1972~~) **subject to such rules as the Committee on Elections shall prescribe.**

#### Canon 4.7.5 (The Nominating Committee)

~~Not less than one hundred and fifty days in advance of each Stated Convention the Nominating Committee shall publicize a list of all positions to be filled by election at the upcoming Convention. Not less than sixty days in advance of each Stated Convention the Nominating Committee shall present its slate of nominations to the Committee on Elections. The Secretary of Convention shall publicize this list to the Parishes and Missions within ten days of receipt of the same.~~

**EXPLANATION:** The current Standing Order has been interpreted to close nominations 60 days before Convention, which has resulted in many fewer nominees than offices up for election and a flood of nominations from the floor on the day of Convention. The Committee on Elections has had difficulty processing the number of last-minute nominees in order to get them on the ballot so that elections may be timely held. In addition, delegates are afforded no opportunity to obtain information about last-minute nominees from the floor.

The goal of this Resolution is to obtain more nominees for Diocesan offices prior to the day of Convention, so as to avoid the problems caused by massed numbers of nominations from the floor, by moving the final date for nominations from 60 days before Convention to 14 days. The origin of the 60-day rule is unknown, but presumably it stems from the era when the Diocese printed both ballots and all election-related material and needed considerable lead time to do so. Those considerations no longer apply as voting is done electronically and information can quickly be provided to delegates through the Diocesan website. Another reason for the 60-day rule might have been to insure that all nominees were identified before the first pre-Convention meeting, which is usually scheduled for about 45 days before Convention. Any potential advantage that an early nominee may enjoy in terms of exposure at pre-Convention meetings,

however, is outweighed by the benefit all delegates will receive in having biographical and other information about more of the nominees they will be considering for election.

The practice of receiving nominations from the floor will continue, subject to rules the Committee on Elections may prescribe.

This Resolution also proposes to delete the former practice of requiring nominations to be by petition (which preceded the formation of the Nominations Committee) and replace it with the current practice of allowing the Committee on Elections to determine the manner in which nominations may be made. It further proposes to merge the text of current Canon 4.7.5 into Section 1 of Standing Order, as the two are currently inconsistent in several respects.

In order to be approved this Resolution must be passed by a single Convention by a 2/3 vote.