

AREA VII FFA OFFICER ELECTION POLICY

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY - ARTICLE V – STUDENT OFFICERS

Section B: The elected student officers of the association shall be selected and nominated by each of the district associations. In compliance to policies and procedures of the association, each of these student officers will be given the opportunity to demonstrate FFA, agricultural education, parliamentary procedure, and agricultural industry knowledge via a written or online exam, present their qualifications to an evaluation committee and appear before the delegates convened at the annual convention to deliver a campaign speech.

POLICY ADOPTED 7/28/2015, updated 2018, 2019, 2024

1. Qualified candidates will complete and submit the online Area Officer application according to the instructions posted online. The date deadlines will be posted on the Area VII website on or before January 31 of each year.
2. The applications will be reviewed by the advisor elections committee to determine degree and membership eligibility. The candidates and their advisor(s) will be notified via email of their candidate status prior to May 1.
3. All eligible candidates will be required to complete Phase I of the election process. This is typically held on the Friday prior to the annual Area VII Convention.

Phase I will consist of the following components:

1. A written exam similar to the Senior Area FFA Knowledge LDE Quiz will be completed electronically. Candidates will have 1 hour to complete the exam.
2. A writing exercise addressing a relevant “hot topic” similar to those being utilized in the State FFA Officer election process. The essay will be completed electronically and scored independently by a panel of 3 adult judges. Candidates will have 1 hour to complete the essay.
3. A ten-minute personal interview with the evaluation committee (the eight current Area officers and six Ag teachers – one per District) utilizing competencies and rubrics similar to the State officer election process.

Scoring for Phase I:

1. The exam is weighted 85% of the 20% allocated for the agricultural industry knowledge.
 2. The essay is weighted 15% of the 20% allocated for the agricultural industry knowledge.
 3. The personal interview is weighted at 80%.
 4. The cumulative scores will be tabulated for each candidate and ranked by District.
 5. The top two candidates from each District will be designated as candidate finalists and will advance to the Area VII Convention to complete Phase II of the election process.
4. The 12 candidate finalists (2 per District) will complete Phase II on the same day as the Phase I.

Phase II will consist of the following components:

1. A 10 minute Round Robin Stakeholder Conversation interview with the evaluation committee utilizing competencies and rubrics similar to the State officer election process.

Scoring for Phase II:

1. The raw interview scores will be tabulated and combined with the raw interview scores from Phase I to obtain a cumulative interview score. The cumulative score will be weighted at 30%.
5. The 12 officer candidates will deliver a campaign speech not to exceed three minutes to the delegate body and will each be asked a thought question which has no time limit. There will be no use of props during the campaign speech, run-off speech, or thought question response. The preliminary election will occur early in the first session of the Area Convention.
6. Each District will vote separately to select one Area Officer per District. In the Preliminary Election, the voting delegates will vote for one candidate. The vote totals will be weighted 50% and the test/essay score (20%) and interview score (30%) will be combined to determine the top six Area Officers. There is an implied nomination in this process.
7. The top 8 Area Officers will be announced during the first session of the Area Convention and the top 6 will deliver a one-minute run-off speech at the conclusion of the announcement, followed by an immediate vote. Again, no props will be allowed during the run-off speech.
8. In the final election, the voting delegates will vote for two candidates. The vote totals will be weighted 50% and the test/essay score (20%) and interview score (30%) will be combined to determine the officer rankings according to Article V, Section F of the Area VII Constitution (Section F: The candidate earning the highest point total in the final round of voting shall be declared student officer president of the association, and the candidate receiving the second highest score total in the final runoff election shall be declared the first vice-president. The remaining officers shall be called vice-presidents and shall assume the stations of the various other offices for ceremonial purposes at the annual convention and other meetings throughout the year.) Two at-large candidates will be elected based on the highest scores of the 6 candidates not selected during the voting rounds. Those candidates will be the 7th and 8th highest ranking officers following completion of Phase I, Phase II, and Preliminary Election voting. They will not be considered for run-off speeches for President or Vice President.
9. The announcement of the new Area President and First Vice President and installation of officers will occur at the conclusion of the afternoon convention session.
10. In the event that a district does not have any qualified candidates submit applications by the deadline given each year, an "at large" officer will be elected to fill that position. That candidate will essentially be the next highest ranking candidate following completion of Phase I, Phase II, and Preliminary Election, but will not be in contention for President or First Vice President positions (so will therefore NOT give a one minute run-off speech or be in the final voting).