

ALABAMA STATE MISSIONARY BAPTIST CONVENTION

The Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention (ASMBC) in order to facilitate continuity of purpose and adherence to established Christian principles seeks to promulgate standard operating procedures to be utilized during officer elections. The Convention mandates that the election system be impartial and provide uniformity and equanimity. Therefore, the following procedures **shall be** utilized for elections by the Convention and its auxiliaries (NE, NW, SE, SW).

Election Commission: The President and/or Executive Board shall designate persons from member churches to serve as the Elections Commission for the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention **and** its auxiliaries (NE, SE, NW, SW). This commission responsible for ensuring an orderly election, shall designate persons as election workers to facilitate the election process. The District State Convention Presidents will have the option to serve as assistants to the Election Commission.

General Rules

Election Date: The date for parent body election shall be designated as the Thursday morning following the official opening of the Annual Session of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention. If an alternative date is needed, it shall be determined by the President in conjunction with the Executive Board and announced during the opening session of the Convention.

Auxiliary election dates and times shall be determined by the President of said auxiliary in conjunction with the President of the Parent Body and the Elections Commission. The Elections Commission shall have oversight of all Convention and Auxiliary elections.

Voting Times: 9:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m. A monitor will be stationed at the end of the line to prevent persons from entering the line after 2:00 p.m. Any persons in line at closing time who have not voted will be allowed to continue through and vote; persons will not be allowed to enter the line after it has been closed.

Grievance Committee: The President and/or Executive Board shall designate persons to handle any grievances associated with election issues (i.e., eligibility; name change on voting form). Churches must provide written evidence (receipt or cancelled check) of having met minimum voting requirements.

If acceptable resolution is not gained as a result of the grievance committee, the Church shall have the right to appeal to the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall be the final determinant for resolving eligibility matters. Questions regarding eligibility shall be determined by the official Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention Financial Report.

Candidates: Candidates for Office of President of the Convention and its auxiliaries shall make such candidacy known NLT the Adjourned Session of the Convention (January Meeting of the election year). Nominations for said office shall not be accepted after the Adjourned Session of the Alabama State Missionary Baptist Convention.

A copy of intent to run for office notification letter should be submitted to the Recording Secretary of the Alabama State Baptist Convention and the Chairperson of the Elections Commission within thirty (days) of official announcement). Persons interested in seeking the Office of President for each respective component of the Convention must be an actual, verifiable member of the Convention before declaring candidacy and must be a registered messenger at the time of election.

Candidates for the Office of President shall have the option of making a fifteen (15) minute campaign speech or designating a person to make a campaign speech for fifteen (15) minutes or any combination thereof. Under no circumstance shall any campaign speech exceed the allotted time.

The names of candidates for the Office of President will appear on a pre-printed ballot, or on pre-programmed voting machines, which will be the official determining document of the result of said ballot.

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and are not inconsistent with the Constitution or Bylaws of the Convention.

Membership Categories

Representative Membership - Messengers designated by churches who are in good and regular standing with the Convention and have the responsibility of voting on behalf of the Constituent Member.

Life Membership - For individual member of a local Missionary Baptist Church that is in good and regular standing with the Convention.

Annual Membership - For individual member of a local Missionary Baptist Church that is in good and regular standing with the Convention.

Persons holding Life Membership or Annual Membership in the Convention may participate in debate during meetings of the Convention, **but are not entitled to cast votes in elections.**

PERSONAL REPRESENTATION ALONE WILL NOT QUALIFY A PERSON TO PARTICIPATE IN THE ELECTION PROCESS.

Voting Privileges & Procedures

To be qualified to participate in the election process a Member Church must have been registered at the Annual Meeting of the Convention or its Auxiliaries (NE, NW, SE, SW) in the two (2) previous annual sessions before the election. (For the parent body election, participation must be in either the respective wings annual session and board and/or the adjourned or annual session of the parent body). To be eligible to vote in election year, each church must register in annual session of parent body with a minimum of \$200.

Voting privileges for elections and during conventions of this Body shall be restricted to **Representative Members**, i.e., messengers designated by Constituent Member Churches known to be in conformity with the guidelines of this Convention, as verified by registration procedures established by the Executive Secretary and approved by the President and/or Executive Board of the Convention.

Voting shall be by messengers from member churches certified by the Executive Secretary as eligible to participate in the election, and shall take place by processes and methods approved by the President and/or Executive Board. Each duly qualified Representative Member present at a convention session is entitled to one (1) vote.

Persons who are qualified to vote in each election shall be identified by color coded badges which distinguishes them from other messengers or a voting card which identifies them as an eligible voter. Proper identification and signing the registry log prior to receiving the ballot is required.

Voting for the Office of President shall be during the annual session of the Convention or Auxiliary by method (badges, voting cards, standing, hands, voice, etc.) determined by President and/or Executive Board.

The polling place shall be open during the time designated by the President and/or the Executive Board. **No one will be allowed to vote before or after the designated time. There will be no absentee or proxy votes accepted in any election.** Once voting begins, only election officials and qualified voters will be allowed in the voting area. Each candidate shall have the right to select one person to serve as his official representative during the election. **(Election Overseer)**

Each duly qualified **Church** upon registration shall have a maximum of three (3) votes. One Person — One Vote **(Pastors who pastor multiple churches will have one vote).** **A church will not lose the number of votes for which they are entitled.**

A list shall be formulated containing all churches eligible to participate in the election process. Wing Presidents shall ensure that a list is compiled of churches registering during their annual session and board meeting and forward same list to the Executive Secretary/Treasurer and the General Secretary. The Executive Secretary/Treasurer and General Secretary shall provide a list of all eligible churches to the Elections Commission Chairperson NLT September 1st of election year.

The Elections Commission Chairperson shall post by previously agreed upon methods the list of churches certified to participate in the election process NLT October 1st of election year.

All questions arising which are incidental to the voting procedures should be submitted to the Elections Chairperson. Rulings by the Elections Chairperson shall be based upon the Constitution and/or Robert's Rules of Order.

Elections Commission

Melvin Owens, Chairperson

NE – W.H. Granger, Tramaine Solomon, Johnnie Clift

NW – Schmitt Moore, Carlos Williams, Dorothy McAdory

SE – Clifford Jones, Johnny Hollis, Clintoria Knight

SW – Carlton Hogue, Dwight Woods, Cora Battles

Grievance Committee

J.C. Carter, Chairperson, David Frazier, Eddie Thomas, J. Stafford Rowser, Jr, and Sister Maxine Abrams