

TO: ALA Executive Board

RE: 2015 ALA Election Schedule

ACTION REQUESTED:

The Board is asked to approve a special schedule for the 2015 ALA elections due to the timing of the 2015 Midwinter Meeting.

ACTION REQUESTED BY:

JoAnne Kempf, Director, Office of ALA Governance
Keith Michael Fiels, ALA Executive Director

CONTACT PERSON:

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DRAFT OF MOTION:

The ALA Executive Board approves the proposed schedule for the 2015 ALA elections which will result in the election results being announced on Friday, May 8, 2015. In all subsequent years, the announcement will revert to the Friday before the first Monday in May, unless the Midwinter Meeting dates dictate otherwise.

DATE: March 13, 2014

BACKGROUND:

At the 2007 Annual Conference, the ALA Executive Board voted that “beginning with the 2008 ALA elections, the election results be announced on the Friday before the first Monday in May.”

This action was taken so that the announcement of the election results would not interfere with Library Legislative Day which occurs the first full week of May.

In 2015, however, the Midwinter Meeting will run from January 30 – February 3. The lateness of this meeting will not allow sufficient time for ballot preparation and voting if the announcement date remains the same. The following tables outline the 2014 election schedule and the proposed 2015 election schedule:

2014 Schedule	
Midwinter ending	1/28/14
Staff Return to ALA	1/29 – 1/30/14
Candidate Biographical Form closing	1/31/14
Forms available for use by ALA staff	2/3/14
Division & RT ballots due to Governance Office	2/6/14 (3 day turnaround)
Governance Office review & return to SBS	2/12/14 (4 day turnaround)
Election Opens	3/19/14 (5 weeks for SBS to prepare ballots)
Election Closes	4/25/14 (5½ weeks to vote)
Election Announcement	5/2/14 (per EB action at 2007 Annual Conference)
Total Time	14½ weeks

Proposed 2015 Schedule – keeping same timeframe as 2014	
Midwinter	1/30/15 – 2/3/15
Staff Return to ALA	2/4/15 (no travel day since Midwinter is in Chicago)
Candidate Biographical Form closing	2/6/15*
Forms available for use by ALA staff	2/9/15
Division & RT ballots due to Governance Office	2/12/15 (3 day turnaround)
Governance Office review & return to SBS	2/19/15 (4 day turnaround –excludes holiday)
Election Opens	3/25/15 (5 weeks for SBS to prepare ballots)
Election Closes	5/1/15 (5½ weeks to vote)
Election Announcement	5/8/15 (1 week later than 2014)
Total Time	14½ weeks

*The biographical form closing date has traditionally occurred at the end of January or first week in February, depending on the calendar. In fairness to candidates, particularly petition candidates, it is recommended that the form remain open until after Midwinter.

Assuming Board approval of the proposed 2015 election schedule, the announcement of the election results will revert to the Friday before the first Monday in May for all subsequent years, unless the closing of the Midwinter Meeting dictates otherwise.

