



State Bar of Georgia

To: Potential Board of Governors Candidates for the 2026 State Bar

From: Karen Nix, AD of Membership/Elections Committee Staff Liaison

Subject: Election Materials

Thank you for your interest in the Board of Governors election. Enclosed/attached is the election packet for the Board of Governors race for the **2026 Election**. Each member of the Board of Governors whose term will expire in June 2026 has already been sent this package. **NON-INCUMBENT NOMINATING PETITIONS MUST BE RETURNED TO THE MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT BY 11:59 P.M. FEBRUARY 13, 2026.** Election Rules can be found on our website www.gabar.org. Additionally, Standing Executive Committee Policy 1000 (State Bar of Georgia Elections) has been created to provide additional guidelines and procedures regarding the State Bar's annual election. A copy of the policy is enclosed in your election materials.

All active members have the opportunity to vote either electronically or by paper ballot. Emeritus members may vote electronically. Biographies for the Officer and Board of Governor candidates in **contested** races will be available on our website. You will be notified if you have opposition and given instructions at that time regarding how to submit your biography, photo and candidate statement.

New Board Members will be seated at the Annual Meeting at Omni Amelia Island Resort(subject to change), Fernandina Beach, Florida; June 11-14, 2026.

This packet includes information to assist you during the election process:

- ❖ **Petition** (return with signature *and* bar number of **active** members of **your** circuit); you may copy the form and submit multiple pages if you wish. You will need:
 - **3** signatures if circuit has less than **25** members
 - **7** signatures if circuit has more than **24** but less than **100** members
 - **20** signatures if circuit has more than **99** members
 - **5** active non-resident signatures for candidates for Out-of-State Posts

It is recommended that you get several more signatures than are required in case some signatures are determined to be invalid. You will be contacted after your petition is reviewed to let you know that it was received and has been accepted or if additional signatures are needed.

- ❖ **Current Circuit List** indicating the number of active members in each judicial circuit
- ❖ **Election Schedule**
- ❖ **Elections Committee Roster**
- ❖ **FAQ-A** list of questions frequently asked regarding the election.
- ❖ **Standing Executive Committee Policy 1000 (State Bar of Georgia Elections)**

You can e-mail your completed petition to karenn@gabar.org. Petitions which have been emailed no longer need to be followed up by mailing the original petition(s) but it is the responsibility of the candidate to maintain the original copy of their petition until 30 days past the date when results for the election are certified and announced. If you have additional questions, contact Karen at 404-526-8612.

Nominating Petition

Circuit

[illegible]

EMAIL completed petitions to: karenn@gabar.org.

Judicial Circuit	Active	Signatures Required
Alapaha	39	7
Columbia	175	20
Alcovy	201	20
Appalachian	146	20
Atlanta	15505	20
Atlantic	161	20
Augusta	419	20
Bell Forsyth	442	20
Blue Ridge	473	20
Brunswick	420	20
Chattahoochee	462	20
Cherokee	189	20
Clayton	242	20
Cobb	3434	20
Conasauga	159	20
Cordele	46	7
Coweta	302	20
DeKalb	3505	20
Dougherty	186	20
Douglas	205	20
Dublin	71	7
Eastern	1038	20
Enotah	130	20
Flint	308	20
Griffin	489	20
Gwinnett	2015	20
Houston	177	20
Lookout Mountain	128	20
Macon	671	20
Middle	84	7
Mountain	117	20
Northeastern	385	20
Northern	93	7
Ocmulgee	210	20
Oconee	55	7
Ogeechee	157	20
Out of State	7929	5
Paulding	119	20
Pataula	38	7
Rockdale	143	20
Piedmont	158	20
Rome	176	20
South Georgia	62	7
Southern	338	20
Southwestern	61	7
Tallapoosa	56	7
Tifton	96	7
Toombs	36	7
Towaliga	87	7
Waycross	126	20
West Georgia	171	20
Western	558	20

**State Bar of Georgia
2026 Election Schedule**

2025

June	Deadline for submission of election schedule for publication in August issue <i>Georgia Bar Journal</i>
August	Official Election Notice, August Issue <i>Georgia Bar Journal</i>
December 1	Nominating petition package mailed to incumbent Board of Governors Members and other members who request a package

