RESOLUTION

On Campaigning for Office in IRA

WHEREAS campaigning for an IRA office is inequitable for candidates and is perceived by the Association as detracting from its professional image and mission,

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 urges 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 nominated individuals, other individuals, or by affiliates, councils, committees, or special interest or other groups in any way affiliated with IRA, is not permissible in IRA elections. Candidates can, however, discuss literacy issues informally with IRA members.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT campaigning includes the distribution of election information, including nominations and election results through personal communications, including messages distributed on listserves or any other electronic means.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT if another individual, organization, or institution should initiate communication with the candidate expressing a desire to campaign for him/her, it is the responsibility of the candidate to inform that individual, organization, or institution—privately—about this policy.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT all candidates be informed of this policy by the Nominating Committee at the time of nomination, which 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be asked at that time to agree to this policy, and that the names of candidates who refuse to follow this policy be withdrawn from nomination.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 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 mailing or electronic distribution of campaign materials; writing, e-mailing, posting on websites regarding one’s candidacy or soliciting votes, or calling members of the Association to solicit votes.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT any candidate who campaigns or distributes news about his/her candidacy that IRA has requested be kept confidential will be disqualified and prohibited from further participation in the election.

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 affiliate, council, committee, special interest group, or other group to solicit votes; and/or endorsing a candidate in publications, events, meetings, conferences or on websites.

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

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT individuals who campaign will be removed from the ballot.

(Adopted 1996; Revised 2003; Revised May 2012)