

2025 GNYM Board of Directors Election Rules

TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF GREATER NEW YORK MENSA:

Under the Bylaws of Greater New York Mensa, Inc. ("GNYM"), the Election Committee prepares the rules for the election, supervises the election of the GNYM Board of Directors for the 2026-2027 term of office, and has the final authority and responsibility to arbitrate disagreements between candidates and to rule on challenges, acceptability of campaign promotions, electioneering and campaign statements. The Election Committee also has the sole and final authority and responsibility to censure any members and to censure and/or disqualify any candidate for violations of the election rules.

The Rules for the 2025 Election of the GNYM Board of Directors are as follows:

The Candidates/Petitions

1. All positions on the Board of Directors are up for election in 2025. The Board consists of the President, the Vice President, the Secretary, the Treasurer and seven other Directors at Large. All GNYM members remaining in continuous good standing from July 1, 2025 through November, 26, 2025, inclusive, or any extended voting period, with the exceptions noted below, may run for office, by having been named to the slate of the Nominating Committee or by submitting a valid petition in accordance with the procedures below.

The exceptions are as follows:

- a) Members of the 2025 Nominating and Election Committees may not run for office in the 2025 election;
- b) The President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer may not serve more than two consecutive terms in the same office, nor may a person who has served two consecutive terms as President serve as Vice President in the immediately following term. For this purpose, an officer is considered to have served two successive terms if he or she has served in that office for a period of at least one year in each of two consecutive terms of office;
- c) A candidate for the office of President must have previously served on the Board for a period of at least six consecutive months; and
- d) A candidate for President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer may not run for more than one of these offices in the 2025 election. He or she may run for one of these offices and for Director (see Par. 14 below).

2. GNYM members remaining in continuous good standing from July 1, 2025 through November, 26, 2025, inclusive, or any extended voting period, may validly petition for election by submitting a petition which contains the printed names, original signatures, and Mensa membership numbers, of at least 50 GNYM members each also having remained members in good standing during the immediately preceding afore-stated time period.

The candidate's name, the office sought (President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer or Director) and the election year (2025) must be printed at the top of each page of the petition. In addition, the petition must have a cover page containing the candidate's printed name, address, telephone number, the petitioner's Mensa membership number, signature, the name of the office sought and the election year (2025).

A separate petition containing original signatures must be submitted for each office sought. It is suggested that more than 50 signatures be collected, in the event any are disqualified.

The Election Committee shall be responsible for validating each petition submitted, and only original petitions may be submitted. All petitions must be received by the Election Committee no later than August 31, 2025, at the USPS mailing address listed below Par. 21.

3. Members of the Election Committee may not sign petitions, endorse any candidate, or otherwise make any public statement or take any public position on any candidate or any election issue. All other GNYM members in good standing may sign petitions. Signing a petition does not constitute endorsement of the candidate, and members may sign petitions of more than one candidate for any single office, and may sign multiple petitions of a candidate seeking petition candidacy for multiple offices.

4. It is the right of any member to refuse to sign a petition or petitions. Undue pressure or repeated requests to sign a petition will be grounds for censure and/or disqualification.

5. The Election Committee shall validate the legitimacy of all petition signatures by September 5, 2025, and on the 6th of September, 2025, time shall declare as winners each of those candidates named by the Nominating Committee who remain unopposed and that each has been declared a winner in the election. The Election Committee shall also simultaneously notify the Editor of *Mphasis*, the GNYM Webmaster and the current GNYM Board of Directors, of each such candidate declared a winner, and of any remaining positions for which an election shall be required. Notification of unopposed candidates declared winners by the Election Committee on September 6, 2025 shall be simultaneously published by the *Mphasis* Editor in an October, 2025 issue of *Mphasis* and posted on the GNYM website by no later than October 1, 2025.

The Campaign/Campaign Materials

6. Campaign materials may not include false or misleading statements. Campaign materials are defined as any election-related materials from any source, including, but not limited to, official candidate statements (see Par. 7 below), flyers, leaflets, paid *Mphasis* advertisements, classified ads, letters to the Editor or articles (see Par. 8 below), that will be distributed at any Mensa event or published, posted or distributed in any Mensa publication or electronic service, as described below. Campaign materials also include materials that will be distributed to members via a Mensa electronic service, or by using resources provided by American Mensa Limited ("AML") or GNYM, including mailing labels, postal address lists, and email address lists. A Mensa event is any event sponsored by AML or GNYM or any event advertised or posted in a Mensa publication or electronic service. A Mensa publication or electronic service is any publication or electronic service of AML or GNYM or any official organ of AML or GNYM, including websites, software applications, audio/visual and other online resources directly or indirectly materially controlled, operated or sponsored by, and/or bearing the organization name of AML or GNYM.