2026

January 14 - 17	Nomination of Officers at Midyear Board Meeting, Omni Hotel at the Battery Atlanta Atlanta, GA
January 16	Deadline for receipt of nominating petitions for incumbent Board Members including incumbent nonresident (out of state) members
Feb 13	Deadline for receipt of nominating petitions for new Board Members including new non-resident (out of state) members
March 6	Deadline for write-in candidates for Officer to file a written statement (not less than 10 days prior to mailing of ballots (Article VII, Section 1 (c))
March 6	Deadline for write-in candidates for Board of Governors to file a written statement (not less than 10 days prior to mailing of ballots (Article VII, Section 2 (c))
March 16	Ballots mailed
April 17	11:59 p.m. Deadline for ballots to be cast in order to be valid
April 24	Election service submits results to the Elections Committee
May 1	Election results reported and made available

2026 Elections Committee

Full Name	Position	Term Expires
Ms. Allegra J. Lawrence	Chairperson	2026
Hon. Stephanie Diane Burton	Vice Chairperson	2026
Hon. Nina Markette Baker	Member	2027
Mr. David Gregory Hill Brackett	Member	2026
Ms. Amber Antoinette Brantley	Member	2026
Ms. Bisa Ajanaku Brogdon	Member	2027
Ms. La'Keitha Daniels Carlos	Member	2026
Ms. Siena Berrios Gaddy	Member	2026
Ms. Celeste Noelle Gaines	Member	2028
Mr. Thomas W. Herman	Member	2027
Mr. Kurt Gregory Kastorf	Member	2028
Ms. Catherine Koura	Member	2026
Ms. Eileen Jacqueline Shuman	Member	2028
Mr. Thua G. Barlay	Executive Committee Liaison	2026
Ms. Karen B. Nix	Staff Liaison	2026

ELECTION FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

- **Is there a Bar policy which covers the election process?** Yes. **Standing Executive Committee Policy 1000 (State Bar of Georgia Elections)** was developed and approved in 2013 and is enclosed in the election packet. It is the guideline for all election issues and procedures.
- **Who can sign my election petition?** Only Active members in good standing of the circuit for which you are running for election may sign your petition.
- **Do members have to reside in my circuit or work in my circuit in order to sign my petition?** It depends on the official address of the member (which may be either the member's home or professional address). You can check their official address in the Bar's online directory. (Please refer to rule 1-205 and Standing Executive Committee Policy 1000 for more information).
- **How are Judicial Circuits determined?** They are specified in the Georgia code and are comprised of a specific county or counties.
- **How are Board of Governors posts within a circuit determined?** The number of posts within a Judicial Circuit is determined by the number of Active members in that particular circuit. Posts are NOT based on any geographic area within a circuit.
- **Can a member who is running for the Board of Governors obtain a mailing list of members of their circuit for the purpose of campaigning?** Yes, once the race is a contested race. Candidates may receive one free mailing list to be used for campaign purposes. The list will contain the names and addresses of voting members of their circuit. Additional lists may be purchased at a nominal charge. Lists can only be used for campaign purposes and only for the election they are obtained for. If a list or set of labels isn't used it should be destroyed or deleted and not reused for subsequent elections or for any other purpose.
- **Can I receive an email list of voters in my circuit?** No. Please refer to Election policy 1000 for additional information on emailing voters.
- **Can I use a nickname on my petition or on the ballot?** Election policy 1000 specifies that the member's official name as shown in his/her Bar record is what will be used on the petition and ballot, but if a member has a nickname they are known by, it may be shown in quotation marks, along with the official name. Example: William P. "Bill" Smith
- **How do I determine how many signatures are needed on my petition?** Review the Members by Circuit chart that is included in your election packet. The number of signatures needed is based on the **Active Count** only. Consult the cover letter for how many signatures are needed for your particular circuit size.
- **Can I run multiple copies of my petition and obtain signatures on the different copies?** Yes, as long as you use the current year petition and the same person doesn't sign more than one petition.
- **Can I scan my completed nominating petition(s) and email it/them to the Bar?** Yes, scan it/them and email to karenn@gabar.org. If original petitions are not submitted, the candidate must maintain the original petition(s) 30 days past the date when results for the election are certified and announced. Petitions that have been scanned and emailed no longer need to be mailed to the Bar.
- **Does the Bar have to receive the original copy of petition form(s) by the deadline?** No, as long as a faxed or emailed copy is received by the deadline and the appropriate number of valid signatures is on the petition, the petition will be considered received by the deadline.
- **Will I be notified if I am in a contested race?** Yes. As soon as a race becomes contested, you will be notified and given instructions on how to submit a biography, photo and candidate statement for your candidate webpage.
- **If I'm not going to run again for my Board of Governors seat, should I let someone know?** Yes. Please contact Karen Nix at karenn@gabar.org and let her know you will not be running for your seat so your circuit can be made aware that there is a vacancy.



