



WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Electing the Next NARFE President

The 2018 NARFE election did not return a majority vote for president, but the members did vote to suspend the rules and use preferential voting, so welcome to phase two.

For this ballot, there will be a box for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd choices next to each name. You need to mark one candidate for first choice, one candidate for second and one candidate for third (one candidate has withdrawn). It's very important that you mark one choice, and only one choice, for each candidate so that NARFE can get the full opinion of the electorate.

The tally will begin by taking into account all first-place votes, and if one candidate receives a majority he will be declared elected. If there is no majority of first place votes, all of the choices will be calculated thus: first place votes will receive 3 points, second place votes 2 points, third place votes 1 point. This method is called the Borda Count, and is often referred to as a consensus method because the candidate with the most following generally emerges as the winner. Thus, the preferences for second choice become extremely important.

Some might think that they can help their favored candidate by only voting for one choice, but that's not the way this method works. Not only do you lose your voice, you could be creating other problems. Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (11th edition) gives this advice on page 428:

“When this or any other system of preferential voting is to be used, the voting and counting procedure must be precisely established in advance and should be prescribed in detail. The members must be thoroughly instructed as to how to mark the ballot, and should have sufficient understanding of the counting process to enable them to have confidence in the method. Sometimes, for instance, voters decline to indicate a second or other choice, mistakenly believing that such a course increases the chances of their first choice. In fact, it may prevent any candidate from receiving a majority and require the voting to be repeated.”

This is why, in some elections by preferential voting, ballots that are not completely filled out with choices for all three candidates are considered illegal ballots, and not counted.

Colette Collier Trohan serves as NARFE's parliamentarian.



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