

OCDS Triennial Elections

SPRING 2026

JEAN BROWN, OCDS

PROVINCIAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Opening Prayer

JIM DOWD, OCDS

Agenda

Opening Prayer-Jim Dowd, OCDS

Introduction- Jean Brown, OCDS

Two Months Prior-Fr. Adam Gregroy Gonzales, OCD

One Month Prior-Jean Brown, OCDS

Election Day-Pam Gockel, OCDS

After the Election-Jean Brown, OCDS

Closing Prayer-Father Adam Gregory Gonzales, OCD

Please place your questions in the chat after the presentation.



The
President

Three
Councilors

Elections are held every 3 years in the Spring prior to the Provincial Chapter of the Friars in May

Modifications to the election procedure must have the approval of the Provincial Delegate, Father Adam Gregory Gonzales, OCD



TWO Months Prior



Two months prior to the election a Nominating Committee of at least three professed (***Temporary or Definitive Promise***) members, of which only one may be on the Council, shall be chosen and notified by the Council.

The Nominating Committee will be announced to the members at a meeting one month in advance of the meeting when the election is to take place. [cf. Statutes Sec. XXVII: Guidelines for the Nominating Committee] .

The Council will distribute to the Community a list of members eligible to serve in an office and eligible to vote.

To be eligible to vote a member must be **professed**, on the Community roster, and in compliance with the community attendance policy regarding voter eligibility [cf. Provincial Statutes, Sec. XIII: Organization and Life, No. 3].

Diocesan priests, deacons and seminarians are ineligible to hold office as President or Formation Director. Only ***professed*** members of the Community may serve as members of the Council.

The President and Formation Director must be **Definitively Professed.**

Absences

12 months prior to the election the eligible candidates must have attended 9/12 meetings that is no more than 3 absences



No Council member (President, Councilors, or Formation Director) shall serve more than ***two consecutive terms on the Council.***



To be elected or appointed to a third consecutive term requires the **postulation** of the Provincial Delegate. This must be made clear before the straw ballot begins.

Developing Leadership

A member who is currently in his/her second consecutive term on the Council, but only first term as President. He/she is eligible to serve for a second term as President (cf. Const. 50).

If not elected as President, his/her name is not added to the ballots for Councilors or considered for Formation Director.



Any member who has served ***two consecutive terms as a Council member is not eligible to hold the office of Treasurer or Secretary*** within the community for the next triennium unless with the approval of the Provincial Delegate.

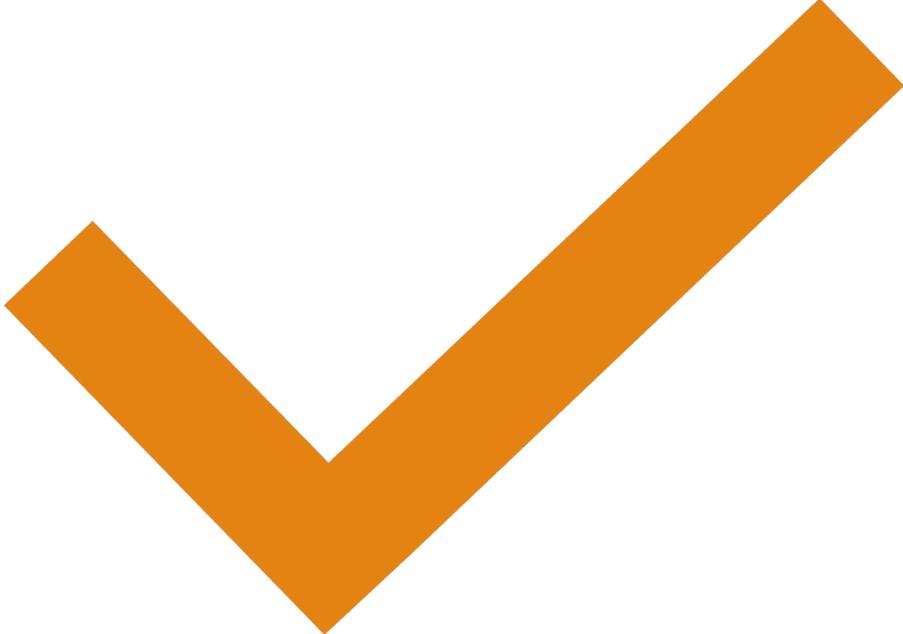


Although not mandatory, it is recommended that the office of Treasurer, Secretary, and Formator are also limited to **two consecutive terms, when possible**, to develop talent and to give others an opportunity to serve.

