

NAHJ 2026 ELECTION RULES

The following rules shall govern the administration of local and national elections for the 2026 elections of the National Association of Hispanic Journalists.

Establishment of the election committee

Elections will be overseen at the national level by the election committee, made up of chair Jess Elizarraras, along with working members as appointed by the chairs. The election committee shall coordinate the administration of the election with association staff.

The national election committee will train all people involved in administering local and national elections.

Local election rules and procedures

Election committees and chairs for local elections

All local chapter elections will be administered by an election committee for each chapter. The chair of the local election committee shall be the Regional Director who represents the chapter's geographic area.

Local chapters must provide a minimum of two voting members to be part of the local election committee and work with the chair. Larger chapters are welcome to recruit more volunteers if needed.

In the case that a Regional Director needs assistance with their constituent chapters because of volume, conflict of interest, or other significant issue, the national election committee will appoint a substitute national board member as chair for specific chapters, with preference for a board member with ties to the constituency if possible.

No member of the local election committee may run for office nor endorse any candidate in an election they are administering.

It is the responsibility of local election committees to establish balloting methods, provide for any centralized campaign events such as forums, vet aspiring candidates for eligibility, administer the balloting process itself, and announce the certified winners of the election.

Chapters shall use a balloting method as determined by the local election committee, with preference for any established and well liked balloting methods local chapters may already

have. The national election committee shall, following consultation with members of local chapters, develop a single and standardized default balloting system and make it available for any chapter that may want it.

Only members who have paid memberships and declare a chapter no later than the day local elections begin are eligible to vote, People who join the association after local elections begin will not be included in the voter rolls.

Professional chapters

As established in the NAHJ bylaws, local boards of both student and professional chapters will have the available seats of president, vice president, treasurer, and secretary.

Local boards may vote to establish an At-Large board seat if one has not already been established for that chapter.

Following the bylaws, which allow the national board to establish additional rules or procedures for the governance of local chapters, local boards may also establish additional board seats via majority vote. Those additional seats must have specific titles and responsibilities established in the chartering of said seat by the local board.

To be eligible to run for a seat on a professional chapter board members must physically reside or work in the chapter's established area, either the metropolitan area for city-wide chapters or the state for state-wide chapters. Members must be a regular, academic, or retired member to be eligible to run for president, vice president, treasurer, secretary, or additional board-created seats.

The at-large seat for a professional chapter also includes associate members as eligible candidates.

Affiliates

The National Association of Hispanic Journalists does not oversee nor administer elections for affiliate organizations (also known as affiliate chapters).

An affiliate organization may turn to the Regional Director representing their geographic area with any questions, but the Regional Director may not be part of the affiliate's election committee unless said director is also an established member of the affiliate.

All resources developed for local chapters operating under the National Association of Hispanic Journalists shall be made available for affiliate organizations as well.

Local election timeline

The voting period for local chapter elections will begin on Monday, November 2, 2026 and conclude on Friday, November 13, 2026.

As of the conclusion of the elections the local board will move into a transition period. The outgoing board has a responsibility to train the incoming board members.

The newly elected board will assume their seats on November 30, 2026. This two week transition period has been determined following consultation with local leadership.

The newly elected board shall fulfill their term until it ends at the conclusion of the 2026 local elections.

Key dates are:

- **September 21:** Announcement & Call for Nominations
- **November 2:** Voting opens at 5 p.m. ET
- **November 13:** Voting closes at 5 p.m. ET
- **November 13 at 5:05 p.m. ET:** Election results sent to committees for announcement
- **November 30:** Newly elected board begins

National Election Rules and Procedures

National election committee

No member of the national election committee may run for office nor endorse any candidate in the national election.

It is the responsibility of the national election committee to establish balloting methods, provide for any centralized campaign events such as forums, vet aspiring candidates for eligibility, assist staff in administering the balloting process itself, and announce the certified winners of the election.

Seats up for election

Being an even-numbered year, the seats available for election in 2026 are the executive board seats, serving a 2 year term, and the Student Representative seat, serving a 1 year term. Any other seats vacant at the time of the date of record will also be up for election.

Eligibility

Eligibility rules are established in the bylaws and cannot be modified via board vote. They are repeated here for reference.

Aspiring candidates to the Executive Board seats must be 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, unless otherwise specified for the position. Officers must receive the nomination of **at least 25 members who are Regular or Academic Members in good standing.**

- **President:** The President must have previously served at least one full term as a member of the Board of Directors in any capacity.
- **Vice President for Print:** The Vice President for Print must work to gather, edit, present or supervise news that is delivered primarily via text and still photographs.
- **Vice President for Broadcast:** The Vice President for Broadcast must work to gather, edit, present or supervise news that is delivered primarily via audio or video.
- **Vice President for Digital:** The Vice President for Digital must work to gather, edit, present or supervise news that intrinsically requires the use of digital technology to communicate with their audience beyond the simple dissemination of text-first or broadcast-first news.
- **General At-Large Officer:** The General At-Large Officer must be a Regular, Academic, Retired, or Associate member of the organization.

- **At-Large Officer for Spanish Language:** The At-Large Officer for Spanish Language must work in Spanish-language media.
- **At-Large Academic Officer:** The At-Large Academic Officer shall be a full-time instructor of journalism at a high school, college, or university.

Aspiring candidates to the Student Representative seat must be a student member over 18 years of age and, given their nationwide constituency, must collect twenty five (25) signatures from student members to be on the ballot.

Term limits

Following legal advice, the 2025 national elections mark the start of the term limits established in the amended national bylaws of 2024. Term limits are not retroactive. The clock on no more than three consecutive terms in the same national seat begins for the seats elected in 2025, serving beginning on January 1, 2026.

National election timeline

Monday, September 21: Announcement & Call for nominations.

Monday, September 21, 11:59pm ET: **The date of record.** *Members must be in good standing by this date to be eligible to vote. [Click here](#) to renew your dues.*

Sunday, October 4, 11:59pm PT: Last day to submit nominations & Deadline to qualify for the ballot. **(25 signatures required)**

Monday, September 21-Monday, October 5: Vetting period conducted by the Elections Committee. (The committee will be vetting throughout the nomination process. Bella will send reports on Monday, Wednesday & Friday.)

- *The Elections committee will notify potential candidates where their nominations stand. Will also request a headshot, bio and 250-word campaign message.*

Monday, September 28: Candidate statements and candidate videos due to election committee

Monday, October 5: NAHJ announces candidates. Email with candidates' messages will be sent to current members by NAHJ.

Monday, October 19: Candidates videos published

Monday, October 26: Candidates second campaign message is due to the elections committee.

Monday, November 2: Candidates second message will be emailed to current members by NAHJ

Monday, November 2: Election begins. Polls are open for two weeks.

Friday, November 13: Elections close at 5:00 p.m. EST. NAHJ will announce winners immediately following.