

# PEACE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION OF GEORGIA (POAG)

## Policy 3.1

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**TITLE:** POAG Election of Officers for the Executive Committee

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**DATE:** May 30th, 2014

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**REVISION DATE:** March 30<sup>th</sup> 2017

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**AUTHORITY:** Executive Committee POAG

### **POLICY STATEMENT**

The Peace Officers Association of Georgia will hold elections at the annual conference in accordance with article III of the constitution. This policy will outline the procedure for such elections and their process.

#### **I. Election authority**

1. The POAG attorney shall be responsible for the implementation and oversight of the election process
2. The Chief Sergeant at Arms or their designee shall assist the attorney in the administration and logistics of the election process.
3. The POAG attorney shall monitor and supervise the entire process, the tabulation of ballots and the publishing of the results at the final business meeting at the annual conference.
4. Any and all complaints or appeals will be directed to the POAG attorney who has the sole discretion to rule in all election matters
5. The POAG attorney has the authority and responsibility to swear the elected candidates into their office at the final business meeting of the conference

## **II. The candidate's responsibilities who offer for election**

1. A candidate for office must qualify under the rules of the POAG constitution to run for office
2. The candidate must register by letter through US mail or by verified received E-mail 30 days prior to the date of the last business meeting of the annual conference with the secretary treasurer's POAG office in Reidsville Georgia in order to qualify for election to any POAG office.
3. Candidates are strongly encouraged to notify the Executive Director sooner in order to have the benefit of announcing their candidacy in the Georgia Peace Officer Magazine.
4. Candidates shall not post signs in the POAG hospitality room or in the training rooms
5. Candidates will be responsible to coordinate with the conference host hotel(s) to ensure the hotel policy is followed regarding posting any signs. Should the type or size sign be included in the hotel's policy to require payment, the candidate will be responsible to the hotel for such charges.

## **III. The election process**

1. A lock box with two locks will be utilized to ensure the security and integrity of ballots during the election process. The POAG attorney will keep one key and the Sergeant at arms the second. Two keys must be utilized to open the ballot box.
2. After the voting process the lock box will be stored in a locked and secure hotel facility.
3. Only the POAG attorney and sergeant at arms will have access to the Storage and retrieval of the lock box and they shall be together at those Times that the box is transferred to the custody or retrieved from the

Custody of the two (2) designated POAG past president election Officials.

4. The POAG attorney shall appoint prior to the conference multiple groups of two (2) past presidents to work as partners in qualifying voting members, issuing an election ballot, accepting the voted ballot, marking off the member as voting and placing the ballot in the locked ballot box.
5. The Executive Director will provide a digital list of eligible voting Members along with a POAG Elections Coordinator from the Executive Directors staff to ensure accurate membership data is provided and the proper coordination is carried out with the past Presidents during voting periods.
6. Qualified Members shall request to vote, be checked off the official list then provided a ballot and allowed to vote at a table in secret, but may not leave the room where the election is held. The qualified member will then return the folded ballot to one of the two past presidents who will place the ballot in the box in the presence of the member voting.
7. At no time will any candidate be allowed to campaign or be present in the voting room during the voting process.
8. At no time will any candidate be allowed to campaign in training Classrooms
9. The times for the casting of ballots will be as follows:
  - a) Monday 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm
  - b) Tuesday 3:00 pm until 6:00 pm
  - c) Wednesday 11:00 am until 1:00 pm
10. The ballots will be tabulated after the election on Wednesday at 1:00 pm
11. The POAG attorney and sergeant at arms will open the ballot box in the presence of a designated representative from each candidate.

12. The POAG attorney will supervise the counting of votes by the sergeant of arms and a POAG Election Coordinator and tabulate the results to determine the winners.
13. The POAG attorney will then publish the results to the members in the final business meeting and administer the oath of office to those elected with all other committee members for the coming year.
14. The new board members will meet with the Administrative Coordinator to complete necessary POAG Office documentation regarding the newly elected members
15. The POAG Election Coordinator may stand in for the POAG Attorney if the Attorney is absent