One Month Prior

TO THE ELECTION





Straw Vote

Nominating Committee

- Secret ballot
 - First, second, and third preference for President and 3 Councilors
 - Only eligible members are present for the vote visitors and ineligible members are in another location praying in silence for discernment
- 

Presider

Spiritual Assistant or President opens the session by invoking the Holy Spirit

President takes a roll call

Voting members will be counted

A submitted blank ballot is counted as abstention

Completing the Straw Vote

Nominating Committee

- Counts the ballots making sure they match the number of eligible voters that are present
- If they do not match all ballots are destroyed without opening
 - If they match, the ballots are retained
 - If not, the process is repeated

In the interim



Nominating Committee

Tabulate the straw vote ballots

Contact nominees beginning with the individuals who received the highest number of straw votes

- Share the responsibilities of the roles
- Ask if they are willing to serve



Slate of Nominees

2-3 for President

4-6 for Councilors

On Election Day



Roles during the election



NOMINATING COMMITTEE PRESENTS THE SLATE OF NOMINEES FOLLOWING THE SAME PROCESS FOR THE STRAW VOTE



A SPOKESPERSON FOR THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES THE NAMES OF THOSE WHO HAVE AGREED TO RUN FOR PRESIDENT IF ELECTED.



THE **INCUMBENT** PRESIDENT WRITES THE NAMES ON A BOARD OR CHART SO THAT THEY ARE VISIBLE TO ALL VOTING MEMBERS



THE INCUMBENT PRESIDENT SHALL PRESIDE OVER THE ENTIRE ELECTION PROCEEDINGS.

Role of the Three Councilors

The 3 Councilors will distribute the voting papers and collect them for counting

- There are no nominations from the floor
- No proxy
- No email
- No letters
- No write –in votes
- **YOU MAY ABSTAIN BY TURNING IN A BLANK BALLOT**



Voting by Secret Ballot

The eligible members PRESENT

Before beginning election, all ineligible voters are dismissed to chapel (or other quiet place) to pray for the election.

Ineligible members and visitors cannot be present during any part of election process: consultation or elections. Ineligible members must be dismissed before any process begins.

After the roll call of eligible election participants, the number of total electors is counted.



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How Votes are Counted



Audibly in the presence of the Community



By the incumbent Councilors and recorded by the Secretary

Count the ballots without opening to make sure they match the number of eligible voters present; if not discard and repeat the process
When the ballots match open and tally them

The image shows three simple wooden figures standing on a light-colored surface. The central figure is painted a vibrant red, while the two flanking figures are a natural light wood color. They are arranged in a row, with the red figure slightly ahead of the others.

Majority Vote

If there are 20 eligible electors, then a majority would be 11 votes needed for an election. (That is 50% plus 1 vote.)

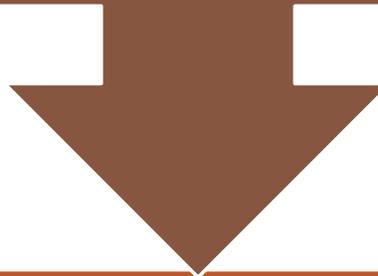
If one person meets the majority vote they become the President; if not the process is repeated between the top 2

If it fails again, the individual with seniority in profession will be elected

- Same profession? Seniority in age will decide

After the
President is
Elected

After the President is elected, the Nominating Committee spokesperson will announce the slate of nominees for Councilors.



The incumbent President will write those names on a board or chart paper, along with the names of those nominees for President who were not elected.

On to the Councilors.....

The three incumbent Councilors collect the ballots and repeat the process as noted above for the election of the President.

The incumbent President proceeds with the election beginning with the members' first choice for Councilor.

Once a Councilor has been elected, the process will be repeated for the remaining Councilors in succession.