State Bar of Georgia

Standing Executive Committee Policy 1000 (State Bar of Georgia Elections)

Active members of the State Bar of Georgia are encouraged to run for a number of important leadership positions, including officers (President-Elect, Secretary and Treasurer), Executive Committee at large members, Board of Governors members elected by judicial circuit and ABA delegates.

As a supplement to the applicable Rules, Bylaws and other provisions listed below in paragraph (j), this policy is designed to:

1. Assist members who wish to offer as candidates with information about the election process;
2. Assist voters by providing to them a reasonable amount of information furnished by candidates in contested races; and
3. Afford all candidates a fair and equal election process.

(a) Election Schedule For All Leadership Positions. Pursuant to Article VII, Section 14, of the State Bar Bylaws, the Elections Committee will prepare an Election Schedule with appropriate time lines and dates for review and approval by the Board of Governors.

(b) Campaigning For All Leadership Positions in Contested Races.

1. Professionalism. Candidates are encouraged to conduct positive campaigns and to refrain from sending negative, false or misleading information of any kind.
2. State Bar Trademarks. The State Bar and YLD logos are registered trademarks of the State Bar of Georgia. Any use of these trademarks without the prior written consent of the State Bar of Georgia is strictly prohibited. All candidates for office with the State Bar and the YLD must refrain from incorporating these logos or any similar likeness, Bar letterhead, Bar images or any language that might imply an endorsement, into campaign materials.
3. State Bar Website. Pursuant to the approved Election Schedule ((a) above), the State Bar will provide each candidate a page on the State Bar website. The candidate page will contain the candidate's biography, candidate message, and photo, as described below. No hyperlinks will be allowed on the State Bar created page for candidates except as provided in 4.d below. Each candidate's information will remain on the State Bar website throughout the election. Changes submitted after the deadline established for receipt of this information will not be accepted, and no date extensions for submitting the form will be granted for any reason.

a. Biography and Candidate Message Form. The Biography and Candidate Message Form affords an opportunity for candidates to further state qualifications and to better inform voters. Candidates wishing to submit a Biography and Candidate Message Form must provide it in the electronic format supplied by the Bar. Only the Biography and Candidate Message Form submitted via this method will be accepted. Candidates will be advised how to obtain the electronic fillable form at the time they are notified of the contested race. The candidate also will be supplied with the deadline date for submission of the form at that time. Forms received after the designated deadline date will not be published on the State Bar website.

There will be no additions, deletions or changes done to the electronic form by the candidate once the form is received by the State Bar. The Elections Committee retains the right to decline to

distribute any Biography or Candidate Message Form which is false, misleading, offensive or arguably illegal.

b. Photo. Each candidate may provide a headshot that will be included on the candidate page on the State Bar's website.

4. State Bar Election Email.

a. Executive Committee Elections. The State Bar will distribute one email to officers and members of the Board of Governors for candidates seeking an Executive Committee position.

b. Announcing Intent to Seek an Officer Position. Prior to the Midyear Meeting when officer nominations are made, the State Bar will distribute one email to officers and members of the Board of Governors to inform them of a candidate's intent to seek an officer position.

c. Board of Governors Elections. The State Bar will distribute one email per race per circuit to the eligible voters in the candidates' circuit, which will contain the name of each candidate within that circuit with a link to his or her candidate page on the State Bar's website.

d. Statewide Elections. The State Bar will distribute one email per race to all eligible voters, which will contain the name of each candidate with a link to the candidate's page on the State Bar's website. In addition, each candidate in a contested statewide race may send 2 emails to all eligible voters. The emails can be a letter of any length and may include hyperlinks if desired. The letters will be included in the body of the email and will be sent through the State Bar email system following the guidelines in Standing Executive Committee Policy 500.

