

STRIKETHROUGH/UNDERScoreD VERSION

Chapter 21. Architects Selection Board

§2101. Districts

A. Only one architect may be elected from each of the districts set forth in R.S. 38:2311(A)(1)(a).

B. If the parishes comprising any district or if the number of districts are changed by the legislature, these rules shall be revised to be consistent with the latest expression of the legislature without the need of formal action by the board.

§2103. Nominations

A. For terms commencing September 15 of each year, the board will accept nominations for election to the Architects Selection Board on the following basis: any resident architect holding a current Louisiana license desiring nomination must deliver or email to the board office by June 1 at 5:00 p.m. a written nomination on a current form and/or reproduction obtained from the board office to the board office in Baton Rouge, signed by not less than 10 resident architects other than the nominee holding a current Louisiana license, between May 1 and May 31 ~~at 5 p.m.~~ preceding the election. The nomination shall state the parish in which the nominee resides and the district for which election is sought. Nominations received on or before such deadline shall be considered timely delivered. If no nomination for a district is received by the deadline, the board may accept a later nomination for that district in its discretion. Confirmation of receipt is the sole responsibility of the nominee.

§2105. Waiver of Election

A. If only one resident architect is nominated from any district, no election shall be held in that district, and that nominee shall be deemed elected without any further activity of the board.

§2107. Ballots

A. If an election is necessary, an official ballot ~~and an official return envelope~~ will be emailed to each properly licensed resident architect residing in Louisiana at their last email address provided to the board in good standing approximately three weeks after the closing date for nominations. On the ballot shall be printed the names of the candidates for each district in alphabetical order, the date for the return of the ballots deadline for voting, and any other information the board believes helpful in the election process. Attachments to the ballot may include biographical information ~~of the~~ provided by the candidates and instructions.

B. If the ballot emailed by the board is lost, misplaced or not received, an architect desiring to vote may request from the board a substitute or replacement ballot. ~~This substitute or replacement ballot may be used in the election, provided the requirements of §2109.C are satisfied.~~

§2109. Voting

A. Only properly licensed architects residing ~~resident architects in good standing~~ in Louisiana shall have the right to vote. A resident architect may vote in one or more but less than all district elections, and no ballot shall be voided for that reason.

B. ~~Ballots shall be returned in the official return envelopes provided by the board to the board office in Baton Rouge. The voting resident architect shall complete and submit the ballot as instructed and vote online. sign and provide his or her license number in the upper left hand corner of the return envelope.~~

~~C.~~ C. The ballot shall not be valid unless the license number and last name of the voting architect appear on the ballot.;

~~a. the signature and license number appear on the return envelope; and~~

~~b. the return envelope is received by the board office on or before the deadline.~~

~~2.D.~~ No write-in candidates will be allowed, and any ballot containing a vote for a write-in candidate will be voided. Any ballot containing more than one vote for candidates in one district will be entirely voided. ~~Ballots returned in an envelope other than the official return envelope provided by the board shall not be voided for that reason, provided:~~

~~a. the signature and license number of the voting architect appear on the return envelope; and~~

~~b. the return envelope is received by the board office on or before the deadline.~~

~~D.~~ E. The deadline for returning the ballots will be fixed by the executive director ~~president~~ and will be at least 14 calendar days after the ballots are emailed to all resident architects. Ballots received after the deadline shall not be counted.

~~D.~~ Upon receipt, ~~each return envelope shall be stamped by the board office showing the date received.~~

§2111. Plurality

A. The candidate elected in each district will be based on plurality.

§2113. Tabulation

A. ~~On a date fixed by the president, within 14 calendar days of the deadline for receipt of ballots, tellers appointed by the president, including at least one board member, shall meet at the board office for the purpose of tabulating the ballots. Following a determination that each return envelope contains the required signature and license number, and was timely received, the tellers shall open and count all ballots properly prepared. Tabulation of the votes shall be done electronically. The executive director will notify the candidates of the results by email.~~

