



UUA Presidential Nomination 2023 Timeline Summary

**Posted by UUA Secretary Bill Young
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This summary clarifies the timeline for different routes to become a nominee for UUA President for the scheduled election in 2023. The UUA Bylaws create two separate pathways to nomination: nomination by the Presidential Search Committee, and nomination by petition. Each nomination pathway has its own procedures, though all nominees must be a member of a UUA congregation (UUA Bylaws Section 9.7). Both pathways have been used to become a presidential nominee in years past.

Regardless of the route to nomination, the rules for campaigning apply equally to all candidates. Certain campaign rules are approved by the General Assembly under Rule G-9.13. These include voting procedures, campaign finance contributions limits, timing for campaigns, and the role of the Election Campaign Practices Committee. Other standards may be set by the Election Campaign Practices Committee or the Board of Trustees. The consistent application of these standards is essential for conducting a fair election.

PSC Nomination Timeline

The Presidential Search Committee (PSC) nominates at least two candidates for UUA President per UUA Bylaws Section 9.5. The PSC sets its own standards and process (in alignment with UUA policies) for receiving applications, interviewing candidates, and making decisions about whom to nominate.

Starting in April 2022, the PSC invited individuals to apply through a confidential process to be considered for nomination. The PSC set an application deadline of July 15, 2022. The PSC will announce at least two nominees for President by November 15, at which point this information will be publicly available to congregations.

Nomination by Petition Timeline

An individual may run for UUA President by petition per Bylaws Section 9.6. Petitions must be signed by at least fifty member congregations from at least three UUA regions, as approved by a vote of the congregation's members at a duly called meeting or by its governing board.

Nomination petitions must be submitted to the UUA Secretary on or after December 1, 2022 and on or before February 1, 2023. These must be submitted in the format set by the Secretary. Candidates seeking nomination by petition may solicit congregational support beginning on November 15, 2022, or earlier if the PSC announces its nominations before that date (see note below).

Campaign Timeline

Rule G-9.13.7 sets the campaign timeline for all candidates regardless of route to nomination, ensuring that campaigning opportunities are equal across the Association.

Individuals seeking to be a candidate (whether or not under consideration as a PSC applicant) may begin “non-public planning” on October 1, 2022. This includes internal organizing activities such as strategic or communications meetings, and any other preparation for an election campaign.

Candidates may begin “active campaigning” on November 15, 2022, or earlier if the PSC announces its candidates before that date. Active campaigning involves outreach and activities to build support for a campaign, including seeking endorsement or petition signatures from congregations and their members. Campaigning at General Assembly is allowed only in the year when the Presidential election is held and is otherwise prohibited. This prohibition applies to GA 2022 onsite in Portland and in online spaces.

Note on the timeline for beginning to solicit congregational nomination signatures:

Requesting congregational nomination signatures involves persuading hundreds of people to take an action that supports an individual’s candidacy. Under my authority as Secretary under Bylaws Section 9.6. and Section 9.9, it is my determination that soliciting congregational signatures qualifies as “active campaigning” under Rule G-9.13.7. Thus, such solicitation may not begin until the earlier of the date the PSC announces its nominees or November 15, 2022.

Once active campaigning begins, it will continue through General Assembly in June of 2023 when the election concludes. Throughout the spring of 2023, the UUA will share information about the election and nominees. Nominated candidates will conduct their own campaigns under UUA rules and policies.

In the event of a conflict between this summary and the UUA Bylaws and Rules, the Bylaws and Rules shall govern.

Questions about the presidential election timeline may be emailed to me at secretary@uua.org.

In faith,

Bill Young
UUA Secretary