

RESOLUTION

On Campaigning

WHEREAS campaigning for office is inequitable for candidates and is perceived by some Board members as detracting from the professional image and mission of the Association,

And WHEREAS campaigning shall be defined as any action undertaken to solicit votes for specific individuals in an election,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the International Reading Association urge all of its members to vote for candidates for office in the Association on the basis of the candidates' records of accomplishment and their potential for leading the Association in its pursuit of its goals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT campaigning in any form, either by individuals or by affiliates, councils, committees, or special interest or other groups in any way affiliated with IRA, is not permissible in IRA elections.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all candidates be informed of this policy by the Nominating Committee at the time of nomination, that all candidates be asked at that time to agree to this policy, and that the names of candidates who refuse to follow this policy be withdrawn from nomination.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT it is the responsibility of the candidate to inform other individuals, organizations, and institutions about this policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT it is the responsibility of all IRA affiliates, councils, committees, and special interest or other groups to be aware of and follow this policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT candidates for office in the Association should refrain from any and all campaigning including, but not limited to, the distribution or mailing of campaign materials, writing, e-mailing, posting on websites, or calling members of the Association to solicit votes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT IRA affiliates, councils, committees, and special interest or other groups should refrain from endorsing or supporting candidates for office in the Association including, but not limited to, the distribution or mailing of campaign materials; writing, e-mailing, or calling members of the Association to solicit votes; and/or endorsing a candidate in publications, events, meetings, conferences or on websites.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT mailing lists of IRA members shall not be available to candidates.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the actions of affiliates, councils, committees, and special interest or other groups that endorse or proactively support a candidate for office will be interpreted as campaigning on the part of the candidate.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors has the right to disqualify any candidate who participates in campaigning or knowingly allows others to campaign on his or her behalf.

(continued)



RESOLUTION

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT sanctions to individuals may include disqualification of candidate (removing name from ballot).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT sanctions to councils may include disqualification for any awards that may be earned during the current year, including Honor Council and Award of Excellence.

(Adopted 1996; Revised 2003)