



Lions Clubs International

300 W 22ND STREET • OAK BROOK ILLINOIS 60523-8842 USA • 630.571.5466

David Kingsbury

GENERAL COUNSEL & SECRETARY

LEGAL DIVISION

December 2023

To: All District Governors

Re: Qualifications and Regulations for Candidates for International Office

With respect to the candidacy requirements for international office, please be advised that the International By-Laws provides the following:

International By-Laws, Article II, Section 2 (a)

Section 2. CANDIDACY REQUIREMENTS FOR THIRD VICE PRESIDENT.

(a) A candidate for the office of international third vice president shall:

- (1) Be an Active Member in good standing of a Lions club in good standing;*
- (2) Have completed or be completing his/her term, by election or appointment, as international director;*
- (3) Secure certification of endorsement by his/her district (single, sub- and multiple) as provided in these by-laws or constitution. Such action shall be tantamount to certification of endorsement for all higher offices in the association if said candidate is elected third vice president.*

International By-Laws, Article II, Section 3

Section 3. CANDIDACY REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR.

A candidate for the office of international director shall:

- (a) Be an Active Member in good standing of a Lions club in good standing.*
- (b) (1) Have completed or be completing a full term or major portion thereof as district governor of a full district of this association; or*
 - (2) Have completed a full term or majority thereof as district governor or provisional district governor of a provisional district which (1) attained in said term or later twenty (20) clubs in good standing or full district status or (2) has been a*



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provisional district for no less than ten (10) years.

(c) Secure the certification of endorsement by his/her district (single, sub- and multiple) in accordance with these by-laws or constitution.

International By-Laws, Article IX, Section 4

Section 4. CANDIDACY REQUIREMENTS FOR DISTRICT GOVERNOR. *A candidate for the office of district governor shall:*

- (a) Be an active member in good standing of a chartered Lions club in good standing in his/her single or sub-district.*
- (b) Secure the endorsement of his/her club or a majority of the clubs in his/her single or subdistrict.*
- (c) Currently be serving as the first vice district governor within the district from which he/she is to be elected.*
- (d) Only in the event the current first vice district governor does not stand for election as district governor, or if a vacancy in the position of first vice district governor exists at the time of the district convention, any club member who fulfills the qualifications for the office of second vice district governor as set forth in these by-laws or constitution and who is currently serving or who has served one (1) additional year as a member of the district cabinet, shall fulfill the requirements of subsection (c) of this section.*

International By-Laws, Article II, Section 4

Section 4. ENDORSEMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF ENDORSEMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR CANDIDATES

- (a) Except with respect to candidacy for offices to be filled under the provisions of these bylaws or constitution where vacancies exist, as to which neither any endorsement nor certification of endorsement shall be required, certification of endorsement of candidacy for all international offices other than the office of district governor shall be made by the chairperson and secretary of the respective single district cabinet, or sub-district cabinet and council of governors, as the case may be, on forms provided by the international*



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office. The certification of endorsement document shall arrive at the international office no less than sixty (60) days, in the case of international director candidates, and no less than ninety (90) days, in the case of third vice president candidates, before the convening date of the international convention at which the endorsed candidate is to be voted upon. Certification of endorsement may be made by fax or e-mail, provided the same is confirmed by the required certification of endorsement document mailed within three (3) days after the fax or e-mail is sent. No endorsement shall be valid until certification of such endorsement is made and received at the international office.

Any endorsement shall be valid only for the three (3) succeeding international conventions following said endorsement where the member is otherwise eligible under these by-laws or constitution to be elected. During the term of validity of endorsement, (i) no rescission shall occur, (ii) no other endorsement is valid, and (iii) in the event of death, ineligibility, withdrawal of the candidate, the original resolution of endorsement is null and void. No further certification of endorsement shall be required during the valid term of the endorsement. All endorsements, whether original or otherwise, must be made according to the procedures, if any, set forth in respective single or multiple district constitution and by-laws concerning the time and manner of announcing intention to run for an international office. Any candidate seeking an endorsement at a multiple district convention must first have secured the endorsement of his/her sub-district.

(b) Certification of endorsement must specify the single office sought and no candidate may seek election for any office other than the office covered by his/her certification of endorsement. No district (single, sub- and multiple) shall have more than one (1) endorsement pending for more than one (1) office of the International Board of Directors.

(c) Endorsements for international director shall be valid for three (3) succeeding conventions provided that the candidate is otherwise eligible to be elected. If not elected during the initial endorsement, the candidate must wait three (3) years before such candidate is eligible to seek endorsement again. Endorsements for international third vice president shall be valid for three (3) succeeding conventions provided that the candidate is otherwise eligible to be elected for a maximum of two (2) succeeding endorsements. If not elected during the successive endorsement periods, then such candidate must wait three (3) years before the candidate is eligible to seek endorsement again.



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International By-Laws, Article II, Section 5(a)

Section 5. REPRESENTATION.

(a) A director may be elected from a district (single, sub- and multiple) which has clubs in the United States of America and Canada, in which event the director so elected shall be considered one of the directors elected from clubs in the United States or the one director elected from clubs in Canada, depending upon the choice made by him/her, which choice shall be declared in writing to the international office not later than the time he/she submits his/her certification of endorsement documents in accordance with the requirements of these by-laws or constitution which requires certification of endorsement documents to arrive at the international office no less than sixty (60) days prior to the convening of the international convention at which the endorsed candidate is to be voted upon and shall be printed on the convention ballot beside his/her name.

We are bringing these constitutional requirements to your attention so that you may fully advise any prospective candidate for these offices in your district (single, sub- and multiple). We bring to your attention, specifically, several of the requirements, which are as follows:

1. Third Vice President or International Director - A member in a Lions club in a multiple district (single district requires only district endorsement) must:

- (a) Secure two endorsements, one by his/her sub-district convention and one by his/her multiple district convention. Candidates seeking endorsement at the multiple district convention must first have secured the endorsement of his/her sub-district. A subdistrict "meeting" at a multiple district convention fulfills the "convention" definition.
- (b) Complete a certification form (attached) and obtain the signatures as follows:
 - (1) Signed by the district governor and cabinet secretary of his/her sub-district certifying his/her endorsement as a candidate for the office of third vice president or international director at a convention of his/her sub-district.
 - (2) Signed by the chairperson and secretary of his/her multiple district council certifying his/her endorsement as a candidate for the office of third vice president or international director at a convention of his/her multiple district.
- (c) Have the certification form set out in (b) above arrive at the international office no less than ninety (90) days for third vice president candidates and no less than sixty (60) days for international director candidates prior to the convening of the international convention at which he/she seeks to run.



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2. District Governor - must secure the endorsement of his/her candidacy by his/her club or a majority of the clubs in his/her single or sub-district.

We would appreciate your making these requirements known to all prospective candidates in your district. If you have any questions concerning these requirements, please feel free to contact the Legal Division at your convenience.

Kindest regards,

David Kingsbury

General Counsel & Secretary

Attachment

cc: Executive Officers

Board Members

Council Chairpersons