Candidates are free to send additional emails on their own, but email addresses of voting members will not be provided as a list in electronic form or any other form by the State Bar, in accordance with Standing Executive Committee Policy 500. Such campaign messages must state that the email is coming directly from the candidate and not from the State Bar and that the recipient's email address was not provided in electronic or any other form to the candidate by the State Bar. Email addresses for many State Bar members are publicly available through the printed and online directory at www.gabar.org.

All emails of this type must include the following language:

This email is being sent directly by (Candidate) (or by _____ on behalf of and authorized by candidate) and not from the State Bar of Georgia. Email addresses were not provided in electronic or any other form to the candidate by the State Bar of Georgia for this purpose. Email addresses for many State Bar members are publicly available through the printed and online directory at www.gabar.org.

5. Mailing. A candidate may, upon request, receive one free set of printed or electronic mailing labels for the eligible voters in that candidate's race for a single mailing in that year's election only. Additional sets may be purchased by contacting the State Bar's Membership Department. A nominal fee will be charged for additional sets. Candidates will be provided with the most current number of active members in their circuit to budget accordingly. A candidate may not copy the printed labels provided, or the information contained on them, and must delete the electronic file after the single use provided herein. None of the information contained on the labels or in the file may be used at any other time or for any other purpose except as provided in this section.

(c) Board of Governors Nominating Petitions. In accordance with the State Bar of Georgia Bylaws, Article VII, Sections 2 and 4, all candidates, including incumbents and non-incumbents, for circuit and out-of-state posts on the Board of Governors, are required to submit petitions of nomination. Each candidate's petition must be signed by a minimum number of active members of the State Bar from the circuit in which the candidate's

address as registered with the State Bar of Georgia under Rule 1-205 is located. The minimum number of signatures varies by circuit size as follows:

1. three signatures from a circuit having less than twenty-five members;
2. seven signatures from a circuit having more than twenty-four but less than one hundred members;
3. twenty signatures from a circuit having more than ninety-nine members; or
4. five active non-resident signatures for candidates for out-of-state posts.

In no case will nominating petition forms or other election materials be sent to a candidate prior to the date designated for such distribution on the approved election schedule. The dated nominating petition form for a given election must be used. Undated forms or dated forms from prior years may not be used. Petitions on incorrect forms will be rejected and may be returned to the candidate.

Caution: *Candidates are strongly encouraged to submit more than the required minimum number of signatures to compensate for any signatories who either are not active members or whose official address with the State Bar is not in the circuit of the candidate running for the Board of Governors post. Early submission (approximately one week before deadline) is advised to allow the candidate time to obtain additional signatures, if necessary, before the deadline. Failure to timely submit a petition with the required number of eligible signatures will result in that candidate's exclusion from the ballot.*

Regardless of the method of submission, all nominating petitions must be received at the Atlanta headquarters of the State Bar of Georgia no later than 11:59 p.m. on the appropriate deadline date, which is different for incumbent and non-incumbent candidates. Candidates may submit nominating petitions via U.S. Postal Service, private sector delivery service, hand delivery, facsimile or email. Time receipt stamps on emails and facsimiles will determine if they were received prior to the deadline. Extensions of time may not be granted for any reason. If original petitions are not submitted, then it is the responsibility of the candidate to maintain the original petition for thirty days past the date when results for that election are certified and announced. Failure to provide the original petition at the request of the Elections Committee may result in the disqualification of the candidate, at the discretion of the Elections Committee.

The Election Schedule will establish the deadline date for nominating petitions to be submitted by incumbent candidates and a second deadline for petitions to be submitted by non-incumbent candidates. If an incumbent's valid petition is not received at the Atlanta headquarters of the State Bar of Georgia by 11:59 p.m. of the deadline date, that candidate will no longer be considered an incumbent. He or she may run as a non-incumbent and submit the nominating petition by the date established on the approved Election Schedule for non-incumbent candidates. In such a case, the incumbent will not be listed as an incumbent on the official election ballot.

