

Title 6. Governance

Division 1. Board of Governors

Chapter 1. Election of Governors

Rule 6.1 Election matters in general

- (A) Subject to the supervision and control of the board, the Secretary is responsible for administration and supervision of the election of attorney members of the board. These duties include
- (1) preparing and distributing election forms and ballots;
 - (2) preparing and distributing eligibility and voting lists;
 - (3) determining validity of nominations;
 - (4) counting ballots;
 - (5) appointing canvassing boards and recount committees; and
 - (6) maintaining custody and control of election materials.
- (B) A Nominating Petition, Candidate Statement, or any other form required by rule in this division must be completed in accordance with instructions and filed by the dates set forth in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines.

Rule 6.2 Nomination of governors

- (A) A qualified member¹ must petition for candidacy by filing a completed Nominating Petition.² The Nominating Petition may be filed electronically. Candidates who file electronically must retain the original copy of the petition for four years and produce it to the State Bar upon request.
- (B) In a State Bar District with more than one board vacancy, a candidate may submit a Nominating Petition for only one vacant office. The office must be designated on the Nominating Petition.
- (C) The Secretary may extend the deadline for filing a Nominating Petition up to ten working days if
- (1) no valid Nominating Petition has been filed;
 - (2) the only valid Nominating Petition filed is withdrawn before the deadline in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines; or
 - (3) only one candidate has filed a valid Nominating Petition and has died or become ineligible.

Rule 6.3 Candidate information

- (A) The State Bar will post on its Web site and include in the ballot package mailed to eligible voters biographic information about qualified candidates including education, date admitted to practice, any public record of discipline, and other information in the official membership records of the State Bar.
- (B) Candidates may file a Candidate Statement that describes their views and qualifications for office.
- (C) A candidate for the Board of Governors must disclose his or her membership in a club that discriminates in its membership policies on the basis of race, color, creed, national ancestry, sex, or sexual preference, but is not required to disclose the name of the particular club.

¹ [Bus. & Prof. Code §§ 6015, 6014.](#)

² [Bus. & Prof. Code § 6018.](#)

Rule 6.4 Ballots

- (A) The ballot, any Candidate Statement, and a return envelope must be mailed to the address of record of eligible members at least six weeks before the date specified in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines.
- (B) To be counted, a ballot must be returned in the envelope provided by the State Bar and received in the manner and time designated in the Schedule of Charges and Deadlines. The outside of the return envelope must include the voting member's printed name and address and must be signed by the member. Alternatively, the Secretary may provide for electronic voting using a secure means that complies with the requirements of these rules.

Rule 6.5 Plurality of votes; tie votes

Votes will be counted as prescribed by law.³ The candidate who receives a plurality of the votes cast for an office will be elected a governor of the State Bar. In the event of a tie, the election will be determined by lot. The affected candidates must be notified and may attend the drawing of the lot.

Rule 6.6 Recounts

- (A) No later than five days after certification of election results, a candidate may request a recount. The request must be in the manner prescribed by the Secretary and include advance payment of reasonable fees for the cost of the recount. Members of the State Bar may attend a recount, subject to reasonable conditions imposed by the Secretary.
- (B) As soon as practicable, the Secretary must appoint a recount committee consisting of five active members who did not initially count ballots. The recount committee must
 - (1) recount the ballots;
 - (2) examine the ballots not counted;
 - (3) determine the number of votes validly cast for each candidate in the election; and
 - (4) immediately report the results, which will be final, to the Secretary.

Rule 6.7 Appointment due to a vacancy

- (A) A vacancy on the board occurs when a board member dies, resigns, or ceases to be an active member of the State Bar. The board must fill a vacancy by appointment unless these rules provide otherwise.
- (B) If a winning candidate dies or becomes ineligible or unable to serve before taking office, the office must go to the candidate receiving the next-highest number of votes for that office. If there is no other candidate, the board must appoint a member to fill the vacancy until the next regularly scheduled election.

Rule 6.8 Special election due to a vacancy

- (A) If a vacancy leaves an unexpired term exceeding eighteen months, a special election must be held to fill the balance of the term. This special election must be held in conjunction with the next regularly scheduled Board of Governors election.
- (B) The rules and procedures applicable to a regular election apply to a special election.

³ [Bus. & Prof. Code § 6019.](#)