

# **Grand Gedeh Association in the Americas**

## **ELECTION – 2023**

### **Campaign Rules**

Campaigning may have varying definitions, but in the mind of the GGAA Independent Elections Commission (GGAA-IECOM), campaigning is defined as any attempt by candidate or surrogates for contested position to influence potential electorates to cast their votes in favor of a particular candidate. Campaigning includes mentioning one's candidacy or making any statement that might be interpreted as a position statement reflecting what actions the candidate would take, if elected. Campaigning may take the form of making verbal statement/comment of support for a candidate, expressing support through leaflets, pamphlets, posters, email, text messaging, radio, television, and newspaper interviews, person-to-person contacts and heralding support for a candidate.

For the purpose of maintaining and respecting a credible timeline during the campaign process, campaigning is not permitted until after the applicants have been duly qualified as candidates on Friday, February 17, 2023, by the GGAA Independent Elections Commission (GGAA-IECOM), herewith from time to time referred to as "GGAA-IECOM". Candidates will receive notification when they have qualified. Candidates will be notified when they may officially commence active campaigning per the guidelines for these elections, in addition to the publication of the timetable, which includes the campaign schedule.

Individuals soliciting letters of nomination or circulating petitions to be nominated may not use the nomination process for campaign/electioneering purposes beyond asking for nomination letters or signatures on petitions. No campaign materials in the form of flyers, posters, emails, text messages, or any informal and formal manner of campaigning shall be permitted unless otherwise declared by the GGAA-IECOM.

### **General Conduct**

I. Candidates are to state their own positions on issues and their own plans for Grand Gedeh Association in the Americas (GGAA) directly or indirectly, and positively on how they intent to impact the lives of Grand Gedeans residing in the Americas, when elected.

II. Candidates or their supporters and surrogates may not make personal attacks, make or utter insults, obscenity, inflammatory and/or threatening comments or statements or publications or drawings in a bid to demean, bully, or frighten other candidates and their supporters during the campaign process.

III. Official GGAA title may not be used in communications or flyers or any property of GGAA to give the impression that it is from the GGAA; or GGAA organizational titles, letterhead, insignia, logo, and other images used by GGAA-IECOM shall not be used, but that GGAA or IECOM may be referred to or addressed in an appropriate manner or titles in the body of communications.

IV. Flyers, posters and campaign materials must be civil and not inflammatory and should be devoid of profanity.

## **Resources**

**I.** Candidates and supporters may communicate with each other and coordinate campaign activities. GGAA-IECOM shall have no part to play in mutual communication between and amongst parties. However, formal campaign committees (entities that can make statements or take other actions on behalf of candidates) may be allowed to, and candidates may, enter into agreements to campaign together as a team. There shall be TEAM campaign. There shall also be independent candidates at all levels. Collusion of and by parties shall be deemed a violation and the IECOM guidelines and campaign protocols and IECOM shall take appropriate steps to remedy the violation, to include suspension, ban, etc. or any action deem appropriate by IECOM to be the best resolution. Collusion shall mean any maneuver that will negatively impede the smooth campaigning of any candidate to the advantage of colluding candidates.

**II.** Fundraising is permitted. The goal of these guidelines is to ensure campaign activities to a level playing field that all candidates can easily afford. Besides, GGAA, and by extension IECOM, encourage all parties and individuals to take every step not to violate state laws of illegal fundraising.

**III.** Use of GGAA funds, properties, resources, or the use of IECOM or its staff and officials or properties for campaigning is absolutely prohibited. Violators will face disciplinary action ranging from fines to disqualification, as deemed appropriate by the IECOM.

## **Campaign Communications**

Permitted forms of campaign communications include the following:

**I. Electronic messages (E-mail, SMS, Social messaging, etc.).** There are no limits on the number of campaign messages sent electronically. However, candidates and supporters are advised to use restraint with electronic messages of all kinds. Obtaining E-mail addresses/phone numbers is the responsibility of the candidates and their supporters. IECOM will not provide email addresses or phone numbers to any candidate or his or her supporters.

**II. Social Networking Sites, Blogs, and Homepages (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)**

Candidates may use social networking sites, blogs, and homepages for campaign purposes.

**III. Phone** - Campaign-related phone calls (including calls made through services such as Skype, including robocalls) may be made from candidates/supporters to individual GGAA members.

**IV. Letters and Handouts** - There are no restrictions on number of campaign letters, postcards, faxes, or handouts, flyers, etc. There shall be no defaming of other candidates.

