



PFT Presidential Election & Standing Committee Appointments 2026

PFT Presidential Election Information

Every two years, during odd numbered years, we elect PFT Site Representatives and the following PFT Executive Board members: Treasurer, Secretary, and Vice Presidents for High School, Middle School, Elementary School and Special Education. Every two years, during even numbered years, we elect our PFT President.

2026 is an election year for PFT President. The election takes place in May, but the paperwork starts now. A **timeline of important dates** and a **2026 Petition for the office of President** is attached to this email. A copy of the Job Description for the office of PFT President, taken from the PFT By-Laws, is at the end of this email.

Candidates for **PFT President** must complete a petition with 100 signatures from current PFT Members in good standing. All petitions are due to the PFT office no later than **Monday March 23, 2026, at 4:00pm**.

Standing Committee Appointments

Per the PFT By-Laws, 2.1, The President, subject to ratification by the Representative Council, shall appoint the Chairs and Membership of standing committees. This year, appointments will be made and ratified at the March 25, 2026 Rep Council meeting to the following committees:

1. **Nominations and Elections Committee**
2. **PFT COPE Committee**
3. **Negotiating Committee**

Any PFT Member in good standing is invited to provide a request for appointment together with a statement of qualifications and experience to support their request. (Good standing simply means a Member whose dues are paid in full). Appointments shall be made by the President from among those Members submitting a request or members of the committee during the previous year.

To be considered for a one-year appointment to a committee, please send your request, together with your statement of qualifications and experience to support your request, to PFT President, Kelly Powell, at klogan@powayteachers.org by **Monday, March 23, at 4:00 p.m.**

2026 PFT Presidential ELECTION TIMELINE

If you recall, we changed the timeline for voting for Executive Board and Site Representative from every year to every two years. The election for the office of PFT Executive Board and Site Representative will happen in odd numbered years, while the position of PFT President will occur in even numbered years. Therefore, the only office up for consideration in our May general election will be the office of PFT President. Below is the timeline for the May 2026 PFT Presidential Election.

February:

- February 23:(Mon) EB vote to recommend electronic voting for 2026 Presidential Election
- February 25: (Wed) Reps to vote on EB Recommendation for electronic voting for 2026 Presidential Election
- February 25: (Wed) At the February Rep Council, election information and a timeline will be given to Reps.
- February 26: (Thurs) An all Member email will be sent with job description, instructions, and submission deadlines in order to have a name placed on the ballot.
The deadline for submitting is 4:00 pm March 23 (Mon).

March

- March 5: (Thurs) Email reminder to all Members with job description, instructions and submission deadline (**Mon. March 23**) in order to have a name placed on the ballot.
- March 12: (Thurs) Last chance email reminder to all Members.
- **March 23:** (Mon) All candidates running for the office of PFT President must gather the necessary signatures and present their petition to the PFT office by **4:00 pm on March 23 (Mon)**.
- **Failure to meet the timeline will disqualify a candidate from running for office.**
- March 25: (Wed) At the Rep Council meeting, the candidate names will be presented.
- March 26: (Thurs) Email to all candidates verifying status and giving forum information. If the position of PFT President is uncontested, then there will be no forum. Email all Members announcing names of candidates for the office of PFT President.

April:

- April 16: (Thurs) All candidates for the office of PFT President must submit a statement (300 words or less) to PFT no later than 4:00 pm on April 16 (Thurs) in order to have the statement included in an all Member email regarding a candidate forum.
- April 23: (Thurs) Candidate forum at the PFT office at 4:00 pm.

MAY:

- May 13: (Wed) "Get out the Vote" e-mail with candidate's statements to all Members.
- May 18-19 (Mon-Tues): elections will be held via Survey Monkey.
- May 27: (Wed) Results will be announced at the May 27 Rep Council meeting.
- May 29: (Fri) Results will be emailed to all Members and non-members who have provided PFT with a private email address.

June:

- June 1: (Mon) Elected PFT President will assume the office.

**BY-LAWS OF THE
POWAY FEDERATION OF TEACHERS**

ARTICLE I – DUTIES OF OFFICERS

1.1 The PRESIDENT shall: preside at all meetings of PFT's Executive Council, Representative Council and any general Membership meeting which may be called by the President, Representative Council, or Membership; be an ex-officio member of all committees of PFT; sign all necessary papers and documents; represent the PFT when and where necessary; act as the executive officer of PFT and assume all responsibilities commonly attendant upon such position; subject to ratification by the Executive Council and the Representative Council, determine those Elected Officers and/or committee chair duties which warrant the payment of a stipend and the amount and duration of such stipend.

6.9 A candidate for President must be a PFT Member in good standing throughout the two (2) year period preceding the date of the election. Candidates for all other elected offices must be a PFT Member in good standing throughout the one (1) year period preceding the date of the election.

ARTICLE II – STANDING COMMITTEES

2.1 The President, subject to ratification by the Representative Council, shall appoint the Chairs and Membership of standing committees.

2.2 The PFT COPE shall have two primary areas of responsibility;

1) To direct PFT's own COPE, to serve as a liaison with the San Diego-Imperial Counties Labor Council's COPE, the California Federation of Labor's COPE, the California Federation of Teachers' COPE and the American Federations of Teachers' COPE.

2) To serve in a professional advocacy function including representing professional concerns to Members of the Board of Education and other persons and institutions in the community served by the Poway Unified School District.

2.3 The Negotiating Committee shall be selected by the President from among members of the Elected Officers, full time release staff and PFT Members. The Chair of the Negotiating Committee shall coordinate PFT's collective bargaining efforts, make necessary arrangements with management for the negotiating sessions, appoint the team's spokesperson for those sessions and, in short, shall execute, subject to the direction of the Executive Council, PFT's policies in the manner of negotiating the collective bargaining agreement with representatives of the Board of Education.

ARTICLE VI – ELECTIONS

6.1 The Chair of Internal Operations and Elections shall serve as chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee. Neither the Chair nor any Member of the Nominations and Elections Committee shall be a candidate for office, nor a current Elected Officer. This Committee shall consist of no less than three (3) and no more than seven (7) Members. It shall be the responsibility of this Committee to prepare a written ballot of nominees for all elected offices which is to be presented to the Representative Council as specified in Article X of the Constitution.

6.8.1 It shall be the responsibility of the Nominations and Elections Committee to prepare, print, mail, receive and count ballots. The Committee shall report the results of the election to the Representative Council and the general Membership and shall retain the ballots for examination by any PFT Member for a period no less than ninety (90) days, this period beginning with the day following the official calendar deadline for receipt of ballots.

ARTICLE XI – COMMITTEE ON POLITICAL EDUCATION (COPE)

11.1 PFT's political action committee shall be known as the Poway Federation of Teachers Committee on Political Education (COPE).

11.2 The COPE Executive Council shall consist of a COPE Chair, COPE treasurer, and COPE secretary, each appointed by the President as provided by ARTICLE I, section 1.1 of the By-Laws, in addition to all Executive Council Members.

11.3 COPE meetings shall be held as needed at regularly scheduled Executive Council meetings.

11.4 A quarterly COPE revenue and expense report shall be presented for approval at a Representative Council meeting which shall also serve as a COPE Committee meeting.

11.5 Any stipend which is paid to the Director of PFT's COPE shall be paid from COPE funds and not the general budget of PFT.

Sincerely,

Crystal Ochoa

Director, Poway Federation of Teachers