

4A. DESIGNATING PASTORAL AND LAY PRESIDENTIAL VOTERS



Your congregation or parish has the right to vote directly, through a pastoral voter (a pastor called and installed to the congregation or parish) and a lay voter (a member of the congregation or parish who is **not** an ordained or commissioned minister on the roster of the Synod, whether active, candidate, or emeritus) for President of the Synod.

Watch the mail for an envelope to be sent on **October 22, 2022**, with information on how to register your congregation's or multi-congregation's pastoral voter and lay voter. Voter registration must be completed by the end of **March 19, 2023**, at midnight central time.

Your congregation should make certain that your voter(s) will be available to participate (see dates below). Voters without computers should plan to obtain the use of a computer and, if needed, assistance perhaps from a family member or the church office. Accurate mail and email addresses are essential to provide this necessary election participation information.

The list of voters, including their contact information, is kept confidential and is not disseminated. District presidents will be informed of the registration *status* of congregations and they may contact congregations to encourage registration of voters. (Bylaw 3.12.2.3)

If your congregation has registered its voter(s) before the deadline but needs to make changes to emails or addresses or to replace a voter who is no longer available, it may do so until the end of **June 9, 2023**, at midnight central time, through the same site used to register its voter(s) initially. Instructions are provided in the initial registration packet.

About one week prior to the election, Yes Elections will send (via U.S. mail) information to all voters regarding the voting process, the candidates, and the code numbers needed to participate.

The LCMS Presidential election, conducted by Yes Elections (formerly Election America), will take place by electronic ballot (via the Internet) between **June 17–20**, and if run-off elections are required, **June 24–27, July 1–4, and July 8–11, 2023**. The process is administered by the Secretary of the Synod according to Bylaw 3.12.2.4.

Results of each electronic ballot will be known almost immediately and will be announced on the Synod website. Run-off elections take place if no one candidate receives a majority of the votes cast. Voters will be notified by email of a need for subsequent ballots and will continue to vote using the same participation information received by mail during the week prior to the first ballot.

Information on the candidates should be shared with the congregation as it becomes available in the Biographical Synopses and online, and the congregation might discuss with its voters the choice among candidates for Synod President, First Vice-Presidents, and Regional Vice-President. The congregation would also do well to remind its voters to vote when the time comes.