~~B. Alternatively, when in the discretion of the president the manual tabulating of the ballots by tellers in accordance with the preceding Subsection would be burdensome, or for some other reason should be performed by an outside person, the president may refer the entire tabulating of the ballots, or any part thereof, to an accounting firm, data processing company, or other such qualified person in addition to one board member. The outside person may use~~

~~such clerical or other assistance, including whatever assistance from the board staff, as he or she deems necessary. The outside person shall:~~

- ~~1. determine that each return envelope contains the required signature and license number, and was timely received;~~
- ~~2. count all ballots properly prepared; and~~
- ~~3. certify the number of votes received by each candidate to the board president and the executive director, who shall notify the candidates of the results.~~

§2115. Tie

A. In the event no candidate receives a plurality, a run-off election between those candidates who received the highest number of votes will be held.

B. If a run-off election is necessary, an official ballot ~~and an official return envelope~~ will be emailed to each properly licensed resident architect residing in Louisiana in good standing approximately two weeks after it has been determined that such an election is necessary.

C. The official ballot shall contain the information set forth in §2107, except only the names and information for those candidates in the run-off election shall be included.

D. The rules for voting, for determining the person elected, and for tabulating votes set forth in §§2109, 2111, and 2113 shall be applicable.

E. In the event no candidate in the run-off election receives a plurality, the procedure set forth herein shall be repeated until one candidate receives a plurality.

§2117. Vacancies

A. Any vacancy occurring with respect to any person elected shall be filled in the following manner:

1. the executive director shall give notice of the vacancy to any person who has previously requested such notice in writing and to any architect previously nominated but not elected for the district in which the vacancy has occurred; and

2. the executive director shall also publish in the official journal of the state an advertisement which will appear for a period of not less than 10 calendar days:

a. the advertisement in the official journal of the state need not appear more than three times during the 10 day period;

b. the executive director may publish other such advertisements in his or her discretion;

c. the advertisements shall:

i. identify the district in which a vacancy has occurred; and

ii. state that any resident architect in that district holding a current Louisiana license desiring nomination:

(a). must furnish a nomination signed by not less than 10 resident architects holding a current Louisiana license by certified mail or email to the board office;

(b).that a sample of the nomination form may be obtained upon request from the board office, the deadline for filing the nomination; and

(c).any other information the board may consider necessary.

3. The deadline for filing a nomination to fill a vacancy shall be at least 10 calendar days subsequent to the expiration of the last advertisement appearing in the official journal of the state.

4. The board shall appoint one of the nominees to fill the vacancy, which appointee shall serve the unexpired term. If only one qualified architect submits a nomination to fill the vacancy, the executive director shall send a letter to that architect advising of his or her appointment to the Architects Selection Board, and no further board action shall be necessary to confer such appointment.

B. If the deadline for submission of nominations has passed and (i) the board has not received a nomination from a qualified architect for election to a district that will become vacant on September 15 or (ii) no architect has been nominated or elected to fill a vacancy on the Architects Selection Board that will occur on September 15 for some other reason, the board shall attempt to fill the upcoming vacancy by repeating the procedures described in the preceding Subsection paragraph.

§2119. Election Contest

A. The executive director will notify the candidates of the results of the election by email ~~U.S. Mail~~. The 10 calendar days for contesting an election shall commence three work days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) after the results of the election are emailed ~~deposited in the mail~~ by the executive director.

B. Any candidate desiring to contest an election shall, within the time period mentioned in the preceding Subsection, file a written petition addressed to the board stating the basis of the complaint. Upon receipt of such petition, the president shall call a special meeting of the board to hear the complaint, which meeting shall be held within 10 calendar days from the date the petition is received and at a time and place to be designated by the president. At the hearing the board shall consider any evidence offered in support of the complaint. The decision of the board shall be announced within 72 hours after the close of the hearing.

C. All ballots shall be preserved until the expiration of the time allowed for the filing and hearing of a contest. After such period has elapsed, if the election be not contested, the executive director shall destroy the ballots. If the election is contested, the executive director shall maintain the ballots until the contest is concluded, after which the executive director shall destroy the ballots.