



Knights of Columbus
Maryland State Council
P.O Box 1468
Bowie, MD 20717

June 17, 2023

Memorandum to: Past State Deputies, District Deputies, Grand Knights, Convention Delegates/Alternates, State Directors, and State Chairmen

Each Grand Knight is instructed to have this letter read in its entirety at the next Council meeting.

The next election of State Officers will take place at the 126th Annual Meeting of the Maryland State Council on May 3-5, 2024. For the purpose of building fraternalism and comradery among Councils, Brother Knights, and all members of the Maryland Jurisdiction, certain campaigning rules and guidelines are established. The following election rules and guidelines are being instituted at the direction of the State Deputy and are to be adhered to by not only those interested in elective office but also by all members of the Maryland Jurisdiction.

It is essential that we keep in focus the mission and objectives of the Maryland State Council. We are in the process of planning for the new fraternal year, including establishing schedules for the various seminars and planning sessions that must be conducted to ensure another successful year. We cannot let ourselves be distracted from these most important and current functions.

Accordingly, the following parameters have been established for the guidance of all concerned:

- 1) No one shall announce his candidacy for elective office until August 1, 2023. All solicitations of consideration for office, of any nature, are prohibited before that date.
- 2) Candidates must notify the State Deputy, in writing, of their intent to run for elective office. After September 30th, 2023, the State Deputy shall notify the Maryland State Jurisdiction of all members who declared their candidacy.
- 3) Expenditures on behalf of a candidate are limited to a maximum of \$1,500. Included in this limit are funds of a candidate himself, funds donated to the candidates by any individual supporter, and the reasonable cash value of in-kind services provided by any supporter of a candidate, for example, signs donated for use at the State Convention. Any "giveaways," special foods or candidate-specific decorations are included in the \$1,500 limit. Excluded from this amount are costs associated with automotive transportation to and from Districts and Councils.
- 4) In association with this limit on expenditures, fundraising by a Council, Assembly or other individuals and groups on behalf of a candidate is strictly **prohibited**.
- 5) To control excessive electoral signage at the State Convention, each candidate shall be limited to one banner. This banner may be displayed only in the first-floor entrance hall (between the entrance and the elevators) and may not be greater than three feet wide by six feet high in size. The posting of any campaign materials outside of the identified locations is strictly forbidden and candidates will be held responsible for any damage to hotel property without exception.
 - a. Banners may not be attached to any part of the hotel.
 - b. Banners may not be on the carpet in the hallway leading to the meeting room.
 - c. The order of candidate banner placement will be determined by lot prior to banner placement.
- 6) Each candidate will be allowed a one-time mailing or distribution of a resume to the Grand Knights and Delegates prior to the State Convention. The cost of this mailing shall be included in the maximum expenditure allowance.
- 7) The State Council will post a Candidates Portal with a picture of each candidate running for elected office and information about that candidate on the State Webpage. In addition, the State Council will produce a video of each candidate that will be posted on the State website. This video will allow each candidate 7

minutes to present his platform. Any other use of electronic media of any kind, including emails, the internet, or social media, such as but not limited to websites, Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter, in support of any candidate for a state office, by the candidate or anyone acting on his behalf, is strictly **prohibited**.

- 8) In addition, any Council may adopt a resolution announcing the candidacy of one of its members for a particular state office. That resolution may announce the candidacy, announce the office, and set forth the qualifications of the individual for that office. The resolution may also state that the Council supports the candidacy of the individual. That resolution can be transmitted by the Council to other Councils in the jurisdiction and to each of the State Officers. An Assembly, Chapter, or any other organization, other than a Council, is prohibited from passing and distributing such a resolution of support.
- 9) Information forums may be organized in accordance with the following guidelines:
 - a. District Deputies and only District Deputies, may organize and host informational candidate forums.
 - b. A Single District or a group of neighboring Districts may organize forums.
 - c. All announced candidates must be invited to a forum. Announced candidates must be informed of a scheduled forum in sufficient time to permit each announced candidate to arrange his schedule to be able to participate. A minimum three-week advance notice is recommended.
 - d. A forum audience shall consist of Grand Knights, Delegates, and Alternates from the District or Districts hosting the forum and any brother Knight in good standing.
 - e. No makeup forum is authorized for a candidate who cannot come to the scheduled forum.
 - f. The forum is an information process, not a debate. It is an opportunity for candidates to inform delegates of their family and occupational background, their involvement, and responsibilities in the Knights of Columbus, and what they would hope to achieve as a State Officer.
 - g. Each candidate shall have no more than 7 minutes to address the forum. Questions will not be entertained. Time control is the responsibility of the District Deputy. The order for speaking shall be determined by lot prior to the start of the forum.
 - h. After the forum is closed, candidates can be available for one-on-one questions from the Grand Knights, Delegates, Alternates or any Brother Knight in Good Standing in attendance.
 - i. If refreshments are served, they must be provided by the host district(s) and may be no more than light refreshments and without charge to attendees.
- 10) At their option, in addition to the forums, candidates may attend meetings of any local Council and may informally discuss their candidacy with any State Convention Delegate(s) present after the meeting has been formally adjourned. During any meeting, the prospective candidate may not be announced or introduced as a candidate for the office of State Warden. If a candidate is a State Director, Co-Director, State Chairman or Co-Chairman, he may address the Council solely within the area of his state responsibility without any reference to his prospective candidacy for State Office.
- 11) Everyone is expected to exercise good judgment in all activities involving the election of State Officers in keeping with the spirit and intent of the laws and regulations of the Order.
- 12) It is the responsibility of each candidate to assure that anyone advocating his candidacy also complies with the above guidelines. In this respect, it should be noted that adherence to these guidelines is a self-policing function. As honorable men, Catholic gentlemen, and brother Knights of Columbus, it is our expectation that all involved will assure a fair and fraternal process that will further strengthen the Maryland State Council.

Your cooperation in this matter will be greatly appreciated. If you should have any questions concerning this directive, please feel free to discuss it with the State Deputy or State Advocate at any time.

Submitted



Ronald G. Hassan
State Advocate

Approved



Christopher L. Powers
State Deputy