**V. Private Discussion** - Spontaneous private election-related group discussions or discussions between two or more people and all communications with colleagues is permitted. These elections are meant to further cement unity, and the Commission will encourage collaborative discussions, so long there is no collusion.

**VI. Newspaper, radio and Television, etc.** – Candidates who can afford may use newspaper, radio or television and Internet media or social media like Facebook, Twitter, etc. to engage their supporters.

**VII. Appearances** – Candidates visiting churches or events to promote their candidacy is absolutely their responsibility and acceptable. They could appear with other candidates for the same position or other positions. Candidates may appear in person or through electronic media. If all candidates have been given equal opportunity to attend and a candidate cannot attend, the other candidate(s) may be present. IECOM will not hold any church or event organizer liable for not inviting any candidate. It is purely the prerogative of the organizer of an event to invite whomever they wish.

**VIII. Endorsements** are perfectly fine, but activities that impedes the free campaigning of another candidate is totally prohibited. Any candidate instigating a church or event organizer to deny another candidate to engage the electorates is completely prohibited. Violators will face fine or disqualification or both whichever is higher in penalty.

**IX.** All violations may be punished as per the discretion of IECOM, and it may include but not limited to fine or disqualification.

X. Campaign shall begin midnight of Thursday, March 1, 2023 (same being the early Wednesday morning) and shall end 11:59 PM on Sunday, May 6, 2023.

XI. Voting or casting of ballot shall begin 6:00 O'clock (Central Time) in morning of May 7, 2023, at the place designated and identified by IECOM. Counting of ballots will begin immediately after polls are closed at 6:00pm (Central Time) the same. Results of the election shall be announced same day.

XII. No campaign shall be permitted as of mid-night Saturday, May 6, 2023.

XIII. Campaign perimeter shall include the State in which GGAA has chapters and does not have chapters, but specifically restricted to members of Grand Gedeh Association in the Americas.

XIX. No part of the campaign rules shall be altered by any individual or group, and any alteration is invalid.


## ELECTION TIMETABLE

### No. Events Dates


NO.	ACTIVITY	SCHEDULE	
		Begins	Ends
1	Publication of Guidelines	Nov. 10, 2022	NA
2	Voter Registration	Nov. 20, 2022	March 30, 2023
3	Candidate Registration	Nov. 30, 2022	Jan. 31, 2023
4	Publication of registered Candidates	Feb. 1, 2023	NA
5	Filing Protest against candidate	Feb. 2, 2023	Feb. 15, 2023
6	Publication of qualified candidates	Feb. 17, 2023	Feb. 28, 2023
7	Campaign Begins	Feb. 1, 2023	May 6, 2023
8	First Presidential Debate (Select Panel – on LPR)	March 10, 2023	NA
9	End of voter registration	NA	April 14, 2023
10	Second Presidential Debate (Select Panel – on Groove 106FM/TV	April 28, 2023	NA
11	Publication of Voter List	Apr. 15, 2023	Apr. 20, 2023
12	Scrutiny of Voter List (based on complaints)	Apr 20, 2023	Apr 25, 2023
13	Publication of voting procedure	April. 30, 2023	NA
14	Last Day of Campaigning	NA	May 6, 2023
15	Voter’s Education	Apr 1, 2023	Apr. 30, 2023
16	Polling Day	May 7, 2023	May 7, 2023
17	Announcement of results	May 7, 2023	May 7, 2023
18	Certification of elected officers	May 7, 2023	May 7, 2023
10	End of voter registration	NA	Mar. 30, 2023
11	Second Presidential Debate (Select Panel – on Groove 106FM/TV	April 28, 2023	NA
12	Publication of Voter List	Apr. 15, 2023	Apr. 20, 2023
13	Scrutiny of Voter List (based on complaints)	Apr 20, 2023	Apr 25, 2023
14	Publication of voting procedure	April. 30, 2023	NA
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16	Voter’s Education	Apr 1, 2023	Apr. 30, 2023
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18	Announcement of results	May 7, 2023	May 7, 2023
19	Certification of elected officers	May 7, 2023	May 7, 2023


The above dates may be changed due to uncontrollable circumstances.


Approved and issued this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2023

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Gibson W. Jerue  
**Member**

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Urias Sohn  
**Member**

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Stanley Flahn  
**Secretary**

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Nelson Gaye Wright  
**Co-Chairman**

Signed:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Hon. Amelia Polodee Beh  
**Chairlady**