



2024 Fall Elections
SUMMARY OF PROCESS

ARTICLE VI

NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

(From WSF Bylaws Amended November 19, 2020)

Directors shall be elected by the general membership of the Foundation. Elections of Directors will start with a solicitation for Director Nominees from the Chapters, Affiliates, and membership at-large by the Director Candidate Evaluation Committee (DCEC). Once nominations are received, the DCEC will perform an evaluation of each nominee and forward said evaluations to the Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee will determine the final list of candidates to be on the ballots to be sent to the membership. This process, including descriptions of the Director Candidate Evaluation and Nominating Committees are contained in this Article.

Section 1. Director Qualifications

All Director Candidates shall be a member in good standing of the Foundation and shall have attended at least two (2) annual conventions prior to his or her nomination, must have served on a committee of the Foundation, or served as an officer or director of a Chapter or Affiliate of the Foundation, or performed other comparable service acceptable to the nominating committee that would demonstrate a commitment to the Foundation and wildlife.

Section 2. Director Candidate Evaluation Committee

- (a) The Director Candidate Evaluation Committee shall be composed of five (5) members: the Chair of the Board, one current Board Member (who shall not be eligible for nomination to the Board that year, or is eligible but who has elected not to seek re-election) as selected by the then-Chair, and three (3) persons from the membership at-large.

- (b) The at-large members shall be appointed by the then-Chair and approved by the Board to serve three (3) year terms, provided, however, that the initial at-large members shall be appointed by the then-Chair with one (1) member to serve a one (1) year term, one (1) member to serve a two (2) year term, and one (1) member to serve a three (3) year term. Thereafter, the at-large members shall have staggered terms. The then-Chair shall fill any vacancies to serve the remainder of the term of any at-large member who resigns or is unable to complete his/her term.
- (c) No later than May 1st, the Chair of the Director Candidate Evaluation Committee shall solicit potential candidates from the Presidents of Chapters and Affiliates, and the general membership. The Chair shall strive to present a list that contains a greater number of candidates than the number of vacancies occurring on the board.
- (d) Names of potential Director Candidates, along with a completed nomination questionnaire, must be received by the Chair of the Board, acting on behalf of the Director Candidate Evaluation Committee, no later than July 1st. The Chair shall transmit copies of the completed nomination evaluation questionnaires to all Committee members.
- (e) The Director Candidate Evaluation Committee shall be responsible for evaluating all potential candidates for Director. The Chair of the Board may assign individual committee members to evaluate or verify information about individual candidates. In addition, the Chair, or his or her designated committee member(s), may request additional information from the potential candidates and the Presidents for the Chapters and Affiliates of the Foundation.
- (f) In rating the Director Candidates, the Committee shall consider the completed questionnaire, any letters of recommendation, prior Foundation committee membership, involvement with Chapters and/or Affiliates, other service to the Foundation, demonstrated general business experience (including strategic planning and implementation, problem solving ability, service on other boards of directors and/or demonstrated ability in charitable fundraising), and any further qualifications determined by the committee to be in the best interests of the Foundation.
- (f) Candidates shall be rated “Acceptable and Highly Recommended”, “Acceptable and Recommended”, “Acceptable”, or “Not Acceptable”.
- (g) No later than August 15th, the Committee shall finalize its rating of the candidates and submit its ratings to the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Nomination Process

- (a) A quorum of the Board of Directors, excluding those Directors whose term is expiring and who wish to be eligible to be nominated for an additional term, hereinafter called "the Board," shall finalize the nomination process.
- (b) The Board shall be responsible for nomination of Directors who are to be placed on the ballot for election by the general membership. Prior to establishing a slate of candidates for the office of Director, the Board shall solicit the advice and recommendation of the Director Candidate Evaluation Committee.
- (c) The Board shall consider those candidates who have been previously evaluated by the Director Candidate Evaluation Committee.
- (d) No later than September 15th, the Nominating Committee shall select a list of nominees, by majority vote, for the office of Director. The Nominating Committee shall strive to present a list that contains a greater number of candidates than the number of vacancies occurring on the board.

Section 4. Election Process

- (a) Annual election of Directors shall be conducted by paper or electronic ballot of members. No later than October 15th the Secretary shall cause a paper or electronic ballot bearing authenticating membership numbers to be mailed or emailed to each member entitled to vote, directed to his or her last physical or email address of record with the Foundation, provided however, that to be entitled to a ballot, a properly completed, fully paid application for membership shall have been received by the Secretary at least thirty (30) days prior to the mailing or emailing of said ballot.
- (b) The ballot shall list thereon the names of all nominees proposed by the Board. The order of nominees on the ballot shall be rotated after every five hundred (500) ballots. The ballot shall provide blank spaces for 'write-in' nominations equal to the number of vacancies to be filled. A return envelope shall be enclosed with each printed ballot. The final date on or before which the ballot must be received by the Foundation in order for it to be counted shall be shown clearly on the ballot.
- (c) A member desiring to vote shall clearly mark his or her ballot for choice of Directors. The member may make the selection from the list of nominees printed on the ballot, or in lieu of one (1) or more of such nominees, may write or type in the names of other members whom the voting member believes eligible to hold the office of Director. In either case, in order for the ballot to be valid, it must not contain a total number of votes greater than the number of Directors to be elected. Having marked the ballot, the member must mail or email the ballot to the Foundation. Any ballot received by the Foundation later than close of business December 15th shall be invalid and shall not be counted. The Chair or President

shall authorize the use of an independent accounting firm to tabulate ballots and supervise and validate the election.

- (d) A ballot shall be invalid if not cast on the official written or electronic ballot form provided by the Foundation, if not received by the Foundation on or before the prescribed latest date specified on the ballot, if the voter has already voted, if the ballot is not clearly marked, or if the ballot contains votes for more candidates than the number of Directors to be elected. However, no ballot shall be invalidated for failure to contain a vote for each of the vacancies to be filled in the election.
- (e) A ballot judged invalid shall have the reason noted thereon, and clearly indicate the person who examined it and made the determination of invalidity. All written and electronic ballots, whether judged valid or invalid, shall be preserved by the Foundation for one hundred twenty (120) days. Until that time, any petitioning candidate may make application to the Executive Committee or to the Board of Directors for a canvas or recount, provided the difference in the votes cast for such petitioning candidate and the next highest vote getter is less than one half (1/2) of one percent (1%). If no such application is made before expiration of the one hundred twenty (120) day period, or for redress within twenty-one (21) days after such canvas or recount, all protests or grievances shall be deemed to have been waived, and the written or emails containing ballots may be destroyed.
- (f) In the event of a tie vote between two (2) or more persons for the last vacancy to be filled, the election shall be decided by a vote of the members at the Annual Meeting of Members.
- (g) Names of the newly elected Directors shall be announced at the Annual Meeting of Members, and shall be published in the next succeeding issue of the Magazine.