



# **National Black Law Students Association**

## **2025 National Convention Election Rules and Procedures**

March 10 – 16th

*Atlanta, GA.*

[www.nblsa.org](http://www.nblsa.org)

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## **PLEASE READ THIS PACKET IN ITS ENTIRETY**

*NOTE: Any violations of the rules and procedures outlined in the packet may result in disqualification from candidacy.*

Please email [elections@nblsa.org](mailto:elections@nblsa.org) with any questions

# Important Deadlines

Pre- Certified Candidates	Floor Nominated Candidates
<b>3/7/25 – 11:59 PM (EST)</b>   Application Deadline	<b>3/13/25 – 12:00 PM (EST)</b>   Nomination Acceptance, Floor Candidate Meeting (Plenary 1)
<b>3/12/25 – 8:15pm (EST)</b>   Pre-Screened Candidates Meeting (Mandatory) <b>11:59AM (EST)</b>   Cured Deficiencies Deadline	<b>3/14/25 - 12:00 AM EST</b> - Nomination Acceptance Deadline (For Absent Floor Nominees)
<b>3/16/25 – 11:00 AM (EST)</b>   Transition Meeting (Mandatory)	<b>3/16/25 – 11:00 AM (EST)</b>   Transition Meeting (Mandatory)
<b>3/17/25 – 11:59 PM (EST)</b>   Deadline to Request Ballot Review	<b>3/17/25 – 11:59 PM (EST)</b>   Deadline to Request Ballot Review
	<b>3/19/25 – 11:59 (EST)</b>   Item 5 Submission Deadline

# Application Checklist

- **Statement of Intent**
- **Signed Leadership Application**
- **Chapter Endorsement and Certification**
- **Resume (1- page limit)**
- **Letter of Good Standing (Law School Registrar)**

# **Rules and Procedures**

## I. **POSITIONS AVAILABLE FOR ELECTION**

Any dues-paying member of an **active** NBLSA chapter<sup>1</sup> may run for office. The following NBLSA positions are eligible for election, pursuant to Article VI, Section B of the NBLSA Constitution and Article X of the NBLSA Bylaws:

National Chair  
National Vice Chair  
National Secretary  
National Treasurer  
National Attorney General  
National Board Members-at-Large (Six positions)

No candidate may run for more than one office. No individual elected to a regional position for the 2025–2026 academic year may run for a position on the NBLSA National Board of Directors unless they immediately resign from their regional position before submitting their application for a national position.

To learn more about the duties of each elected position, please refer to the NBLSA Constitution and Bylaws on the NBLSA.org website or reach out to the person currently occupying the position.

National Chair - Nastassia Janvier ([chair@nblsa.org](mailto:chair@nblsa.org))

National Vice Chair - Khamisie Green ([vice-chair@nblsa.org](mailto:vice-chair@nblsa.org))

National Secretary - Vacant ([secretary@nblsa.org](mailto:secretary@nblsa.org))

National Treasurer - Nathan Alexander ([treasurer@nblsa.org](mailto:treasurer@nblsa.org))

National Attorney General - Arielle Hudson ([ag@nblsa.org](mailto:ag@nblsa.org))

Member at Large 1 - Lauren Howell ([memberatlarge1@nblsa.org](mailto:memberatlarge1@nblsa.org))

Member at Large 2 - Joshua McKinney ([memberatlarge2@nblsa.org](mailto:memberatlarge2@nblsa.org))

Member at Large 3 - Hunter Robinson ([memberatlarge3@nblsa.org](mailto:memberatlarge3@nblsa.org))

Member at Large 4 - Jasmine Felder ([memberatlarge4@nblsa.org](mailto:memberatlarge4@nblsa.org))

Member at Large 5 - James Williams ([memberatlarge5@nblsa.org](mailto:memberatlarge5@nblsa.org))

Member at Large 6 - Mattie King ([memberatlarge6@nblsa.org](mailto:memberatlarge6@nblsa.org))

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<sup>1</sup> An active chapter is defined under Article II, Section B(3)(i) of the NBLSA Constitution. To be considered a member of an active chapter, your name must be included in the chapter's membership roster.

## II. CANDIDATE QUALIFICATIONS

There are (2) ways to certify yourself as a candidate for a position on the NBLSA Board of Directors:

- A. Pre-Certification
- B. Nomination from the floor during the National Convention

This section will cover rules and procedures for **both**.