Members are reminded that the Election Rules apply to all members, not only to candidates. In particular, anyone intending to distribute or have published or electronically posted any election-related material is bound by the rules and procedures regarding campaign materials.

7. Each candidate may submit one picture and one wholly self-contained 'Candidate Statement' of not more than 150 words which shall be included in an October issue of *Mphasis* and simultaneously published on GNYM's website on the 1st of October. Any optionally included contact information provided with a Candidate Statement, including, e.g., telephone number, address or e-mail address, shall not be counted when determining compliance with the word count limitation. The term 'wholly self-contained' shall mean that content of the candidate statement may not include reference to, or ability to make direct link to any other additional material or website. Statements and pictures may be sent in printed and/or computer file format readily suitable for printed publication.

Candidate Statements and pictures from both Nominating Committee candidates and candidates who have submitted validated petitions must be received by the Election Committee Chair by mail or by e-mail at the addresses stated immediately below Par. 21, by August 31, 2025. The words

"Candidate Statement" should appear in the subject line of any e-mail or be written on the front of a mailed envelope.

The Election Committee will use Microsoft Word to validate word counts. If, by this method, a Candidate Statement is found to exceed 150 words, the Election Committee will attempt to notify such candidate in order to afford the candidate opportunity to amend their Candidate Statement to conform to the word count limit. If the candidate cannot be reached in a timely manner or if the candidate is otherwise unable to bring the statement into conformity with the word count limit, then the statement shall be disallowed.

All Candidate Statements shall be set to a uniform style and size for printing in *Mphasis*, and separately so, for posting on the GNYM website, as determined by the *Mphasis* Editor and GNYM Webmaster, respectively. Pictures accompanying Candidate Statements must be square. When printed in *Mphasis* pictures will be sized to approximately 1.5" x 2" and may be converted to black and white, and on the website will be sized to an approximately equivalent image-to-page size ratio.

Through September 5, 2025, candidates may request that the GNYM Webmaster and *Mphasis* Editor replace their previously submitted Candidate Statement, and the GNYM Webmaster and *Mphasis* Editor shall, upon approval by the Election Committee of any such changes, make such changes prior to publication of all Candidate statements. Through September 5, 2025, no candidate shall be permitted to make more than one alteration or replacement of a previously submitted Candidate Statement.

All Candidate Statements of candidates for contested positions shall be prepared for posting on a single webpage directly accessible to GNYM members from or within the GNYM website, and the Candidate Statements shall remain suppressed from view until that webpage is made accessible to all GNYM members on October 1, 2025, and simultaneously published in an October issue of *Mphasis*. The arrangement and order in which Candidate Statements appear on the webpage shall conform to the arrangement and order in which they appear in *Mphasis* and shall be determined by the Election Committee with consideration for publishing requirements as advised by the GNYM Webmaster and *Mphasis* Editor. At any time after September 1, 2025, to and through September 5, 2025, a candidate may request that his/her submission of a Candidate Statement be withdrawn in full, and after confirmation by the Election Committee, the material shall be removed from the posting prepared for the GNYM website, and, time permitting, shall not be published in *Mphasis*. Any request by a candidate to withdraw his or her Candidate Statement material made after September 1, 2025, shall be irrevocable, and as stated in this paragraph hereinabove, no Candidate Campaign material nor Candidate Statement shall be published for such candidate, save for any withdrawal or alteration of Campaign Material made pursuant to Par. 10.

8. Paid campaign advertisements by candidates, potential candidates, their supporters and all others, shall not be permitted to be published in *Mphasis* during the Election Period of July 1 through December 1, 2025, inclusive. The *Mphasis* Editor shall provide copies of all proposed paid advertisements submitted for inclusion in *Mphasis* during the Election period to the Election Committee, and the Election Committee shall, in its sole discretion, determine whether any such proposed paid advertisement constitutes a non-publishable campaign advertisement.

9. All Campaign Material(s) other than Candidate Statement submissions shall also require prior approval by the Election Committee. All such other proposed Campaign materials shall be mailed by USPS or by other private mail service, in triplicate, or e-mailed to the address stated immediately below Par. 21, and must be received at least ten days prior to their proposed date of publication and/or distribution. The words "Campaign Material(s)" shall be written on the front of the envelope or in the subject line of any e-mail providing such Campaign Material(s). Any election-related Campaign Material(s) or references to the election submitted to *Mphasis* will be disallowed unless submitted to the Election Committee for prior approval, with the exception of general, nonpartisan statements informing the readers of the Election and/or encouraging their participation in the Election.

