

NAHJ Elections Frequently Asked Questions

When will the 2026 elections take place?

Elections begin on Monday, November 2 - Friday, November 13, 2026

When is the nomination period?

Nominations begin Monday, September 21- Sunday, October 4, 2026

What positions are up for election this year?

Nine positions are up for election: President, VP of Broadcast, VP of Digital, VP of Print, Financial Officer, Secretary and Student Representative.

You can read more about each position on the [NAHJ 2026 Elections Hub](#) or by reading the [NAHJ Elections Guide](#).

How long does each board member serve?

All board members, with the exception of the Student Representative, serve two-year terms. The Student Representative serves a one-year term.

How do I nominate someone for a board position?

To nominate someone for a board position, you need to fill out the nomination form through the [NAHJ 2026 Elections Hub](#). You will need to sign into your MemberClicks Account in order to fill out and submit the nomination form.

If you don't remember your login credentials, such as your username or password, you can use the "Retrieve Username" or "Reset Password" at the bottom of the member login page. You can also reach out via email for support, using membership@nahj.org.

The nomination form will let you submit three (3) nominations per position at a time, but there is no limit on how many times you can fill out and submit a nomination form.

Can I nominate myself for a board position?

Yes! But you need to make sure that you meet the eligibility requirements, which are listed below. You can use the same nomination form found on the [NAHJ 2026 Elections Hub](#) landing page.

Please note, you cannot nominate yourself unless you are a member in good standing. To be a member in good standing, you must pay or renew your membership dues by **the Elections Date of Record, which is Sunday, September 21, 2026.**

Am I eligible to run for a board position?

To be a member in good standing, you must pay or renew your membership dues by **the Elections Date of Record, which is Sunday, September 21, 2026.**

The bylaws state that only a Student Member in good standing can run for and serve on the board as the Student Representative. Student Members consist of persons engaged in a program of full-time study in a recognized educational institution of higher learning.

Each position also has additional eligibility requirements you must meet in order to run for and serve on the board. Please read the [NAHJ Elections Guide](#) for additional details.

NOTE: Eligibility requirements for each position begin on pages 4-5 of the elections guide.

The eligibility requirements say I need to get 10 signatures to get nominated, how do I do that?

To get your signatures, ask someone to go to the [NAHJ 2026 Elections Hub](#) landing page and submit a nomination form. When they get to the nomination form, ask that they select the position you would like to run for from the drop down menu then type your name into the form. Finally, ask them to hit “submit” at the bottom of the form. On the backend, our system will collect the nomination and count it as a signature for you.

NOTE:

- **Officers** must receive the nomination of **at least 25 members who are Regular or Academic Members in good standing**. Candidates must be working journalists, defined as earning 51 percent or more of their income from practicing journalism or its instruction.
- The **student representative**, to represent students nationwide, must gather 25 signatures of student members with a current membership and be a full-time student at a recognized and accredited college or university. Moreover, the student must remain a full-time student at a recognized and accredited college throughout his/her tenure. The student representative serves a one-year term.

I've been nominated for a board position or I've nominated myself for a board position, does this mean I'm a candidate?

Not yet! Once you have been nominated for a board position and receive the necessary number of signatures, you will be vetted by the Election Committee. If you pass the vetting process, you will then be formally included on the ballot and in the running for a board position.

What does the Election Committee need to determine if I qualify for the ballot?

Beyond meeting the criteria for the board position, a candidate must also demonstrate a commitment to NAHJ through regular involvement in the organization and demonstrate a commitment to journalism by being active within their place of employment at a news gathering organization, or college or university journalism program.

Additionally, candidates are asked to provide the Election Committee with a current résumé, two (2) professional references, and contact information of their current employer.

In the case of the Student Representative, candidates should submit a current résumé, two professional or academic references and contact information for their school's registrar.

In the event that the Election Committee finds you are not eligible to run for a board position, a representative of the committee will contact you and if possible, give you the opportunity to meet the necessary qualifications.

For additional details on qualifying as a candidate for the Board of Directors, including the Election Committee's vetting process, please read the [NAHJ Elections Guide](#).

NOTE: Candidate qualifications and vetting information are on pages 5-8.

What is the Election Committee and can it help me with my nomination?

The Elections Committee is a group of NAHJ board members appointed by the president to help find candidates and review their qualifications. They are also in charge of verifying the election results, under the watch of the Executive Director and any candidate who wishes to be present.

To ensure a fair election process, the Election Committee strives for independence and will almost always refrain from lending their signature or endorsement to help a potential candidate qualify and run for a board position.

To contact the Elections Advisory Committee, email elections@nahj.org.

I don't see an answer to my questions, what do I do?

You can review the entire [NAHJ Elections Guide](#), which includes information such as the 2026 Elections timeline, full details on board position positions, eligibility requirements and additional roles and responsibilities for each board position.

You can also email the Elections Committee using elections@nahj.org.