

2015 Election Rules – Bowen East District

The Bowen East District Association / Convention in order to facilitate continuity of purpose and adherence to established Christian principles seeks to document standard operating procedures to be utilized during officer elections. The Association / Convention mandates that the election system be impartial and provide uniformity and equability. Therefore, the following procedures **shall be** used for elections by the Bowen East District.

Election Committee: The Moderator and if the Moderator is unable or fails, the First Vice President of the Bowen East District shall designate a person from member churches within the Bowen East District to serve on the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall serve for a term that covers the election(s) for which they were appointed. In the event a member or members of the Election Committee cannot or fails to serve the appointed term, then the Moderator shall select another member from the same church to fill the vacancy. The Election Committee is an eight (8) person committee.

General Rules

Election Date: The election date shall be designated as the **Wednesday, September 23**, after the official opening of the Association of the Bowen East District Association on Tuesday, September 22.

Voting Time: The voting will begin on at **2:00 p.m. EST and continue to 6:00 p.m. EST on Wednesday, September 23.**

Voting Place: A room in the Bowen East Center will be designated as the **Voting Poll Room.**

Church Eligibility: In order to vote in the 2015 election process, a church must pay the **registration Association/Convention fee for two consecutive years (2014 and 2015).** If a church did not pay their registration fee in 2014, then they are not eligible to vote in the 2015 election process. If a church paid registration fee in 2014 and fail to do so in 2015, then they are not eligible to vote in the 2015 election process. Both 2014 registration and 2015 registration qualifies a church to vote in the 2015 election.

Grievance Committee: The Moderator and/or First Vice President shall designate persons to handle any grievance associated with election issues (i.e., eligibility; name changes on voting form). Churches must provide written evidence (receipt or cancel check) of having met minimum voting requirements to the grievance committee.

Candidates

Candidates for the Office of Moderator, President of Women's Convention, President of the Congress of Christian Education, and President of Laymen must make candidacy **known by the**

March 14 board meeting using the **Declaration of Candidacy Form**. There will not be nominations from the floor for candidates.

Candidates Criteria

- Individual candidate must have been in the Bowen East District Association for two (2) years with representation in local affairs of the district including, but not limited to the Women's Convention, Congress of Christian Education, and Youth Conference.
- Must be in good standing in your church.
- Has registered as a delegate in two (2) or more of the district's conventions, associations, or conferences.
- Must be a member or an affiliate of the Bowen East District's 32 churches.

Campaigning

When a position has more than one candidate, the candidates shall have the option of making a ten (10) minute campaign speech or designating a person to make a campaign speech for ten (10) minutes or any combination thereof during the opening meeting on Tuesday, September 22. Under no circumstance shall any campaign speech exceed the allotted time. There will be no campaigning outside the door of the Voting Poll Room on Election Day.

The names of candidates will appear on a pre-printed ballot, which will be the official determining document of the result of said ballot.

Membership Categories

Voting Messengers – Messengers designated by eligible churches shall have the responsibility of voting on behalf of the church in the election. Each **eligible church will have a maximum of three (3) voting messengers.**

Non-voting Messengers – Messengers designated by eligible churches shall have the responsibility to attend only the sessions of the Association/Convention. Non-voting Messengers are not entitled to cast votes in the elections. Each registered church can have an unlimited number of non-voting messengers.

Personal Enrollment - For individual members of a district Missionary Baptist in good standing with the association/convention who pays for personal enrollment for the annual session. Personal enrollment individuals are not entitled to cast votes in elections.

Voting Privileges & Procedures

To be qualified to participate in the election process, a member church must have been registered at the 2014 Annual Meeting of the Association/convention and must register in the convention 2015 annual session with a minimum registration of \$300.00.

Voting privileges for election and during the association/convention are restricted to the Voting messengers. Each qualified church can have three (3) Voting Messengers. One person- One Vote (Pastors who pastor multiple churches will have one vote). **The qualified church must identify the three (3) voting messengers on the Official Registration Form.**

Person who are qualified to vote in the election are identified by color coded badge which distinguishes them from other messengers.

The voting polling place shall be a room within the Bowen East District Center. No one will be allowed to vote before or after the designated time. There will be no absentee or proxy votes accepted in the election. Once voting begins, only election committee members and voting messengers will be allowed inside the Voting Poll Room. **Proper identification and signing the registry log prior to receiving the ballot is required.** A monitor will be stationed at the door to voting poll room. Any voting messenger(s) in line inside the voting room who have not voted by closing time will be allowed to continue through to vote. Voting Messengers will not be allowed to enter the voting poll room after the poll has closed at 6:00pm. Each candidate shall have the right to select one person to serve as his official representative during the election. **(Election Overseer).**

A list shall be compiled containing all churches eligible to participate in the election process. The Bowen East District Financial Secretary/Treasurer shall provide to the Election Committee a list of all eligible churches by 12:00 noon on Wednesday September 23. **Registration for the 2015 Association/Convention shall be held from Tuesday September 22 at 6:00pm until Wednesday 11:00am EST on September 23.**

The results of the election will be presented On Thursday, September 24 prior to the close of the Association/Convention.

All questions arising which are incidental to the voting procedures should be submitted to the Election Chairperson, Rev. Jerone Fannin. Rulings by the Elections Chairperson shall be based upon the Constitution and/or Robert's Rule of Order.