



National Federation of Republican Women

Distinguished Guests / Protocol Resources

Election Protocol 2022

As we are currently in a midterm election year, it is important for our member clubs to recognize and understand the responsibilities, policies and procedures (protocol) of political activities during elections in compliance with our bylaws and responsibilities as chartered by NFRW 527 organizations. Since many states have participated in redistricting awareness of how this has affected your elections is an important awareness tool.

The Protocol in Politics Handbook Revised 2018, the Distinguished Guest/Protocol Webpage on NFRW website, and your State and Clubs Bylaws are always good references. Many answers are found in the Membership section of the NFRW website to help you sort through some of these issues:

Links in this presentation are to pages on the NFRW website (membership) which touch in detail the subject/question presented. You will need to login as an NFRW member to access.

[2018 Protocol.indd \(nfrw.org\)](#) [Distinguished Guests/Protocol - Digital Resource Library \(nfrw.org\)](#)

Link to NFRW Bylaws with Updates [Bylaws - Digital Resource Library \(nfrw.org\)](#)

This subject is complex and answers to these “Frequently Asked Questions” are generic answers. If there are legalities involved it is always important to check with an attorney and/or accountant familiar with 527 organizations.

The questions to which we are responding are those we have heard numerous times from clubs and state federations.

1. Why may we not endorse as a club?
 - a. The FRW is different from many political organizations in that our membership represents a broad spectrum of Republican Sisters. By not endorsing we educate our membership on candidates available and on the issues and leave to them the decision on who they may support financially, voluntarily, at the ballot box and in any other way that express their values. Individual Club members may publicly endorse as long as they do not use the name of the Federation in that endorsement. (see Endorsement Policy for those members who may not endorse and when)
 - b. NFRW ENDORSEMENT POLICY: [Microsoft Word - Endorsement Policy.doc \(nfrw.org\)](#)

2. Who may speak to a Federated Club during an election cycle?
 - a. All Republican Candidates should be invited to speak at your club meetings to afford all an equal opportunity to participate when you choose to have those running for office to be heard at your club or give any information in your newsletters.
 - b. If a sitting legislator is invited to speak about his or her activity in his or her respective office but not about the upcoming election in which he/she may be running he/she may do so. Opposing candidates do not need to be invited and are not given the microphone at this time to speak about their candidacy if they choose to attend. There should be a written policy given to them before or when they arrive at your meeting. This policy should include they shall not speak disparagingly about another Republican candidate. The legislator who is speaking must be informed that they shall not speak about their upcoming election.
 - c. Distinguished guests, such as elected officials may be recognized by the Chair and introduced but not given the microphone.
 - i. Introductions at club meetings should be made in this order:
 1. NFRW Officers
 2. State Officers
 3. Club Officers
 4. Elected officials in order of rank
 5. Other Distinguished Guests
3. Do we have reporting obligations when we promote candidates and issues to the public?
 - a. It is important to understand Federal, State and Local policies on when you must report political activity outside of your organization and your responsibilities to the IRS. State and Local Ethics Commissions. State and local Ethics Commissions have their own policies and procedures, and your treasurer and Campaign Chair should be familiar with these.
 - i. [Microsoft Word - IRS and 527 Reporting for Clubs 6-2016.docx \(nfrw.org\)](#)
 1. <https://www.fec.gov>
4. If our club and our membership follow proper protocols and procedures but we still have disruptive members and/or elected officers who are not following these guidelines, what do we do?
 - a. There are guidelines for dealing with egregious behavior and often these procedures and guidelines are found in your state bylaws.
 - b. [Conduct and Discipline for Clubs and State Federations \(nfrw.org\)](#)

5. What should the policy be for placing material on a table at a meeting?
 - a. All material to be shared on a table at a meeting must be approved by the President and/or the Executive Committee.
 - b. All campaign materials may be given a special place to be presented to those in attendance including requests for financial support.
 - c. Election printed materials shall not be placed on tables reserved for other Distinguished Guests.

6. May a club host a candidate forum?
 - a. RWF clubs are encouraged to host candidate forums as long as they are aware of the Federal Election Commission (FEC) and local and state laws and regulations especially when opening the forum to the public and awareness of your State and Club Bylaws
 - b. When two or more Republicans are running it is important that all are given an opportunity to participate
 - c. Invited Candidates should be given the protocol of the Forum
 - d. Each candidate in attendance should be given equal time to participate