### A. PRE-CERTIFICATION PROCESS

- i. In General:** Any active member who completes the documentation and requirements of the pre-certification phase and the final certification phase may qualify as a candidate for the NBLSA Board of Directors elections.
- ii. Purpose of Pre-Certification Process:** Pre-Certification allows candidates to begin campaigning early through social media outlets, as well as at the National Convention. *See* Section III, Part B of the Election Rules and Procedures.
  - 1. Pre-Certification Deadline:** All materials must be submitted as one PDF document no later than **11:59 PM EST on Friday, March 7, 2025**, via e-mail to [elections@nblsa.org](mailto:elections@nblsa.org). Each Candidate will have until **11:59 AM EST on Wednesday, March 12, 2025**, to cure any deficiencies.

**Absolutely no pre-certification applications will be accepted beyond this deadline.**

- iii. Pre-Certified Candidate Meeting:** All Pre-Certified Candidates must attend the pre-certified candidates' meeting at the National Convention on Wednesday March 12, 2025 from 6:00 pm to 6:45 pm. Hybrid options may be available in exigent circumstances and on the premise that the Candidate requiring the accommodation will be physically present at National Convention before the start of Plenary Session 3 at 9:00 am on Friday, March 14th. Failure to attend the Pre-Certified Candidate meeting will result in an incompleteness of the pre-certification process.
- iv. Submission Requirements:** There are five (5) submission requirements. Each member must declare their intent to run for a national position by

submitting the documents below. (Items 2 and 3 will be included in this packet.)

1. **Statement of Intent:** The statement of intent should be a maximum of one-page in length, include a headshot in the top left hand corner, a disclosure of other obligations/employment/extracurricular activities, and a signature at the end of the statement. The statement of intent must be addressed to the National Elections Committee and include an iteration of the following declarative statements:

- a. The applicant has read and understands the NBLSA Constitution and Bylaws;
- b. The applicant is committed to NBLSA's mission and values;
- c. The applicant is aware of the full responsibilities and qualifications that the applied position requires;
- d. The applicant meets the qualifications set forth by the NBLSA Constitution;
- e. The applicant understands the Financial Obligations of serving as a National Board of Director;
- f. The applicant understands that serving as a National Board of Director binds them with a fiduciary duty to the Association
- g. The applicant will maintain their constitutional eligibility requirements throughout their term of office; and
- h. The applicant affirms that the procedures and rules in this packet are the proper procedures for candidacy to a National Board of Director position.

2. **Completed and Signed National Leadership Application Form**

3. **Signed Local Chapter Endorsement and Certification Form:**

The form should be signed by any officer or Chapter Advisor of the local NBLSA chapter of which you are a member to certify your good standing with the chapter. If you are the President of your local chapter, your form must be signed by another officer of the Chapter or Chapter Advisor. You may **not** sign the form for your candidacy.

4. **Resume:** 1-page limit, including any NBLSA positions held at

the local, regional, or national level.

5. **Letter of Good Standing:** A letter from your law school registrar or dean certifying your enrollment and good academic standing in an accredited J.D. or L.L.M. program.

## **B. NOMINATIONS FROM THE FLOOR**

**In General.** Members who do not submit the required materials for pre-certification or fail to attend the mandatory Pre-Certified Candidates Meeting after submitting the requisite materials may still become a candidate via a nomination from the floor. The rules and procedures regarding floor nominations are as follows:

- i. Who May be Nominated from the Floor:** Members who do not submit the required materials by the pre-certification deadline may still run for an elected position. Nominations from the floor are subject to the following rule:
  1. Any registered delegate or proxy with the proper authority may nominate an **active** NBLSA member physically present at the National Convention for a National Officer position **unless** said position has two **(2) or more** pre-certified candidates already on the ballot.
- ii. Time of Floor Nominations:** Floor nominations will only occur during the First Plenary Session at the National Convention unless a proper motion to reconsider floor nominations is brought before the General Assembly.
- iii. How to Make Floor Nomination:** To make the nomination, a chapter's delegate need only rise, be recognized, and state "I nominate [insert name] for the position of [insert position]" **No second is required.** The nominator is only permitted to nominate one person for each officer position.
- iv. Floor Nominated Candidate Meeting:** All Floor Nominated Candidates must attend a mandatory candidates' meeting on **Thursday, March 13th, after the first plenary** led by the Chair of the Elections Committee.
- v. Deadline to Accept Floor Nomination:** Each floor nominee who is not

present during the time of the nomination will have **12 hours from the end of Plenary 1** to accept or decline the nomination.

