



Union Election FAQ

1. Why use the AAA for a union election?

For over 60 years, the American Arbitration Association® has been the most trusted provider of union election services. As a not-for-profit agency, with expertise in U.S. Department of Labor Standards, the AAA® is uniquely qualified to provide union election administration that is reliable and fair. Many labor unions use the AAA's election services because of our long history of accurate, neutral service, backed by time-tested and client-acclaimed success. AAA provides unions with proficient administration and the avoidance of any perception of conflict or personal interest.

2. How far in advance do you need to set up an election?

Many unions and organizations set specific dates in their constitution and bylaws for regular elections of officers. For these elections, it is best to start planning at least a month in advance. However, some elections are required suddenly, such as an election to ratify a proposed contract or to replace an officer. The AAA has also conducted elections on short notice, sometimes within just a few days, but it is best to plan ahead as much as possible.

3. Which type of election would be best for my union?

There is no single "best" way to hold an election; you need to determine which type of election will best fit the particular needs and requirements of your union. The AAA election staff is familiar with all election types and can help you determine which will work best for you. Some of the methods offered by the AAA are: Mail Ballot Voting, In-Person Polling Site Voting, Touch-Screen Voting, Optical or Image Ballot Scanning, Telephone Voting and Online Voting.

4. What is the most economical way to run an election and how do you keep costs down?

Elections conducted by mail involve printing and postage costs, which can add up. Some unions have conducted elections on the Internet or on IVR telephone systems in order to reduce costs, but this is not always feasible for every group. Postage costs can be reduced by using Presort discounts offered by the post office, and printing costs can be reduced through redesign of needed print materials.

5. How much time does it take for election results to be tallied?

AAA elections are typically completed in less than 8 hours and tabulated either manually or by using sophisticated computer optical scanning technology capable of processing 12,000 ballots per hour.