

Richland County Rules and Resolutions Committee and Ethics Board

Agenda Item Cover

Agenda Item Name: Process for Running for Board Chair/Vice Chair

Department	County Board	Presented By:	Shaun Murphy-Lopez
Date of Meeting:	February 3 rd , 2022	Action Needed:	Vote
Disclosure:	Open Session	Authority:	Structure C
Date submitted:	February 1 st , 2022	Referred by:	n/a
Action needed by no later than (date)	n/a	Resolution	n/a

Recommendation and/or action language:

Motion to recommend amending the proposed process for running for Board Chair/Vice Chair:

- Eliminate step #5
- Amend step #7

Both changes should be drafted into County Board rules for consideration at a future Rules & Resolutions Committee meeting, similar to the motion passed at the January meeting.

Background:

At the January Rules & Resolutions Committee meeting, members adopted a motion to have the following process for running for Board Chair and Vice Chair drafted into County Board rules:

1. The roles of the Board Chair and Vice Chair, as defined in the policy titled “*Authority of Management, Roles of Members and Chairs of Committees, Boards and Commissions*” shall be distributed in the welcome letter for newly elected County Board members.
2. Candidates for Chair and Vice Chair are strongly encouraged to indicate their interest in the positions Committee/Board/Commission and Seat Preference form.
3. Candidates are encouraged to answer two additional questions (beyond the minimum questions on the Supervisor Biography form):
 - If you are elected, are there things you will try to change or do differently as County Board Chair/Vice Chair?
 - How would you describe the style you will use in working with your fellow Supervisors, County committees, County Administrator and other staff?
4. All completed forms (i.e. Committee/Board/Commission and Seat Preference, Supervisor Biography, County Board Chair/Vice Chair candidate answers) will be distributed to all County Board members-elect in advance of the organizational meeting. This will facilitate the process of electing the Chair and Vice Chair, and provide information to the entire board about biographies and appointment preferences.
5. Candidates for County Board Chair and Vice Chair may directly contact County Board members-elect to campaign for the positions.
6. The Clerk shall run the organizational meeting until a Chair has been elected.
7. At the organizational meeting, nominations shall be made and seconded, and the election of Chair and Vice Chair shall follow the verbiage already defined in County Board rules.

At the WCA’s webinar on [January 18th titled “The Organization Meeting.”](#) a question was raised about open meeting issues related to candidates for County Board Chair and Vice Chair campaigning for those positions. Attorney Andy Phillips said the election of the Board Chair is an item of business for the

Richland County Rules and Resolutions Committee and Ethics Board

Agenda Item Cover

Board. If that item is discussed outside of the confines of County Board meetings, the County Board is inviting potential violations of the open meetings law. He recommended limiting conversations outside the County Board meeting to make the campaigning process as clean as possible. As a result, it is recommended to eliminate step #5 above.

To allow candidates to campaign, Attorney Phillips recommended specifying in County Board rules if they are allowed to make a speech, distribute literature, give a PowerPoint presentation, etc. at the organizational meeting. As a result, it is recommended that the Rules Committee brainstorm and adopt campaigning rules for the organizational meeting under step #7 above.

Currently County Board rules says, *“At the organization meeting in even numbered years, the Board shall elect a Chair and Vice- Chair by secret ballot. All ballots shall be formal ballots. A majority of votes of the members present shall be necessary to elect.”*

Attachments and References:

--

Financial Review:

(please check one)

<input type="checkbox"/>	In adopted budget	Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Apportionment needed	Requested Fund Number	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other funding Source		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No financial impact		

Approval:

Review:

Clinton Langreck

Department Head

Administrator, or Elected Office (if applicable)
