

# America Some Assembly Required - Episode on Elections

December 9, 2025

## Recording link:

[https://www.youtube.com/live/nyr\\_qmi4H\\_o?  
si=rmMOQNZnpTnWWR9H](https://www.youtube.com/live/nyr_qmi4H_o?si=rmMOQNZnpTnWWR9H)

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### Executive Summary

This episode provides a comprehensive guide to conducting elections within state assemblies, covering everything from committee chair elections to public elections for state offices. The discussion emphasizes the importance of demonstrable processes, proper vetting, public notice requirements, and maintaining the peaceable, lawful nature of assembly work.

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### Types of Elections

#### 1. Committee Chair Elections

Committee chairs serve one-year terms (January through December) and can be re-elected indefinitely

#### Key Points:

- The chair is a communicator and facilitator, not a dictator
- They work alongside committee members, not above them

- The chair "rises to the top like cream floats to the top" through natural leadership
- Committee members vote to elect their own chair

**Requirements:**

- Background check (simple for non-financial positions)
- Vetting appointment to ensure appropriate skills
- Must sign as "Chairman Pro Tem" if not formally elected

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## **2. Pro Tem (Pro Tempore) Positions**

**Definition:** "For the time being" - temporary positions

**Characteristics:**

- Temporary until formal elections occur
- Allows people to "try before you buy"
- Can perform all functions of the position
- Must sign documents as "Pro Tem" (e.g., "Treasurer Pro Tem")
- Can be replaced when someone raises his hand for permanent position

**When Used:**

- While waiting for election cycles
- Filling unexpected vacancies (e.g., elected official relocates)
- Testing candidates before public elections
- During assembly startup phase

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## **3. Public Elections**

**The most formal and consequential type of election for filling vacated state offices.**

## Timeline Requirements:

### 60-Day Total Process

1. **30-Day Nomination Period**
  - Accept candidate nominations
  - Conduct vetting
  - Complete background checks
  - Prepare ballots
2. **30-Day Election Notice Period**
  - Public notification begins
  - Ballots distributed
  - Voter registration/recording
  - Election conducted at end of period
3. **90-Day Post-Election Period**
  - Results posted at least once monthly for 3 months
  - Ohio Constitution requires posting twice in first month
  - "Cure period" for challenges
  - After this, officials are permanently seated

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## Vetting Process

### Purpose

Vetting ensures candidates have appropriate skills and no disqualifying background issues, but does not make final decisions - the assembly does.

### What Vetting Examines:

- Communication skills
- Computer skills
- Common sense
- Conflict resolution abilities

- Relevant experience
- Background check results

### Important Principles:

#### Compassion and Context Matter:

- Many de facto court convictions were unjust
- Tax evasion for being a "tax protester" may not disqualify someone
- Vetting committee considers if background affects specific job
- Example: Embezzlement conviction would disqualify treasurer candidate

#### Confidentiality:

- Vetting process maintains confidentiality
- Committee can say "not recommended" without revealing details
- Serious issues may require private conversation with candidate

#### Recommendations, Not Mandates:

- Vetting committee recommends, doesn't decide
- General assembly makes final vote
- People are in charge, not vetting committee

### Public Notice Requirements

#### Why Notice Matters:

**Elections can be impeached (invalidated) without proper notice**

**Assemblies must provide demonstrable proof of public notification.**

#### Notice Methods:

##### Traditional Media:

- **Newspapers (if they accept ads)**
- **Legal notices with affidavit of service**
- **Local shopper magazines**

**Alternative Methods (when newspapers refuse):**

- **Bulletin boards (physical and electronic)**
- **Door-to-door leaflets**
- **Social media/Facebook pages**
- **Library system postings**
- **Grocery store tables (with permission)**
- **Business**

**Proof Requirements:**

**Documentation needed:**

- **Photographs with dated newspapers showing notice**
- **Pictures of posted notices with date verification**
- **Compiled by elections committee**
- **Stored as permanent proof**