- vi. Submission Requirements Upon Accepting a Nomination From The Floor:** If a candidate is nominated from the floor, the nominee must meet the requirements set forth above in Section II(A)(iv) (Submission Requirements) of this packet. Floor Nominees must submit items 1–4 via e-mail to [elections@nblsa.org](mailto:elections@nblsa.org) **within 12 hours of accepting their nomination.** Item 5, the Letter of Good Standing, may be provided via email to [elections@nblsa.org](mailto:elections@nblsa.org) no later than 11:59pm **Wednesday, March 19, 2025.**

### C. FINAL CERTIFICATION PROCESS

**iii. Submission Requirement Upon Election:** All candidates who are elected must have submitted all requisite documents by the deadlines and timeframes outlined above to the National Elections Committee, [elections@nblsa.org](mailto:elections@nblsa.org) to maintain your office. Failure to submit any of the required documents will result in a disqualification of candidacy.

**iv. Mandatory Transition Meeting:** Any candidate elected to NBLSA National Office is **required** to attend the Transition Meeting on the morning of **Sunday March 16th**. This meeting is **mandatory**, so please make arrangements accordingly.

### Important Considerations

1. Serving on the NBLSA Board of Directors is a **significant commitment** that requires a substantial amount of **time, travel**, and extracurricular work. Please factor this into your considerations when deciding to run for office.
2. For most positions, NBLSA **does not fund required travel**; thus, it is important that you consider all other available financial resources, such as funding from your local law school, before deciding to run.
3. As a member of the NBLSA Board of Directors, you **must attend four in person meetings**, including the NBLSA Joint Board Retreat in June/July for which travel is required.



### III. CAMPAIGNING

#### A. CAMPAIGN FUND LIMITATIONS

- i. **National Chair Limit:** No candidate for the office of National Chair shall expend more than \$500, excluding travel expenses.
- ii. **Limit for all other elected Positions:** Candidates for all other positions shall not expend more than \$300, excluding travel expenses.
- iii. **In-Kind Donations:** In-kind donations will be counted toward the budget limit at the fair market value.
- iv. **Accounting of Expenditures:** All candidates must submit a detailed list of all expenditures associated with their candidacy (excluding travel expenses) for a NBLSA National Office by 12:00 PM EST on Saturday, March 15th. No expenditures associated with candidacy may be made after this time. Any expenditures made after this time will result in automatic disqualification.

#### B. CAMPAIGN MATERIAL APPROVAL & FURTHER LIMITATIONS

**Approval of All Campaign Materials:** ALL candidates for National Office must submit their campaign materials and correspondence (social media, etc.) related to their candidacy for approval by the National Elections Committee via email at [elections@nblsa.org](mailto:elections@nblsa.org) **BEFORE** disseminating it to the electorate.

- i. **Candidates must account for social media expenses:** If any candidate incurs costs related to the use of any electronic medium, these expenses must be included in their reporting of campaign expenses.
- ii. **NBLSA Regional or National Listserv/Groupme:** Candidates **MAY NOT** use any official NBLSA Regional or National listserv or NBLSA-branded social networking site (e.g. regional or national Facebook groups, **GroupMe**, YouTube Channels, or Twitter Pages) to disseminate campaign materials.

## C. CANDIDATE ENDORSEMENT RULES AND PROCEDURES

### i. Local Chapter Endorsement Rules:

1. A Certified Candidate – whether Pre-Certified or Floor Nominated – is empowered to seek endorsements from any local chapter **only upon arrival at the National Convention**. Accordingly, local chapters are **prohibited** from publicly endorsing a candidate prior to the start of the National Convention. A local chapter may provide its own guidelines to candidates seeking their endorsement.
2. Any campaign-related expenditures made by a local chapter shall be counted toward the relevant candidate's campaign fund limit and should be reported accordingly.
3. Upon the commencement of the National Convention, candidates are permitted to use their local chapter's social media page(s), as well as their own personal social media page(s).

