

NAMI Elections 2024

Information for NAMI Affiliates/ NAMI State Organizations Regarding Nominations and Bylaws Amendments

Welcome to the 2024 NAMI Elections Season! This document contains information about nominating candidates for the 2024-2025 NAMI Board of Directors and also for proposing changes to the NAMI Bylaws.

NAMI Board service is an honor and a privilege. For those who earn the opportunity, NAMI Board service must be a top volunteer priority. NAMI Board members must commit to do the following:

- Understand and protect the fiduciary health of the organization
- Understand and adhere to the legal and fiduciary responsibilities of a nonprofit board
- Serve a three-year term; with the opportunity to serve two consecutive terms if reelected
- Attend quarterly meetings of two to three days' duration in locations as determined by the Board President.
- Dedicate time weekly to NAMI Board service, which may include the following:
 - Service on three standing committees
 - Conference calls
 - Other work groups as needed
 - Travel for Board and other meetings
- Make what the individual believes to be a significant financial contribution to NAMI, on an annual basis.

Board Composition

The NAMI Bylaws require that a minimum of 75% of the NAMI Board comprise persons who have or have had mental illness, or parents or other relatives thereof, including civil and domestic partners. To ensure compliance with this requirement, all candidates are asked to identify if they have had a lived experience of mental illness or are a family member of someone with lived experience. Because all currently seated Board members for the 2023-2024 term do self-identify under this definition, nominations of those who do not have lived experience as an individual or as a family member are welcomed to this 2024 election cycle.

Nominations

Nominations are being accepted for candidates for election to the NAMI National Board of Directors in June of this year. Five candidates will be elected to serve for the standard three-year term.

Nominations Requirements:

- Nominations may be made only by NAMI Affiliates or NAMI State Organizations (NSONAs) that have submitted their memberships and dues to NAMI by the membership deadline of Wednesday, March 27, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET (70 days prior to the NAMI Annual Meeting) and are considered in good standing.
- Each NSONA may nominate no more than **one** candidate.
- Board nominees must be NAMI members and members of record of the NSONA making the nomination.
- Nominations must be received by NAMI **no later than Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET** (not less than 60 days prior to the NAMI Annual Meeting) and sent to candidates@nami.org.

Submission Requirements:

To nominate a Board candidate, the nominating NSONA must complete a nomination packet (linked below). The completed packet with accompanying materials must be sent to candidates@nami.org **no later than Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET.**

- Nomination Packet for Incorporated NSONAs (NAMI State Organizations & Model A/C Affiliates)
 - [PDF version](#) / [Word version](#)
- Nomination Packet for Unincorporated NAMI Affiliates (Model B)
 - [PDF version](#) / [Word version](#)

Summary of NAMI Board Candidate Responsibilities

1. **Have been formally nominated by a NAMI State Organization or NAMI Affiliate in good standing (nominations are DUE by April 6, 2024).** If these items are not complete by Saturday, April 6 at 11:59 p.m. ET, the candidate will not be eligible to stand for election.
2. **Complete the two-part online 2024 Candidate Questionnaire no later than Friday, April 19 at 5:00 p.m. ET.** Candidates will receive links to complete the questionnaire via SurveyMonkey once their nomination is complete and accepted. This process provides for:
 - a. confirming willingness to be a candidate and to serve if elected;
 - b. confirming willingness to be the subject of a criminal background check and educational verification (see below for more details on this requirement);
 - c. providing current and accurate contact information;
 - d. self-identifying as a person who has or has had a mental illness, or parents or other relatives with lived experience, including civil and domestic partners;
 - e. self-disclosing any current public office or current membership on the governing board of any for-profit or not-for-profit organization and any employment with NAMI, NAMI State Organizations or NAMI Affiliates;
 - f. committing to disclosing for yourself and immediate family (spouse, civil or domestic partner, parents, dependent children, siblings) any employment, business or other financial interest that involves NAMI, any NAMI Affiliate or NAMI State Organization, or