If a non-incumbent's valid petition is not received at the Atlanta headquarters of the State Bar of Georgia by 11:59 p.m. of the deadline date, that candidate will not be listed on the ballot, but may run as a write-in candidate.

(d) Board of Governors Circuit/Post Vacancies. As soon as practicable after the deadline for receipt of incumbent nominating petitions has passed, a list of all expiring Board of Governors terms with the name of the incumbent if they have qualified will be emailed to all eligible voters in the Bar. All Circuit/Posts with no candidate will be shown as having a vacancy. In this email, there will also be detailed information instructing members on how to obtain a nominating petition, qualifications to become a candidate for a Board of Governors seat and appropriate election deadlines. The same information will be included on the State Bar website.

Candidates may seek election to only one post within their circuit in a given election cycle, but may withdraw and re-qualify for a different post prior to the qualification deadline by submitting a new petition. During the nomination period, the State Bar will disclose only the names of properly qualified candidates. Other information, including the number or identities of members who have requested or filed petitions, or the names of signatories on petitions, will not be disclosed.

(e) Ballots.

1. Board of Governors Candidates. Candidates will be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order by last name. Candidates' names will appear on the ballot as they appear in the Bar membership record. If candidates wish to add a nickname, it will be noted in quotations, along with their official name. Candidates will indicate on their nominating petition forms if they wish to include a nickname on the ballot. Incumbent candidates who submit their nominating petitions prior to the deadline for incumbents will be designated on the ballot with either the word "(Incumbent)" or "(I)." See item (c) Board of Governors Nominating Petitions.
2. Statewide Elections. Candidates will be listed on the ballot in alphabetical order by last name under the heading of the office they are seeking. Candidates' names will appear on the ballot as they appear in the Bar membership record. If candidates wish to add a nickname, it will be noted in quotations, along with their official name. Incumbent candidates will be designated on the ballot with either the word "(Incumbent)" or "(I)."

(f) Voting. Only those active members who were eligible to vote in a particular circuit at the time the ballot mailing file is transmitted to the printer will be eligible to vote in the election, even if their status changes during the period between the time the ballot mailing file is transmitted and the actual election begins. Members will receive a ballot for the circuit they were in according to their official address at the time the ballot mailing file was transmitted, or if so elected under rule 1-205, the circuit in which the member resides. Ballot changes will not be made due to the Bar having an incorrect address for the member (see Rule 1-207) once the mailing file is transmitted.

The Elections Committee or its designee will review write-in votes to reasonably assure that slight variations in the spelling of a write-in candidate's name are identified with the same person.

(g) Declaration of Results. After the Elections Committee Chair approves the release of election results, the President and Executive Director will be notified of the results and all candidates in contested races will be notified of the results in their races via email or telephone. Statewide candidates will be notified by the Chair of the Elections Committee or his/her designee. Staff liaison will contact all other candidates. Thereafter, the names of the winning candidates are public information and will be posted on the State Bar website no later than the date for election results release included in the election schedule. They may be made available to any interested person. Additional information including vote counts by circuit will be available to any member upon request. This includes any election for any year for which records are available. Out of respect for members who did not offer for election, but nevertheless did receive votes, write-in information is available only if deemed relevant by the Chair or Vice-Chair of the Elections Committee.

(h) Questions and Appeals.

Professionalism. Professionalism is paramount in all State Bar activities and events. Candidates are expected to conduct fair and positive campaigns, and may not distribute information that is false or intentionally misleading. Violation of this policy may result in removal or revocation of the false or misleading content and disqualification of the candidate found in violation.

