

# LEADERSHIP ELECTION CANDIDATE GUIDE

*118<sup>th</sup> Congress  
Leadership Elections  
October 2023*

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House Republicans

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# How does the candidate forum operate?

*Rule 3(c) of the Conference rules requires the Chair to call a meeting to allow candidates an opportunity to make a presentation and take questions. The rule does not specify the format.*

Since the rule was added, the candidate forum has tended to be less formal than regular conference meetings. This forum will be conducted as follows:

- Each candidate may make up to a 2-minute oral presentation.
- After candidates have completed their presentations, the Chair of the Conference will recognize Members under the 1-minute rule to pose questions. Each candidate will have 30 seconds to respond.
- Candidates will have 1 minute to make closing remarks.

- The Chair of the Conference will first recognize candidates by alphabetical surname order. Closing remarks will be given in reverse alphabetical surname order. The Chair will rotate which candidate answer

## ***Logistical considerations***

- Members will not be allowed to use slides, video, or handouts during their presentations.
- Each candidate may have up to 2 staffers attend the forum.

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# How do the elections operate?

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*The current whole number of the conference is 224*

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*Rule 4 of the Conference rules (related to conference election procedures) govern the operation of the election.*

1. All contested elections must be decided by secret ballot.
2. Proxy voting is not allowed.
3. Candidates are nominated in alphabetical order by last name.
4. Candidates **shall** have 1 nominating speech, up to 3 minutes in length.
5. Candidates **may** be permitted to have up to 2 seconding speeches, each no more than 1 minute in length.

## ***Balloting procedures***

When more than one candidate is running for an office, votes must be taken by secret ballot. To win, a candidate must receive a **majority of all votes cast**.

If more than two Members are running for the same office, and none receive a majority of all votes cast, another ballot is held and the Member receiving the lowest number of votes on the first ballot is dropped from consideration.

This procedure repeats until a Member receives a majority of all votes cast.

## ***Counting of ballots***

Ballots are counted by 3 Member tally clerks chosen by the Conference Chair. Generally, the tally clerks have not publicly endorsed any candidate.

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## Other important considerations for candidates

### *Logistical considerations*

During the election, each candidate may have only 2 staff members in the conference meeting (even if the candidate employs other staff who are normally authorized to attend conference).

A candidate's staff person must sit in the designated area.

### *Materials*

No distribution of materials will be permitted inside the room for candidate forum or where the election is being held.

### *Announcement of results*

Beginning with the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress Organizing Conference, in accordance with rule XX of the Rules of the House, the Chair will announce the total number of votes received by each properly nominated candidate on each ballot.