MMEA Election Policy & Timeline

(updated November 2021; amended May 2023; revised 2025)

- On Jan. 22, 2017, the MMEA Board instituted term limits for their elected officers.
- The membership voted in favor of term limits the previous spring.
- An individual may serve on the board for a maximum of two, two-year terms, or a total of four consecutive years in a particular role.
- The role of President will be a six year commitment (two years president-elect, two years president, two years immediate past)
- Term limits do not apply to presidential appointed positions on the MMEA board.
- Presidential appointments will be re-evaluated with the entrance of every new President.
- Term limits will keep fresh ideas coming through the board and hopefully entice people to serve if they know it is only for a finite amount of time.
- The complete MMEA Election Policy can be found in the MMEA Handbook.

MMEA STATE & DISTRICT ELECTION POLICY
(adopted Sept. 2, 2018)
(Updated November 2021)
(Updated May 2023)
(Revised 2025)

General

- Any member of the Association may run for a position on the MMEA Board, provided they are not in conflict with the Term Limits Policy.
- Members of the MMEA Board must keep their membership current

Term Limits *(adopted Jan. 22, 2017)*

- An individual may serve on the board for a maximum of two, two-year terms, or a total of four consecutive years in a particular role.
- The role of President will be a six year commitment (two years president-elect, two years president, two years immediate past president)
- Term limits do not apply to presidential appointed positions on the MMEA Board.

Specific Election Language and Procedures (adopted May 2023)

Term Limit Election Rotation

Even Years (Feb. vote)	Odd Years (Feb. vote)
● MMEA President-Elect ● District 2 Chair ● District 4 Chair ● District 6 Chair ● General Music PK-5 ● Band VP ● Jazz VP ● Treasurer	● District 1 Chair ● District 3 Chair ● District 5 Chair ● District 7 Chair ● General Music 6-12 ● Chorus VP ● Orchestra VP ● Secretary

Nominating Committee & Nominating Procedure

- The Nominating Committee shall consist of no more than five (5) members, including the Immediate Past President who shall serve as the Chairperson. The remaining four (4) members of the committee shall be appointed at the discretion of the Immediate Past President.
    - Current MMEA Board Members up for election cannot serve on the nominating committee but they can and are encouraged to assist with identifying candidates by the published deadline

- Nomination Process: The Nominating Committee shall actively seek multiple nominations of qualified candidates from the membership during the fall of the election year for each position up for election.
    - The Nominating Committee will publicize the call for nominees in a number of ways including, (if applicable but not limited to) word of mouth, suggestions from current office holders, the Vice President of the area, public advertisement through current and other communication channels (Constant Contact email blasts, Facebook/Instagram pages, openings posted on the MMEA website homepage).

- Interested Candidates shall return a nomination form and résumé to the Immediate Past President by Nov. 30.
- 2025-2026 MMEA Board Nomination Form

    - Definition of *Qualified Candidate*: Candidate has direct experience in the content area/grade span(s) for the position of which they seek. Their supporting materials reflect qualities that will support MMEA board work, including (but not limited to); service, leadership, organizational skills, independent work habits, the ability to meet deadlines, interest in multiple facets of music education, the ability to collaborate and to work with others, the willingness to listen to a variety of perspectives (this is not an exhaustive list). Candidates who are currently elected to the Board must finish their term to completion. If the person wishing to be considered as a candidate is at the end of a 2-year term they are eligible to run again for the same seat, a different seat, or be considered for an appointed position. The candidate(s) provide all required documentation in an independent, timely manner

- After ensuring that all candidates are qualified and have submitted all of their materials by the posted deadline, The Nominating Committee brings the full slate containing the names of all qualified nominees to the MMEA Board for approval. The MMEA Board will vote to approve the full slate of candidates.

Campaigning:

- All candidates will submit a resume and answer the same prescribed questions to be published in the "Maine Motif" and on the MMEA website in January.
    - Sample Questions
    - Sample "Meet the Candidates" document
- Candidates for President-Elect will be expected to complete a two-minute taped video answer to a prescribed question which will be published on the website.

State Voting Procedure:

- MMEA state elections shall take place the last week of February every year.
- The online ballot portal shall be open for 8 consecutive days constituting a full week after the February Vacation.
- Only ballots of active MMEA members will be counted
- The Executive Director and the Immediate Past President shall cross reference membership and count the ballots.

District Voting Procedure:

- Districts run their own elections for District Chair, independent of the State MMEA.
- MMEA district elections shall take place the last week of February every year.
- All District Chair candidates must be MMEA members.
- The format of the district election varies from district to district, but an electronic or paper ballot must be made easily accessible to all the members within the district.
- If a district chair is running for a second term, they should recuse themselves from the election process.
- District election results must be formally submitted to MMEA to be reported out to the complete membership.

