

## Guidelines For Local Elections



Section 126 of the Laws of the Knights of Columbus establishes the offices for local councils. Section 128 of the Laws requires local councils to hold annual elections for council officers.

Elections are to be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order. Section 162 of the Laws of the Knights of Columbus establishes certain categories of misconduct that may expose a member to disciplinary action. Section 162(23), set forth below, provides a general rule for the conduct of candidates for council offices.

Section 162: Any member of the Order who after trial, excepting where it is provided that no trial shall be had, shall be found guilty of the conduct specified in the subdivisions following shall be fined, suspended or expelled as set forth therein, to wit:

### Appeals for Political Support

23. Issuing appeals for, or soliciting by virtue of his membership in the Knights of Columbus, aid, or assistance or support by or in behalf of or announcing candidates for public office, or candidates for office (including delegates to State and Supreme councils) in another society or body or in the Order; fine, suspension, or expulsion.

Any member who knowingly permits or acquiesces in such appeals, solicitation, etc., shall if elected, be ineligible to hold office.

In order to effectuate this rule and to promote fairness and mutual respect in council elections, the Office of the Supreme Advocate has developed the following guidelines.

General Principle: A candidate for local council office in the Knights of Columbus is expected to conduct himself as a Catholic gentleman. While he may promote his candidacy by highlighting his own qualifications, he may not comment negatively about any opponent. A candidate is responsible for any third parties acting on his behalf. All elections must be conducted in a manner that is consistent with the principles of charity, unity, and fraternity.

A candidate for local council office may:

1. Receive a nominating speech from another member of the council in which the nominating member sets forth the character and qualifications of the candidate; and
2. Make a brief statement accepting the nomination, in which he states his own qualifications.

A candidate for local council office may not:

1. Use, accept, or receive council funds to support his candidacy in any manner whatsoever;

2. Distribute campaign buttons, t-shirts, pins, hats, bumper stickers, or any other souvenirs or promotional items;
3. Send mailings or e-mails, or use social media to support his candidacy;
4. Arrange or participate in debates with other candidates or their supporters;
5. Campaign or have promotional items in the chambers of any business meeting, or within close proximity to the entrance of any business meeting;
6. Campaign or have promotional items at or outside any religious ceremony;
7. Disseminate any type of derogatory information concerning another candidate; or
8. Hold a fund-raising event to finance his candidacy.

If a candidate or member knowingly and willfully violates these guidelines, he may be subject to disciplinary action.

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