**Publishing Cycles:**

- **Account for newspaper publication schedules**
- **30-day requirement may need 5+ publication cycles**
- **Plan ahead for timing**

 **Nomination Process**

**Who Can Nominate:**

- **Self-nomination is acceptable**
- **Others can nominate you**
- **Nominee must formally accept**

### Nomination Notice:

Elections committee sends assembly-wide email:

- "Anyone interested should contact [elections committee contact]"
- Include position description
- Include declaration form

### Declaration Format:

"I, [name], member of the [State] Assembly from [County], hereby announce my candidacy for the office of [position]"

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## Voting Methods

### Paper Ballots:

- Secure storage required
- Must be postmarked by specified date (not metered mail)
- Late ballots counted if properly postmarked
- Elections committee counts, Marshal-at-Arms validates

### Online/Zoom Voting (Ohio Method):

#### Process:

1. Read candidate name and position
2. Call for "nays" - voters type in chat
3. Call for "yeas" - voters type in chat
4. Voice votes recorded by Marshal-at-Arms for those unable to use chat
5. Multiple calls to ensure all votes captured
6. Close vote after third call

#### Requirements:

- Must obtain paper copy of chat for archives

- **Elections committee counts votes**
- **Marshal-at-Arms validates count**

### In-Person Voting:

- **Events committee arranges venues**
- **Paper ballots distributed and collected**
- **Volunteer help needed for countin**

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## Background Checks

### Requirements:

#### Mandatory for:

- **All elected positions (pro tem and permanent)**
- **Committee chairs handling money**
- **Anyone in public-facing roles**

#### Simple check acceptable for:

- **Committee chairs not handling funds**
- **Positions with limited financial responsibility**

### Providers:

- **Background Checks.com (formerly Clear Checks)**
- **Checker.com**
- **County court records (public access)**

### Digital Signature Concerns:

**Issue:** Some object to digital signatures required by background check services

### Solutions:

- Use "executive signature" (squiggle)
- Add copyright symbol (©) after signature
- "Take it with a grain of salt" - won't matter in lawful courts

#### Limitations:

Background checks may miss information - vetting committee should verify with county court records

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### Disqualifications and Restrictions

#### Refusing Background Check:

- Cannot serve in elected capacity
- Can remain pro tem until someone else volunteers
- Will be replaced when eligible candidate appears

#### Resignation Restrictions (Ohio):

#### One Year and One Day Rule:

- If you resign from committee or position, must wait one year and one day before being eligible for another
- Exception: Assembly asks you to vacate one position for another
- Prevents "revolving door" instability

#### When Vetting Can Deny:

- Severe communication deficits
- Anger management issues
- Dictatorial tendencies
- Relevant criminal background
- Hidden conflicts of interest

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## Recall Process

### Critical Timing:

**Establish recall process BEFORE elections**

### Recall Principle:

**"You recall them in the same way they're elected"**

### Examples:

- Committee chair: Committee votes to recall, assembly affirms
- Pro tem position: Same assembly that appointed removes
- Public election: Full public recall election required

### Why Recalls Happen:

- People "change after elections"
- Collaborative person becomes dictator
- Misuse of position or funds
- Failure to perform duties

### Cost of Public Recalls:

#### Extremely expensive:

- Repeat entire 60-day process
- Nomination, notice, election, results posting
- Expensive in time, people capital, and finances
- Prevention is critical - vet thoroughly before election

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## **Public Contact Requirements**

### **Why Public Contact is Required:**

**Elected officials fill vacated public offices and must be publicly accessible**

### **Contact Methods:**

#### **Assembly Email System:**

- **Generic assembly email (e.g., OhioAssembly0000@proton)**
- **Route inquiries to appropriate official**
- **Insulates personal emails**

#### **Position-Specific Emails:**

- **Chairman@[assembly].com**
- **Treasurer@[assembly].com**
- **CourtClerk@[assembly].com**
- **Can use Proton Mail paid account for multiple aliases**

### **Communication Standards:**

- **Must be willing to be contacted**
- **Must respond - responses are public**
- **Emails accessible to oversight committee**
- **Words must match actions**
- **Poor communication can result in being "called on the carpet"**