### ii. Current National and Regional Board Member Endorsement Rules:

1. **Regional Endorsements.** A Region is empowered to publicly endorse a candidate so long as all candidates for a particular race are given an equal opportunity to seek regional consideration. Examples of such consideration include: hosting a regional caucus during the National Convention during which candidates may interact with delegates from local chapters from the region, make presentations, and answer questions. A Region may publicly announce its endorsement but may not otherwise promote or support the candidate beyond such an announcement.
2. **Prohibition of Endorsements from National and Regional Officers:** Pursuant to the Bylaws, the sitting members of the NBLSA Board of Directors and the National Executives are **strictly prohibited** from speaking, working, or acting in support of or opposition to any candidate in any NBLSA election, either explicitly or implicitly (including the wearing or distribution of campaign materials). These Rules extend this policy to

Regional Board officers in attendance at the National Convention. National and Regional Officers are to be strictly impartial observers of the election. This does not, however, prevent facilitating candidate interaction with delegates.

3. This rule does not include past national or regional board members.

#### **D. DEMEANOR PRIOR TO COMMENCEMENT OF OFFICIAL CAMPAIGNING**

- i. **Verbal Announcements are allowed:** Candidates **ARE** permitted to verbally announce their candidacy prior to the candidate's meeting to any NBLSA member in any region.
  1. Only candidates may endorse themselves prior to the mandatory candidate meeting.
  2. Local chapters and Regions are **prohibited** from making endorsements **prior** to the National Convention.
- ii. **No Dissemination of Campaign Material prior to the Mandatory Candidate Meeting:** No candidate may disseminate printed or electronic campaign material prior to attending the appropriate mandatory candidate meeting.

**Social Media for Campaigning:** once a candidate's application has been **accepted** by the National Elections Committee, they may use social media to advertise their candidacy.

#### **E. DEMEANOR AFTER COMMENCEMENT OF OFFICIAL CAMPAIGNING**

- i. **Campaign Materials:** Candidates are permitted to wear and distribute approved campaign materials (flyers, buttons, etc.) to attendees at the National Convention. Such materials that are intended to be distributed must be submitted for approval by the National Elections Committee.
- ii. **No Campaigning inside or within 30 feet of a Plenary Session:** No campaigning may occur during a plenary session. As such, no delegate is allowed to wear or prominently display any campaign materials within 30 feet of or inside of the room where plenary sessions will be held.

- iii. **Unfair Campaign Practice:** No candidate shall engage in any unfair campaign practice including, but not limited to, violation or contempt of any campaign rule; defacing or removing another candidate's campaign materials, libeling or slandering another candidate, and/or maliciously disrupting another candidate's campaign.
- iv. **Responsibility for Others Campaigning on Candidate's Behalf:** Each candidate is responsible for the activity that another undertakes directly on their behalf unless the candidate sincerely and affirmatively discourages such activity.

#### **F. CONCLUSION OF CAMPAIGNING**

All active campaigning, dissemination of campaign materials, and solicitation of votes must cease at the conclusion of candidate speeches. All campaign materials must be taken down no later than one hour after the conclusion of candidate speeches.

### **IV. ENFORCEMENT OF ELECTION RULES AND PROCEDURES**

#### **A. COMPLAINTS**

- i. Any dues-paying NBLSA member may file a complaint with the National Elections Committee member for violations of the election rules and procedures via email at [elections@nblsa.org](mailto:elections@nblsa.org).

#### **B. ENFORCEABILITY**

- i. These rules will be enforced by the National Elections Committee. An investigation into any violation is the sole responsibility of the National Elections Committee. If a violation is found to have merit, then the offending candidate will be sanctioned, including but not limited to **immediate disqualification**. **[Example of an offense that constitutes immediate disqualification: Publicly disparaging another candidate or forging application documents.]**
- ii. Reported violations will be processed under a 3-strike policy. This policy is applicable to infractions that are not deemed so egregious as to warrant immediate disqualification. **[Example: A candidate has illegally posted the same campaign flyer in two (2) separate but prohibited groups; each post will be counted as an individual infraction against the 3-strike policy.]**

### **C. APPEALS**

- i. Any decision made by the National Elections Committee that results in the disqualification of a candidate may be appealed as a grievance to the National Board of Directors via the National Committee on Standards and Discipline via email to [grievance@nblsa.org](mailto:grievance@nblsa.org).