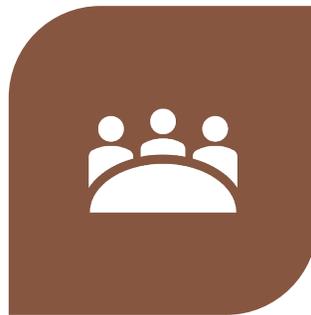
The slate of nominees in each case contains the names of all those not previously elected.

Upon completion of the voting for each Councilor, the incumbent President officially announces the results to the entire membership.

After the Election



THE NEW COUNCIL APPOINTS THE
DIRECTOR OF FORMATION FROM
AMONG THE DEFINITELY
PROFESSED IN COMMUNITY



IF THE FORMATION DIRECTOR IS
APPOINTED FROM THE NEW
COUNCIL; THE COUNCIL WILL
APPOINT A NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

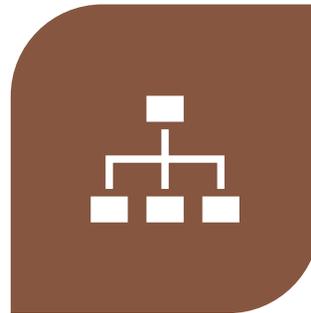


THEIR CHOICE DOES NOT NEED TO
BE THE PERSON WHO RECEIVED
THE NEXT HIGHEST NUMBER OF
VOTES IN THE ELECTION

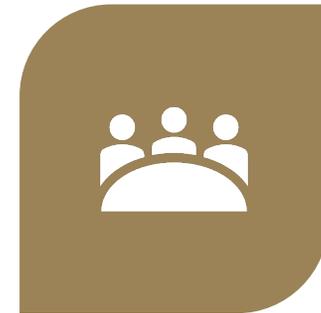
Secretaries and Treasurer



THE SECRETARIES AND THE TREASURER SHALL BE NAMED AT THE DISCRETION OF THE NEWLY ELECTED



THE SECRETARY FOR THE COUNCIL MUST BE ONE OF THE THREE COUNCILORS.



A SECRETARY FOR THE COMMUNITY MAY BE NAMED TO TAKE MINUTES OF THE MONTHLY MEETINGS OF THE COMMUNITY AND ADDITIONAL DUTIES AS NEEDED.

Installation Ceremony



OCCURS AT THE NEXT MEETING

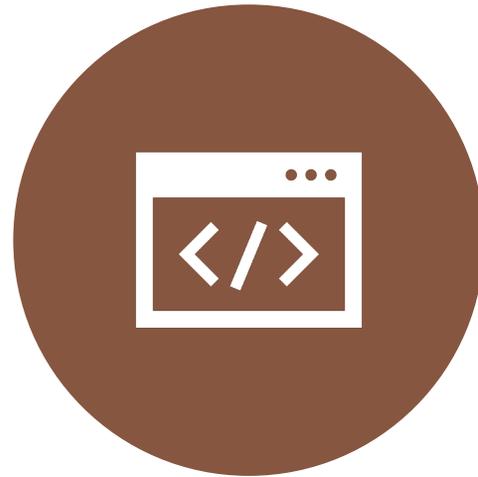


THE SPIRITUAL ASSISTANT, OR, IN HIS ABSENCE, THE PRESIDENT, PRESIDES. THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY CAN BE FOUND ON THE O.C.D.S. WEBSITE, WWW.OCD.S.INFO, UNDER FORMS.

The job is not done until the paperwork is done!



SUBMIT THE NAMES OF THE NEW OFFICERS TO THE PROVINCE



SUBMIT CHANGES FOR THE WEBSITE:



To whom do you send the results?

https://www.ocds.info/Forms/Elected_Council_2021_.pdf

Siouxie Stewart for records:

ocds.sectarycentoff@gmail.com

Cindy Sliger for website:

csliger@comcast.net

Send a copy to Fr. Adam Gregory Gonzales, OCDS Provincial Delegate

ocdsprovdelegate@gmail.com

And your PC Regional Representative



Reference

<https://www.ocds.info/LegislativeDocuments.htm>



Questions?
Please place
them in the
chat.

FR. ADAM
GREGORY
GONZALES,
OCD

Closing Prayer