

TITLE/NAME OF POLICY: **CAMPAIGNING POLICY**

Document Classification:

By-law supporting:

Manual Location:

Committee responsible for policy:

Document control:

Original document	Date: Apr 2005
First adopted by the ZI Board	Date: Apr 2005
Latest revision by the ZI Board	Date:
Most recent review by the ZI B&CC	Date: Jan 2011
Policy Issued or distributed, posted on website	Date: Jan 2011
Next review date (cycle)	Date:

Related Documentation (by-laws, procedure, process, guidelines):

POLICY:

CAMPAIGNING POLICY

Adopted by the International Board January 2011

Zonta needs the most qualified leaders for office. Candidates for Zonta office need to demonstrate high ethical standards. Zonta wishes to ensure the most qualified candidate is elected and will ensure all candidates have the opportunity to inform the membership in a fair, equitable and appropriate way. The following campaigning policy outlines the behaviors expected.

Campaigning is defined as encouraging voters to vote for or discouraging voters from voting for a specific candidate. A candidate is an individual who intends to run for club, district, or international office, whether or not the slate has been issued and whether or not the individual is on the slate.

Campaigning for or by any candidate is not allowed. However information about candidates is necessary for informed voting. Therefore:

- a. After the slate has been issued, a candidate on the slate may be introduced at functions as a candidate for the office for which she or he is nominated.
- b. At a Convention or conference, a candidate running for international or district office, respectively, may give a presentation promoting her candidacy if scheduled as part of a business session.

Dec 13/10 version

Printed hard copies of controlled documents are considered uncontrolled. All personnel using hard copies for ease of reference are required to determine the up-to-date status of any hard copy document ensuring it matches the current electronic version.

- c. The Nominating Committee may distribute materials prepared by the candidates about their background, qualifications and goals.
- d. At Conventions or Conferences candidates on the slate may wear official identification indicating that they are candidates. After being nominated, candidates from the floor are also entitled to wear such identification.
- e. Zontians who are attending a district conference at which elections are held may confer with other members of their club to discuss the candidates, but they may not instruct delegates how to vote.
- f. Zontians who are attending an international Convention may confer with other members from their district to discuss the candidates, but they may not instruct delegates how to vote.
- g. If asked, Zontians may orally provide information to other Zontians about candidates, but may not solicit votes for any candidate.

Examples of Activities that Are Not Permissible

- 1. A candidate's visits, with no substantive purpose, to club meetings or district conferences other than the candidate's own.
- 2. Using culture, ethnicity, age, religion, sexual orientation or geography as a qualification to influence the vote.
- 3. Distributing any gift, trinket, buttons, or other promotional material on behalf of a candidate, at any time.
- 4. Advocating or discouraging the election of a candidate in club or district communications.
- 5. Making a speech about a candidate.
- 6. Encouraging or discouraging clubs from sending delegates or proxies to a conference or Convention in order to improve the likelihood that a candidate will win or lose an election.
- 7. ZI Board members attending District Conferences other than their own district or those assigned to them by the International President, without the prior approval of the ZI President.

Enforcement of the Policy

- 1. Alleged violations of the Policy are to be reported in writing to a member of the Board at the level of the office the candidate is seeking (i.e., Club Board for candidates for club office, District Board for candidates for district office, International Board for candidates for international office).
- 2. The Board may consider alleged violations for examination at a regular or special meeting or, if necessary, by email. The candidate will be given an opportunity to respond to the allegations. If the candidate is a member of the Board, she or he may be present at the consideration of the alleged violations if they are considered at a regular or special meeting, but may not participate in the deliberations or vote. If the Board considers the alleged violations at a regular or special meeting it may, by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting, (1) reprimand the candidate privately; or (2) remove the candidate from the slate. If the international board considers the alleged violations by mail ballot, the vote to impose discipline must be unanimous by the entire Board, except that if the candidate who is alleged to

have engaged in misconduct is a member of the Board, she or he will not be entitled to vote on this matter.

3. If the alleged violation does not come to the Board's attention until after the election, and if the candidate is elected the Board shall follow the disciplinary procedures with respect to removal from office as set forth in the Zonta International Bylaws.

The Zonta International Rules of Procedure prohibit the use of membership lists to contact other Zontians for the purposes of lobbying for or against candidates who are running for office.

Changes tracking log:

Revision(s) date: Jan 2011
Revision(s) made: Jan 2011
Approved by: ZI Board

Dec 13/10 version

Printed hard copies of controlled documents are considered uncontrolled. All personnel using hard copies for ease of reference are required to determine the up-to-date status of any hard copy document ensuring it matches the current electronic version.