

Election Town Hall / Q & A meeting notes, 5/21/23

23 people attended

- How does one run for the board?
 - Send an email to elections@makeict.org to nominate someone or yourself.
- When do people vote?
 - Starts June 18 and will be open 48 hours. Ballot is emailed to you.
- The software is completely anonymous, that's why we do not do a paper ballot. If you are unable to vote via email by yourself, members are willing to assist you in accessing this.
- You will get a test email before June 18th, check your spam folder
- Paper ballot- impossible due to not being able to verify the member did not already vote online, online voting system is anonymous.
- There is a tentative plan to set up a time that weekend to help members who are not able to vote by themselves—for example if they did not have a computer at home.
- Once a vote is cast, it cannot be changed
- At large board members: they take the top 4 vote receivers, it is not 4 separate races
- Once someone accepts a nomination, they are sent a questionnaire on the forum to fill out if they would like.
- Questions on questionnaire are set by the election committee
- If you have a question you would like on this questionnaire, tell it to the election committee
- One member expressed desire to have tougher questions on the questionnaire
- You can also ask questions to individual candidates on their forum thread of their questionnaire
- The end period for nominations is the general meeting (June 18)
- The ballot can change up until the end of that meeting
- If someone decides to run at the general meeting, you can ask them questions there
- How do you find the nominees for board?
https://wiki.makeict.org/wiki/2023_Board_Nominations_and_Election_Results
- Someone can serve up to 3 consecutive times on the board—in any position. Once someone reaches 3 years, they must take at least one year off before running again for any position
- How many hours a week is the commitment of being on the board?
 - Depends on the position
 - Rustin estimates he spends at minimum 20 hours a week, but up to 40 hours a week
 - At-large position, not very much time outside of the monthly board meeting.

- Fiscal responsibility: while there is no required fiscal responsibility, it is highly suggested the board members (mostly president) donate. This helps us with outside fundraising as people can see we have more skin in the game. [Editor's note: I'm not entirely convinced I understood this correctly, Rustin please correct me if I am wrong]
- Board members are insured up to a certain amount, Rustin recalls it is \$1 million. If there is litigation in excess of that, it could fall on the board members if the board member is deemed liable.
- Are there consequences of leaving in the middle of a term?
 - No.
 - If someone resigns for personal reasons their position is vacant and has to be filled within 3 months by the board. This new person could serve the remainder of the term or there could be a special election.
- Minimum number of board members to hold a meeting: 5
- Minimum number of board members to have a the board: 8
- One member expressed concern that board members are not coming to in-person board meetings and are instead video calling in
- Remote/video calling in to the meeting has been an option for 7 or 8 years, started due to a few board members having to travel for work often.
- Some members expressed a desire to have a minimum number of meetings the board should be required to attend in-person
- Members expressed desire to add that to the questionnaire
- Member asked if we could add that as a referendum
- Wouldn't it be nice to have the committee decisions made and board members all there and they could vote and make the process more efficient
- If we impose a commitment of the board, we need to impose one of the committees
- What happens if there is tension between board members? What is that process?
 - Executive session
 - What happens in executive sessions?
 - Personnel issues
- Why don't we use the area leads as a board member check system?
- There is a proposal on the forum for judicial processes—might be better to wait for new board
- Should board members be able to vote on proposals by their own committees? Should board members be able to choose when they have a conflict of interest?

- Currently board members can vote on proposals by committees they are on
- Forum: how many moderators?
 - 11 mods and 6 admins
- How do people become mods?
- Some people only have moderation privilege for one area
- A board member can use their power as a moderator to silence what people are posting about them
- What are the consequences for board members?
- Who does the board report to?
- What is the board for?
 - Create and enforce policy
 - Pay bills and other logistical things
- Board members must be willing to answer questions about proposals, policies, upcoming events—ie they should prepare before the board meeting
- “The board has 0 power, it’s the committees that have all the power”
- Is the above quotation true?
- The board does not create policy, the committees create the policy and the board votes on the policy
- Need 5 people to create a committee
- There are currently 17 committees
- Do board members recuse themselves from voting on their own policies?
- That is not currently a rule
- How do we create that rule? A Petition
- Can nominees post on the forum answering extra questions?
 - Yes, and they are encouraged to do so
- Is there a limit to campaigning?
 - No current limits on that
- Should the board reorganize so that each committee has 1 board member to report to, and each board member has a couple committees to understand?
- The board should focus on long-term survivability