Updated October 2026

Elections 101

Eligibility, process, timeline and deadlines

Eligibility

Who can run

- AIAS member in good standing
- Current student enrollment during candidacy
- Chapter MUST be in good standing when candidacy is announced

What you need behind you

- A letter of school support showing the school knows about your run
- A support letter from a current student at your chapter
- A 1:1 meeting with the Past President before submitting

Ways to run:

Declared

Before FORUM

Candidacy Declaration Packets due, counted from the first General Business Session

Undeclared

2+ other certified candidates

Materials must be submitted in advance for eligibility.

From the Floor

No other certified candidates

Requires support at CoP. Must notify Past President in advance.

Ways to run:

Declared

Before FORUM

Candidacy Declaration Packets due, counted from the first General Business Session

- Packet submitted on or before the deadline.
- Approved by the Elections Chair, who notifies you.
- Eligible for pre-FORUM virtual events.

Undeclared

2+ other certified candidates

Materials must be submitted in advance for eligibility.

- Candidacy announced at the opening General Business Session.
- Nominated and seconded by Council of Presidents members outside your home chapter.
- No opening speech, no HQ-hosted ads or pre-FORUM communications.

From the Floor

No other certified candidates

Requires support at CoP. Must notify Past President in advance.

The Election Process

1
Meet
1:1 with the Past President.

2
Declare
Submit your packet on time.

Nov. 18
11:59pm HST/4:59am ET

3
Certify
Elections Chair reviews and notifies

Mid - Late November

4
Campaign
Speeches and Q&A at FORUM

Only after opening speeches.

5
Vote
Council of Presidents votes. Results announced at FORUM.

Keep an eye out for any updates: aias.org/elections.

Packet Contents

Required

- Letter of Intent to the Past President
- Resume or CV (2 pages)
- School support letter (1)
- Chapter member support letter (1)
- Candidate Questionnaire (3 pages)
- Signed: Intern Compensation policy, Code of Ethics, contact sheet

Also submit

- Headshot, one image (required)
- Studio or design work images, 2 pages (optional)
- One campaign flyer or media item (optional)

Submission

Item	Format	File name
Packet	One PDF	LastName_Elections_YEAR.pdf
Headshot	.jpg, 3 MB max	LastName_Elections YEAR_Headshot.jpg
Flyer (optional)	900 × 900 px image, or GIF of 3 frames or fewer	LastName_Elections YEAR_Campaign Item

Email everything to pastpresident@aias.org by the date posted on the website.

FORUM Week Schedule

When	What
Opening General Business Session (CoP) - Saturday, Jan 2	Call for Undeclared Candidates Introductions, Speeches, & Director Q&A
1-2 days before FORUM - Tuesday, January 5	Winter Board meeting; candidates invited to observe.
Opening General Assembly - Wednesday, January 6	Director speeches (1 minute each)
General Assembly - Thursday, January 7	Officer Speeches & Officer Q&A
Last General Assembly before the vote - Friday, January 8	Closing speeches: Officers 4 min, Directors 2 min
Closing General Business Session - Saturday, January 9	Council of Presidents votes; private results, then public

Campaign Timing and Disqualification

When you may campaign

- Not before official elections activities begin
- Before then, only the optional flyer submitted with your packet
- Structured opportunities come from the Elections Chair, with details in December
- After opening speeches, you may share items on your own social media

Disqualification

- At the Elections Chair’s sole discretion, effective immediately
- Reports only through the official Violations Form, by AIAS members
- No speaking with members until results are announced

Code of Conduct

- All candidates must adhere to the AIAS Code of Ethics at all times.
- Any violations may result in disqualification
- Any violations may be reported directly to the Elections Chair.
- We are all in this together!