State & District Election Reporting

- The Immediate Past President shall post the election results online and via e-mail to the membership no later than seven (7) days following the closing of the ballot.
- Results shall include overall numbers and percentage of votes. (State election only)

Assumption of Office (State and District Chairs)

- Each newly elected official shall assume office on June 1 and shall serve for a two (2) year term. At this time, the President-Elect shall assume the duties of the President.
- The outgoing board member shall attend the June board meeting alongside the newly elected official in an advisory capacity.
- In the event of the incapacity of the President-Elect to assume the office of President, the current President shall become Immediate Past President and the current Immediate Past President shall become President. As soon as it is practical, a special election shall be conducted to elect a new President Elect.

Onboarding new MMEA Board members:

- Executive Director will:
    - Re-check MMEA Membership
    - Aquire e-mail/password from MMEA webmaster for the new member
- New Board member will:
    - Provide contact information to Exec Director (personal e-mail/phone number)
    - Join MMEA Board REMIND
    - Meet with previous board member
    - Read Job Description from Handbook
    - Read Orientation to MMEA Google Drive & past Board Reports

MMEA ELECTION HISTORY

Spring 2025 Results:

- General Music VP 6-12: Kayla Peard (2nd term)
- Orchestra VP: Andria Bacon (2nd term)
- Choral VP: Jesse Myers-Wakeman (1st term)
- Secretary: Jen Fletcher (1st term)
- District Results:
    - District 1- Isaac Hawkins (1st term)
    - District 3- Dan Gilbert (1st term)
    - District 5- Molly & Jason Priest (1st term)
    - District 7- Jon Simonoff (2nd term)

Spring 2024 Results:

- Band VP: Sarah Dow (2nd term)
- GM PK-5 VP: Caitlin Geishaker (2nd term)
- Jazz VP: George Redman (2nd term)
- MMEA Secretary: Jen Fletcher (1st term–one-year position; This position is up for election in 2025)
- President-Elect: Ben Cox (Term runs from 2024-2026; President 2026-2028; Past President 2028-2030)
- District Results:
    - District 2- Linda Vaillancourt (1st term)
    - District 4- Kris Vigue (2nd term)
    - District 6- James Callandro (1st term)

Spring 2023 Results:

- Choral VP- Dr. Christian Giddings (1st term)
- Orchestra VP- Andria Bacon (1st term)
- GM 6-12 VP- Kayla Peard (1st term)
- Secretary- Cassie Cooper (2nd term)
- District 1- Eric Halpin-Desmarias (1st term)
- District 3- Brandon Duras (2nd term)
- District 5- Danielle Collins (2nd term)
- District 7- Jon Simonoff (1st term)

Spring 2022 Results:

- President-elect - Matt Waite (1st term)

- Band VP - Sarah Dow-Shedlarski (1st term)
- Treasurer - Sarah Bailey (2nd term)
- GM PK-5 VP - Caitlin Geishaker (1st term)
- Jazz VP - George Redman (1st term)
- Districts 2 Erika Batalla-Gates (1st term)
- District 4 - Kris Vigue (1st term)
- District 6 - has no nominees to hold an election

Spring 2021 Results:

- District 1 Chair - Missy Shabo (2nd term)
- District 3 Chair - Brandon Duras (1st term)
- District 5 Chair - Danielle Collins (1st term)
- District 7 Chair - Pam Kinsey (2nd term)
- General Music 6-12 - Christian Giddings (1st term)
- Chorus VP - Drew Albert (2nd term)
- Orchestra VP - Linda Vaillancourt (2nd term)
- Secretary - Cassie Cooper (1st term)

Spring 2020 Results:

- President-elect - Andy Forster
- District 2 - Sarah Dow (2nd term)
- District 4 - Danielle Gorman (2nd term)
- District 6 - *no election held*
- General Music PreK-5 - Dorie Tripp (2nd term)
- Band VP - Bill Buzza (2nd term)
- Jazz VP - Matt Waite (2nd term)
- Treasurer - Sarah Bailey (1st term)

Spring 2019 Results:

- District 1 Chair - Missy Shabo (1st term)
- District 3 Chair - Ben Cox (2nd term)
- District 4 Chair - Danielle Gorman *(emergency election)*
- District 5 Chair - Kaitlin Young (1st term)
- District 7 Chair - Pam Kinsey (1st term)
- General Music 6-12 - Erin Morrison (2nd term)
- Chorus VP - Drew Albert (1st term)
- Orchestra VP - Linda Vaillancourt (1st term)
- Secretary - Alexander Adams (1st term, *resigned - Danielle Collins replacement*)

Spring 2018 Results:

- MMEA President-elect - Sandy Barry
- District 2 - Sarah Dow
- District 4 - Joshua Bickford
- District 6 - Marleina Ford
- General Music PreK-5 - Dorie Tripp
- Band VP - Bill Buzza

- Jazz VP - Matt Waite
- Treasurer - Andy Forster