

Toastmasters Policy and Protocol

Policy 3.0: Ethics and Conduct

Political Ethics

- A. No action shall be taken—written, verbal, or otherwise—which interferes with the right of every qualified member to seek and achieve election to office at any level.
- B. No action shall be taken that interferes with the right and duty of every delegate and of every proxyholder to vote according to his or her best judgment.
 - I. No individual member, club, district, or other group shall engage in any activity or campaign by use of threats, restrictions, intimidations, deals, candidate slates, pressures, or other unethical means which might prevent or dissuade any member from competing in an election process or from exercising his or her best judgment.
 - II. No person or entity shall publish or distribute any material which contains defamatory remarks, malicious or derogatory charges, or false or libelous statements.
 - III. Except for district conferences and the International Convention, all meetings of district officers and international directors shall be confined to such activities as assist the district officers in fulfilling their responsibilities and shall not be used for political purposes.
- C. All communications and activities endorsing a candidate, either by the candidate or by supporters of the candidate, shall focus on the candidate's Toastmasters accomplishments and personal qualifications for office. Endorsements shall not be used without the permission of the endorser.
- D. No negative information about candidates is allowed in distributed written communications or in communications at an official Toastmasters meeting.
- E. All activities, publications, letters, speeches, and conduct of campaign participants shall reflect Toastmasters International's values.
- F. No member, other than the proxy signer, shall instruct any proxyholder how to vote proxies at any election.