1. Election Complaint Process:

- a. The Elections Committee will be authorized to investigate and decide all election matters except election challenges to election results.
- b. Only a candidate may submit a complaint alleging a campaign violation. All complaints must be submitted in writing to the Executive Director within three business days of discovering the alleged violation.
- c. The Executive Director will cause a copy of the complaint to be forwarded to the Chair of the Elections Committee for investigation by the Committee. Upon receiving a complaint, the Elections Committee will provide a copy of all candidates named in the complaint. The candidates may file a response to the Committee and the Executive Director.

d. Candidates may request a hearing. The Executive Committee has the discretion but is not obligated to grant a hearing. All candidates named in the compliant will be invited to attend if a hearing is granted.

e. The Elections Committee shall decide on any received compliant and provide all interested parties a copy of its decision in writing within ten business days of receiving a compliant or following a hearing.

f. or its designee has the discretion to, but is not obligated to, grant a hearing with all interested parties invited in connection with any appeal.

2. Appeals Process:

a. Within three business days of a decision by the Committee, any candidate named in the compliant may file an appeal with the Executive Director. All appeals, supporting documentation, and requests for a hearing must be submitted in writing.

b. The Elections Committee will submit the entire record concerning the complaint to the Executive Director, who will promptly forward the request for appeal and the entire record to the Executive Committee.

c. The appellant may submit a position statement and memorandum setting forth their position for the appeal. The appellant may request a hearing before the Executive Committee at its next scheduled meeting.

d. If an appellant requests a hearing, the President may designate a panel of three Executive Committee members to hear the appeal to expedite the appeal process.

(OR) If an appellant requests a hearing, the appellant may request that the President select a panel of three Executive Committee members to hear the appeal in lieu of an appeal before the entire Executive Committee.

e. If an appellant is a member of the Executive Committee, that party may not participate in the appeal process, any hearing, or the deliberations of an appeal set forth herein.

f. Any decision by the Executive Committee or its designated panel is final and not subject to further review or appeal.

3. Election Result Contests. The Executive Committee of the State Bar of Georgia is the final authority on all election contests, but any contest should first be made to the Elections Committee, which will seek to resolve the matter or make a recommendation to the Executive Committee. Any person receiving one or more votes may file a written contest. All contests shall be received by the Executive Director within ten business days after the result was released and shall specify the re-count or other relief requested. The Executive Committee or its designee has the discretion but is not obligated, to grant a hearing with all interested parties invited in connection with any appeal.

(i) Executive Committee Elected Positions

1. Notification Procedure. No later than 5 days after officer election results are posted and made available, an email notice shall be provided to members of the Board of Governors of the Executive Committee positions to be elected pursuant to the Bylaws, Article IV, Section 1.

2. Campaigning. Members of the Board of Governors who are candidates for the Executive Committee of the State Bar are entitled to send 2 emails to all members of the Board of Governors. The emails can be a letter of any length and may include hyperlinks, if desired. The letters will be included in the body of the email and will be sent through the State Bar email system following the guidelines in Standing Executive

Committee Policy 500. In addition, each candidate is entitled to receive one free set of printed or electronic mailing labels which are to be used to inform the Board of their candidacy. Additional sets may be purchased by contacting the State Bar's Membership Department. A nominal fee will be charged for additional sets. A candidate may not copy the printed labels provided, or the information contained on them, and must delete the electronic file after the single use provided herein. None of the information contained on the labels or in the file may be used at any other time or for any other purpose except as provided in this section.

(j) Related State Bar Rules and Bylaws.

Part I

Chapter 2

Rule 1-205 Bar of Judicial Circuit

Chapter 3

Rule 1-304 Election of Members of Board of Governors

Rule 1-306 Vacancies; Ties

Chapter 4

Rule 1-402 Election of Officers

Rule 1-403 Vacancies; Ties

Chapter 7

Rule 1-701 Executive Committee

Bylaws

Article VII

Section 1. Nomination of Officers

Section 2. Nomination of Members for the Board of Governors

Section 3. Circuits Having More Than One Member of Board of Governors

Section 4. Nominating Petitions

Section 5. Accepting Nominations

Section 6. Ballots

Section 7. Voters Lists: Distribution of Ballots

Section 8. Method of Voting

Section 9. Elections Committee

Section 10. Declaration of Results of Elections

Section 11. Tie Vote

Section 12. Run-Off

Article X

Section 1. Delegates: Designation; Nomination and Election; Alternates

Section 2. Terms of Office

Section 3. Alternate Appointments