- any other person or entity providing goods or services for payment that are related to mental health care;
- g. committing to uphold the terms set forth in the [NAMI Board Policy & Governance Manual](#) and [NAMI Board Procedures Manual](#); and,
- h. responding to the 2024 NAMI Board candidate questions that will be used to develop the candidate profile presented to the voting membership.
 - i) In support of NAMI Standards of Excellence, candidates are expected to adhere to [NAMI's Identity Guide](#) in responding to the Candidate Questionnaire. Statements may be edited for format and accurate use of NAMI programs and other terms that fall within NAMI's protected intellectual property.
- 3. **Provide an updated, current resume or curriculum vitae (CV)** showing all relevant work and volunteer experience that can also provide information to the Board and the membership in relation to your candidacy.
- 4. **Provide a high-resolution photograph electronically** (the minimum size is 400 x 400 @ 72dpi) suitable for publication on the web. We will confirm suitability of photos and may seek a replacement if our publications team alerts us that your photo will not reproduce well.
- 5. **Record a 5-minute candidate speech** articulating why you aspire to serve on the Board to present to the voting membership. NAMI staff will work with you to schedule the recording.

Candidates will receive instructions on the submission of materials and process for recording their candidate speeches after their nomination has been confirmed. Submission of all materials is required.

Confidentiality of Information

NAMI will keep confidential the results of the criminal background check. The results will only be made available to staff who oversee the elections and members of the Board of Directors. The candidate may be invited to speak to a Board workgroup about information in the background check. The results of the background check will not be presented to the voting membership.

Information contained in the background check **will not disqualify** an individual from being a candidate or a Board member. If a candidate with a criminal background is elected to the Board, their background may inform their committee appointments. For example, an individual with a history of financial crimes may not be assigned to the Finance Committee. This would be done to protect against a semblance of impropriety and manage risk.

Within 90 days following the NAMI election, information from the criminal background check of candidates who were not elected will be deleted from NAMI systems and no additional records will be kept. The background checks of candidates who are elected to the Board will be kept on file.

Candidate Information Call

Shortly after the close of nominations, all candidates are expected to join a Candidate Information Call for a review of election processes and for answers to any questions candidates may have. The NAMI Elections Chair will review the venues and opportunities for candidates to present themselves and their views to the membership on the candidate call. The date and time will be communicated in April.

Live Candidate Speeches at NAMIcon

There will be an opportunity for Live Candidate Speeches at [NAMIcon 2024](#) on the morning of June 3. Each candidate will be given 5 minutes to present a live speech about why they are running for the

2024-2025 NAMI Board of Directors. Candidates should plan to attend NAMIcon 2024 to participate. More information will be provided at the Candidate Information Call.

No Campaigning Policy

NAMI seeks to conduct a fair elections process for all Board candidates and nominators. To that end, both nominators and candidates are asked to respond affirmatively to their agreement to adhere to [NAMI's "no campaigning" policy](#).

Bylaws Amendment Proposals and Resolutions

Bylaws Amendment Proposals

For consideration in the 2024 NAMI elections, **proposed amendments to the [NAMI Bylaws](#) must be submitted in writing to NAMIBoard@nami.org and received by NAMI no later than Saturday, April 6, 2024 at 11:59 p.m. ET.** Proposed amendments to the NAMI Bylaws must be submitted in amendment form, with the full text of the relevant bylaws section(s) including any strikeouts or additions.

Resolutions

For consideration in the 2024 NAMI elections, **proposed resolutions must be received by NAMI at the address below by United States Postal Service (USPS), either by registered mail, certified mail, Express Mail or Priority Mail, or any other USPS service offering Return Receipts or Signature Confirmation no later than Saturday, April 6, 2024.** *(Please note: The submission deadline falls on a weekend when the NAMI office will be closed. Please plan to submit any proposals well in advance of the deadline.)*

NAMI, Attn: Elections 2024
4301 Wilson Blvd., Suite 300
Arlington, VA 22203

For guidance on making submissions, please contact us at voting@nami.org.