### **D. AMENDMENTS OF ELECTION RULES AND PROCEDURES**

The National Elections Committee reserves the right to amend or add to the election procedures at any time prior to the commencement of the National Convention, except such procedures outlined in the National Constitution and Bylaws.

### **V. DEBATES AND SPEECHES**

#### **A. CANDIDATE SPEECHES**

- i. All candidates except for the Chair and Vice-Chair for office are required to give a speech of no more than five (5) minutes and stand for questions during the Plenary Elections session. The Chair and Vice-Chair will have seven (7) minutes for their speeches
- ii. The order of Candidate Speeches and Questions and Answers (Q&A) will be announced at the pre-election meeting.

### **VI. DELEGATE VOTING PROCEDURES**

#### **A. PLENARY ATTENDANCE REQUIREMENTS FOR ELECTION VOTING**

- i. Any active chapter with a registered delegate or proxy at the National Convention who attends at least **TWO** plenary sessions during the 57th Annual National Convention is entitled to participate in the election of the 2025-2026 NBLSA National Board of Directors.
- ii. All delegates will receive their chapter ballots and any proxy ballots after the conclusion of candidate speeches.

#### **B. VOTING BY PROXY**

- i. In order to utilize the proxy vote procedure, please refer to the 2025 National Convention Proxy Certification Form. Please contact

[parliamentarian@nblsa.org](mailto:parliamentarian@nblsa.org) if you have any questions.

### C. BALLOTS & VOTING

- i. **Secret Ballot:** The election of officers is determined by secret ballot.
- ii. **Winner:** The candidate that receives the largest percentage of votes for each position will be declared the winner of the position.
- iii. **Rules for unopposed candidates:** If a candidate is unopposed, they must receive a majority of the votes in order to be declared the winner of the position.
- iv. The names of elected officers will be announced during the A. J. Cooper Legacy Awards Gala held on **Saturday, March 15th.**
- v. Every candidate may request to inspect the ballots submitted for the position to which they were a candidate. This request must be submitted to the National Elections Committee at [elections@nblsa.org](mailto:elections@nblsa.org) by **Monday, March 17, 2025**



**NATIONAL BLACK LAW STUDENTS ASSOCIATION**

**NATIONAL LEADERSHIP APPLICATION FORM**

<b>First Name:</b>	
<b>Last Name:</b>	
<b>Law School:</b>	
<b>Graduation Year:</b>	
<b>Email:</b>	
<b>Phone:</b>	
<b>Desired Position:</b>	

**You may only select/apply for ONE position.**

- **Chair**
- **Vice Chair**
- **Treasurer**
- **Secretary**
- **Attorney General**
- **Member-At-Large (6 Positions)**

**I affirm that:**

- **I am an active member of a local NBLSA chapter;**
- **I am a national dues-paying member of NBLSA;**
- **I have read and understood the Elections Packet; and I understand that serving NBLSA will be a significant commitment of my time and finances.**

**Signature:\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_**



**CHAPTER ENDORSEMENT AND CERTIFICATION OF CANDIDATE FORM**

**Instructions:** This form serves as the endorsement of the law school chapter of the mentioned applicant to run for National office. This form does not bind the chapter to vote in favor of the candidate, but rather certifies that the member is a) an active member in good standing of the Chapter and b) fit for the office to which they seek election by the NBLSA General Assembly.

<b>Candidate Name:</b>	
<b>Law School:</b>	
<b>National Position Sought:</b>	
<b>Chapter Officer Name:</b>	
<b>Chapter Officer Email:</b>	
<b>Chapter Officer Phone:</b>	

**Please certify the following statements by selecting the appropriate response.**

Is the candidate a member of the Chapter in good standing?       **Yes**    **No**

Is the candidate fit for the office to which they seek to be elected?       **Yes**    **No**

Statement of Completeness

*The undersigned chapter officer certifies that the information given in this document is true, accurate, and complete to the best of his/her knowledge. This statement is governed by the NBLSA Code of Conduct and the school honor code of the applicant.*

\_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name & Title

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature

\_\_\_\_\_

Date