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## **Post-Election Process**

### **Results Announcement:**

- **Announced at next general assembly meeting**
- **Installation date set**

### **Installation/Affirmation:**

**Public ceremony required**

**Invite:**

- **Postal area states**
- **Bordering states**
- **States with treaties or friendships**
- **International witnesses for recognition**

**Purpose:** "The way we gain authority is not just through our elections and standing up but our recognition comes internationally meaning from other states and other countries"

### **Ballot Storage:**

**30-Day Secure Storage:**

**Options for custody:**

- **Court bailiff (lock up for 30 days)**
- **Assembly secretary**
- **Court clerk**
- **Anyone vetted, trustworthy, with secure storage**

**After 30 Days:**

- **Election certified**
- **Ballots properly destroyed**

### **⚠ What Makes an Assembly Invalid?**

### **Federation Oversight:**

**The Federation determines assembly validity**

## Reasons for Dissolution:

### Historical Record:

- Only 4 assemblies dissolved out of 50
- 7 total disciplinary actions (including the 4 dissolved)
- 3 assemblies disciplined and recovered
- 2 assemblies dissolved twice (same assemblies)

### Disqualifying Behaviors:

1. Operating as Private Club
  - Blackballing members without due process
  - Excluding people arbitrarily
2. Financial Misconduct
  - Taking money under false pretenses
  - Using funds for unauthorized purposes
3. Preaching Insurrection
  - Example: Militia captain advocating violence
  - "We're not here to take up arms against our own employees"
  - "We're here to tell our employees what we want done"

### Assembly Nature:

#### "Peaceable Assembly"

- Lawful, not militant
- Policy-making body
- Direct government, don't fight it

## Volunteer Opportunities

### Election-Related Roles:

### Events Committee:

- Primary purpose: arrange election venues
- Not just "party planners"
- Coordinate in-person voting locations

#### General Volunteers:

- Distribute flyers and notices
- Staff outreach tables
- Count paper ballots
- Post notices throughout state
- County-level coordination

#### Outreach Benefits:

Elections are "a great outreach opportunity"

- Introduce assembly to public
- Explain benefits of membership
- Distribute brochures
- Register recorded voters

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## Committee Structure

#### Committee Chair Role:

- One-year commitment (January-December)
- Can be re-elected unlimited times
- Monthly meetings = 12 times/year
- Weekly meetings = 52 times/year

#### Chair Responsibilities:

- Communicate to general assembly
- Keep committee organized
- Liaison between committee

- Not a throne position - works alongside members
- "Committee does the work, not the chairman"

### Committee Elections:

- Committee members vote among themselves
- Natural leaders emerge
- Can be prom until formal process
- Background check required

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## Key Principles Summary

### Demonstrable Processes:

- Write everything down
- Same process every time
- Prevents accusations of favoritism
- No "making it up on the fly"

### People in Charge:

- General assembly makes final decisions
- Not one or two individuals [
- Committees recommend, assembly decides
- Cooperative governance

### Public Accountability:

- Records are public
- Communications are public
- Must be contactable [
- Good representatives of assemblies

## Preparation for Governance:

"You guys have got your homework to do"

### Future responsibilities:

- State budgets
- CFRA accounts
- Slush funds
- Externally managed funds
- Investment fund oversight (PIMCO, Lindsey Goldberg)
- Debt and credit decisions

Reality check: "You're all going to be blown away because you're going to realize, oh, we're richer than Midas"

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### Critical Takeaways

1. Plan thoroughly - Elections require 60+ days minimum
2. Vet before, not after - Post-election vetting is "perilous" [
3. Document everything - Proof prevents impeachment
4. Stay peaceable - Lawful assembly, not militant
5. Communicate publicly - Transparency required
6. Recall process first - Before conducting elections
7. People decide - Not committees or individuals
8. Recognition matters - International witnesses validate authority

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"Keep going. Keep going. You're getting there." [[83]]

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