



2026 DOGANA Elections

Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Candidates

DOGANA is a 501-C3, not for profit organization, the officers of DOGANA are volunteer physicians who are serving for the good of DOGANA and its members fairly to their fullest capacity. The Nomination & Election Committee (NEC) is responsible for holding free and transparent elections with the help of a third party who will conduct the balloting process. Each candidate contesting for DOGANA elections understands that NEC and DOGANA Central Council sets rules in accordance with the constitution of DOGANA for a fair election in a healthy non-biased manner.

Each candidate recognizes that NEC has complete authority of election process and agrees to abide by all rules set forth by the NEC. Candidates agree that failure to follow the rules set forth can result in immediate disqualification of the candidate.

Each candidate agrees to hold DOGANA as an organization, including the CC and NEC harmless and agree not to pursue any litigation or any legal action against the decisions of NEC as final and binding.

Following are the Code of Conduct chalked out by the Nomination & Election Committee for DOGANA Elections 2026. DOGANA members contesting for any position in DOGANA shall abide by the following guidelines:

1. All nominations will be filed with the Nomination & Election Committee (NEC) by the date set by NEC.
2. All nominations must follow the criteria set forth by DOGANA bylaws and election rules and procedures. The NEC would not have the authority to reject a candidate as long as the person fulfills the nomination requirement as set in DOGANA bylaws and election rules of procedures.
3. NEC shall obtain in writing the candidate's consent that this code is binding under all circumstances.
4. NEC will announce the slate of candidates to membership in timely fashion as outlined in bylaws and election rules and procedures.

5. NEC shall circulate among DOGANA members a brief and concise bio data of candidates. This bio data shall conform to a standard format for all candidates.
6. The NEC shall follow the rules of procedures as outlined in DOGANA bylaws and rules and regulations approved by the Executive Council. The DOGANA Central Council shall approve any proposed changes in existing rules or adoption of new rules.
7. No candidate or their supporters shall indulge in any electioneering or canvassing except what is outlined under item #8 below. These shall include advertisements of any kind, television and radio or print commercials, and appearance on radio and television shows to promote directly a candidacy or a candidate. The only exception would be the advertisement in any official DOGANA publication where an equal opportunity is afforded to all candidates to print their announcement. Candidates may use the official DOGANA e-list to promote their candidacy following the rules governing the e-list. The use of official DOGANA logo in any form of communication is prohibited.
8. Telephone calls, direct mailings and faxes to members shall be permitted as long as the member is not on any **No Call List, No Fax List**, if created by DOGANA. The voting members list, once completed, shall be made available to candidates free of charge by DOGANA. **The mailing list is the property of DOGANA and may not be used for any purpose other than member contact by the candidates.** Candidates will be allowed **three** mass mailing per candidate (other than the official mailing with candidate's bio-data sent to members with notification of election). It is recommended that calls by the candidates or their supporters should be kept to a minimum, if at all necessary. No pre-recorded message or other mass communication mechanism of voice messages will be permitted. Robo calls, Robo faxes are NOT permitted. Candidates are required to include unsubscribe/Stop option in their canvassing over texts, emails and any other electronic/social media.
9. First violation of this Code-of-Conduct shall be ground for a cease-and-desist citation and a fine, not to exceed \$1000 per violation. A second violation by a candidate shall be ground for removing the candidate's name from the election ballot at the discretion of the NEC.
10. A voter's list will be released to all the candidates after the membership committee has approved such a list. The candidates must sign off the voters list within 10 days of its receipt. The Nomination & Election Committee will determine any questioned member(s) eligibility.
11. All candidates shall acknowledge the sole jurisdiction of DOGANA to resolve all disputes and grievances. Furthermore, all candidates shall agree that upon conclusion of DOGANA procedures for dispute resolution, the decision arrived at by DOGANA as per the procedure specified in article 18 of the constitution and Bylaws of the organization shall be FINAL and shall not be subject to any recourse outside DOGANA whether judicial or extra-judicial in any state of the union.
12. The following shall be the mechanism as outlined in the Constitution and Bylaws of the organization for addressing complaints and grievances arising out of Nomination & Election process:

18.5 Disputes

18.5.1 All complaints regarding any misconduct during the election campaign and/or any disputes or irregularities of election process shall be submitted in writing to the Nomination & Election committee within one week of election.

18.5.2 Nomination & Election Committee after appropriate hearing will give its decision within Two weeks.

18.5.3 The decision of Nomination & Election Committee shall be considered binding on all parties. However, if there is a grievance against the Nomination & Election Committee; it may be appealed to the Central Council. The Central Council after review shall present its recommendation to the BOT. The decision of the BOT shall be binding in all cases.

AFFIDAVIT OF COMPLIANCE

Comes now _____, MD, candidate for the office of _____ for 2026, on oath and states that he/she:

1. Is a member in good standing of the **DOW Graduate Association of North America (DOGANA)** for at least a period of

☐ **One year**

☐ **Three or more years**

and is otherwise eligible to run for elective office of DOGANA.

2. Has read and is familiar with the terms of the **DOGANA Annual Elections Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Candidates**; and
3. Agrees to be bound by the Code of Conduct and to follow both its spirit and its terms in conducting his/her own campaign and post-election conduct; and
4. Will require compliance with the Code of Conduct for the Guidance of Candidates by his/her own staff and supporters.

Wherefore, I have affixed my signature hereto in agreement with the foregoing.

Signature: _____

Date: _____