

# Writers Guild of America East

## Council Elections 101

### WHAT IS THE COUNCIL?

The Council is the governing body of the Writers Guild of America East (WGAE).

Council consists of **twenty Council members, distributed across three work sectors** — currently, twelve are from the Film/TV/Streaming work sector, five are from the Online Media work sector and three are from the Broadcast/Cable/Streaming News work sector.

There are also **five Executive Officers**: the President, the Secretary-Treasurer and three Vice Presidents, one from each work sector.

### Which members belong to each work sector?

- **Film/TV/Streaming** members work in screen, television and new media (e.g., podcasts).
- **Online Media** members work in news shops that have a digital-first or digital-only distribution model.
- **Broadcast/Cable/Streaming News** members work in news shops with traditional broadcast and cable distribution models as well as newer streaming platforms.

**5 EXECUTIVE OFFICERS + 20 COUNCIL MEMBERS = YOUR COUNCIL**

### WHAT DOES THE COUNCIL DO?

When you're elected to Council, you're weighing in on decisions that affect how the Guild serves its members, how the Guild manages its resources and the Guild's vision for the future.

#### **Let's get more specific:**

Council is asked to weigh in on topics including (but not limited to)...

**GUILD POLICY:** How should we effectively enforce contracts like the MBA? How should things like the strike loan fund work? Do we need a Code of Conduct for member meetings? What are our lobbying initiatives & priorities?

**ORGANIZING STRATEGY:** What are the priorities in upcoming contract negotiations? What parts of our sectors need to be unionized that aren't? What does solidarity with our sister unions look like?

**MANAGEMENT OF FUNDS AND PROPERTY:** Are we spending our money on the right priorities? What tools should we invest in to build the Guild's power?

**COMMITTEES:** Council members serve on committees, and Council appoints committee chairs. There are committees for everything! Some (like the Activities Committee) are open to all members, and some are only open to Council members for confidentiality reasons.

**SECTOR-SPECIFIC ACTIVITIES:** For example, Council Members from the Film/TV/Streaming sector elect Guild Trustees to the Pension & Health plan, and help to negotiate and enforce our Agency Agreement.

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## WHO ELECTS THE COUNCIL?

Current WGAE members in good standing are eligible to vote in elections.<sup>1</sup>

**President** and **Secretary-Treasurer** are both elected by the full membership. **Council members** and **Vice Presidents** are all elected by members from their same **work sector**.

## WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO RUN?

You can only run for a Council or Officer seat in a year when that seat is up for election.

**To run for President or Secretary-Treasurer**, you must be a WGAE member in good standing for at least one (1) year prior to the election.

**To run for an open Vice President or Council seat**, you must be a WGAE member in good standing *and* a member of your current work sector for at least one (1) year prior to the election.

## HOW LONG IS EACH COUNCIL TERM?

Two years.

## WHAT'S THE TIME COMMITMENT ONCE ELECTED?

Council meets once a month (usually on the first Thursday of the month) and meetings are typically between one and three hours long.

Outside of those monthly meetings, the time commitment varies depending on the priorities and goals of each Council member.

## I'M INTERESTED IN RUNNING, BUT I'M NOT SURE I'M QUALIFIED...

You don't need to have been in the Guild for years — the best representatives understand the struggles that writers face at all levels.

You don't need a comprehensive understanding of labor law or finances, and you don't need to be a famous writer — **you just need to be someone who cares about the Guild and its future.**

## I WANT TO RUN! WHAT DO I DO NEXT?

The first step is to be nominated. The WGAE will send a call for nominations to members no later than July 1, 2025. **Any current member in good standing may nominate candidates** for Council (including themselves).

Nominations must be submitted no later than July 21, 2025 at 5:00pm ET.

*Learn more about running for WGAE Council and find the complete election timeline at [wgaeast.org/council-elections](https://wgaeast.org/council-elections)*

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<sup>1</sup> A current member in good standing means that you are a member of the Writers Guild of America East, that you are current on basic dues, and that you have had work effort in the past ten years under a collective bargaining agreement, or are a life member.