10. Campaign Material(s) may refer to opposing candidates. In the interest of fairness, the Election Committee, shall, as part of its review process, and after inquiry made of both the candidate making such reference, and of the referenced candidate, determine whether any direct or indirect reference to another candidate in Campaign Material(s) is defamatory or so grossly prejudicial in nature that its publication and distribution would unduly prejudice the fairness of the election, and shall not permit such Campaign Material(s) to be published and distributed, or may require submission of acceptable altered or replacement Campaign Material(s). Submission for approval for publication of acceptably altered or replacement campaign materials may occur beyond the deadline for submission of Candidate Statements, but must otherwise be submitted in conformance with any deadlines elsewhere stated in these Election Rules.

The Election/Ballots

11. Election ballots for all positions for which Petition candidates have qualified will be published in a November issue of *Mphasis* and a copy of the November issue of *Mphasis* shall be published on the GNYM website at time of its mailing and no later than November 1, 2025. GNYM members remaining in continuous good standing from July 1, 2025 through November 26, 2025, inclusive, or any extended voting period, shall be eligible to vote. Completed ballots must be sent to the Election Committee by U.S. mail to the address specified on the ballot and must be received by the Election Committee no later than November 25, 2025. Ballots must be enclosed in a sealed unmarked envelope which is itself enclosed in a second outer Election Committee-addressed envelope. The voter's (i) printed name, (ii) address, (iii) Mensa membership number, and (iv) signature must appear either (a) on the outer envelope or (b) on a separate sheet of paper enclosed within the outer envelope but separate from the ballot envelope. Only original ballots or unaltered photocopies thereof will be accepted.

Members not receiving their copy of the election issue of *Mphasis* may request one from the *Mphasis* Editor.

12. Ballots will be counted by the Election Committee and/or its appointed representatives. The ballot counting shall take place on November 26, 2025, at a time and location within the geographic boundaries of GNYM designated by the Election Committee. The Election Committee shall advise the Board and all Candidates of the time and place for the ballot counting no later than November 3, 2025. Candidates, or their designated representatives (who must be members in good standing of GNYM), may be present when the votes are tallied.

13. Validation of election ballots and vote tallying by the Election Committee shall be performed in a manner ensuring secrecy and in the following manner and order:

(i) the Election Committee shall check the name and membership number provided with each ballot submission's outer envelope and/or separately enclosed sheet against the official 2025 GNYM membership roster records, and each such submission containing all valid required information shall be deemed a presumptively valid ballot; (ii) inner envelopes will be separated from the remainder of their submissions; (iii) inner envelopes will be opened and the ballots removed; and (iv) valid ballot votes will then be tallied.

14. If a candidate runs for two offices (see Par. 1 above), namely Director, as well as for the position of President, Vice President, Secretary or Treasurer, and wins one of the latter four offices, he or she will be considered to have withdrawn his or her candidacy for a Director position, and

any votes for such candidate for a Director position shall be deemed a nullity. Of the remaining candidates for Director positions, the seven candidates severally receiving the greatest number of votes shall each be declared a winner. Voters shall be able to vote for up to 4 alternate candidates for Director positions, to be included in the vote count for each such alternate candidate only if a candidate for whom they have voted for Director is elected to one of the aforementioned 4 titled elected offices.

15. In the event of a tie, winners will be determined by lot.

16. The Chair of the Election Committee shall upon completion of validation and tallying of all valid ballots announce to all candidates, the *Mphasis* Editor, the GNYM Webmaster and the present Board of Directors, the results of the Election as soon thereafter as possible, and by no later than November 26, 2025, or the day following the close of any extended voting period.

Complaints and Challenges

17. Complaints regarding any aspect of the election shall be brought to the attention of the Election Committee. While members should feel free to call any member of the Committee to discuss election problems, formal complaints must be made in writing and delivered, in triplicate, to the Election Committee Chair at the mailing or e-mail addresses stated immediately following Par. 21.

18. All challenges to the election results must be in writing and must be received by the Election Committee, mailed in triplicate, to the Election Committee Chair at the mailing address or e-mail address stated immediately following Par. 21, by no later than November 30, 2025. The Election Committee will rule on any such challenges and shall again report the election results to the candidates, all members of the GNYM Board, the GNYM Webmaster and the *Mphasis* Editor by no later than December 3, 2025. The GNYM Webmaster and *Mphasis* Editor shall respectively publish the Election results on the GNYM webpage and in *Mphasis* at the soonest feasible date thereafter.

Harassment/Fraud/Obstruction

19. Candidates, would-be candidates or other members may not directly or indirectly threaten, harass, bribe or otherwise attempt to intimidate or improperly influence members of the Election Committee, other candidates, potential voters or petition signers, or anyone else involved in the election process.

20. Submission of fraudulent ballots or knowing submission of petitions containing fraudulent signatures is grounds for censure and/or disqualification.

21. Obstruction of the Election Committee in the performance of its tasks, including its investigation of election improprieties, is grounds for censure and/or disqualification.