

ARTICLE VIII

ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL

Section 1:

The election of the members of the Parish Council shall be held no earlier than the first Sunday in November, and no later than the second Sunday in December.

Section 2:

A candidate for the Parish Council must be a member in good standing of the Parish for at least one year immediately preceding the date of the election and who lives his or her life and activities in accordance with the faith and canons of the Church.

Section 3:

Candidates for election to the Parish Council shall be nominated at the last Parish Assembly preceding the election. Nominations may be made by a nominating committee and/or by members of the Parish in good standing.

All candidates shall attend a seminar conducted by the priest prior to the election at which the priest shall discuss the Uniform Parish Regulations and explain them to the candidates, particularly the oath of office. At the conclusion of the seminar all candidates will acknowledge by signing a statement that they understand the Uniform Parish Regulations and, if elected, will abide by them and the oath of office.

If a candidate for the Parish Council refuses to attend the seminar and sign the declaration, his or her name shall be deleted from the list of candidates.

Section 4:

A member duly enrolled in the Parish register but delinquent in his or her Parish stewardship obligations may vote in the election by meeting his or her stewardship obligations at any time prior to balloting.

Section 5:

A new member of the Parish may vote in the election if he or she has been enrolled at least three months prior thereto.

Section 6:

Parish by-laws may provide for absentee balloting only in the case of elections of the Parish Council. Such ballots must be in the hands of the Board of Elections not later than the commencement of voting and shall be opened and tabulated with the ballots personally cast.

Section 7:

Elections shall be held at a place on Parish premises previously announced by the Board of Elections and voting shall be by secret ballot. Voting shall begin after the conclusion of the divine liturgy and shall terminate on the same day at such time as determined by local Parish by-laws.

Section 8:

The election results shall be entered in the minute book of the Parish, showing the number of votes cast for each candidate, and shall be signed by each member of the Board of Elections. The candidates receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected for the ensuing term. In the case of a tie, a majority vote ballot by the other members of the incoming Parish Council at its first meeting will be necessary to determine the winner. The tied candidates if otherwise found to be qualified shall be provisionally approved by the Bishop when he ratifies the election results and the winner shall, upon his or her selection, take and subscribe to the prescribed oath of office and participate in the election of officers.

Section 9:

Any member in good standing of the Parish questioning the validity of any election may, within five days after such election, lodge a written protest with the Bishop through the Parish Priest. Such protest shall be signed by the questioning member and at least four other Parish members. The decision of the Bishop thereon shall be final.

Section 10:

In case of the resignation of any member-elect of the incoming Parish Council, or vacancy for any other reason, in the interim between the day of elections and the election of officers, the members of the incoming Council shall, after the election of officers, elect a new member from among the eligible parish members to fill the vacancy.

Section 11:

In the event that an insufficient number of candidates shall be nominated for election to the Parish Council, the election of those nominated shall take place in accordance with the election procedures established by the Archdiocese. The Parish Council, after the certification and the taking of office of any new members, shall proceed to fill any vacancies on the Council from among the eligible parish members. Those chosen by the Council shall, in such order, as may be determined by the Council, and following certification by the Bishop, serve the term that a member duly elected by the Parish would have served.

ARTICLE IX

RATIFICATION OF ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL

AND OATH OF OFFICE

Section 1:

Within six days after the election, the Priest shall forward the results to the Bishop for review and ratification. The Bishop shall ratify the election after it shall be confirmed by the Archdiocese that the Parish has met its financial obligations to the Archdiocese. The Priest shall at the same time verify in writing that all candidates were qualified and that the election was conducted in accordance with these Regulations and the Parish by-laws.

Section 2:

The election will be considered ratified upon receipt of the verification herein before provided for in the absence of the filing of any protest thereto. In the event that a protest is filed and such protest is upheld, the Bishop will declare the protested election void and a new election will be ordered.

Section 3:

On the last Sunday in December, and after ratification of the election has been received from the Bishop a special ceremony shall be held at the close of the divine liturgy in which all the members of the Parish Council shall take the oath of office jointly. The oath shall be administered by the Priest and shall be repeated by all the members of the Parish Council.

Section 4:

Each member or member-elect of the Parish Council is obliged, without exception, to take the following oath of office and thereafter subscribe his or her name thereto:

"I do solemnly affirm that I will uphold the dogma, teaching, traditions, holy canons, worship, and moral principles of the Greek Orthodox Church, as well as the constitutional charter, discipline, and regulations of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North and South America, and that I will fulfill faithfully and sincerely the duties and obligations required of a member of the Parish Council. So help me God."

A person refusing to take the oath and subscribe to same shall not assume duties as a member of the Council or be elected as an officer of the Parish Council.

ARTICLE X

ELECTION OF PARISH COUNCIL OFFICERS

Section 1:

Following the administering of the oath of office, the Parish Council shall convene immediately to elect its officers under the chairmanship of the Priest who shall not vote.

Section 2:

The office of the President and Treasurer may not be held by the same person for more than six consecutive years, except by special permission of the Bishop.

Section 3:

In the event that the office of the President of the Parish Council shall become vacant by the demise, permanent incapacity or resignation of the President, the Vice President or if more than one the First Vice President, shall assume the office of the President.