

How SBC Executive Committee and Entity Trustees are Elected

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Choosing Southern Baptist Convention Executive Committee Members and Entity Trustees is an important process that utilizes representatives from all states/regions. SBC Messengers have control throughout as both the nominators and nominees are voted on at the Annual Meeting.

SBC PRESIDENT

During the Southern Baptist Convention Annual Meeting, messengers elect a President to serve a one-year term with the option of being reelected to a second one-year term. The SBC President, in conference with the Vice-Presidents, appoints 68 people to serve a one-year term on the Committee on Committees. The membership is comprised of two representatives from each of the 34 states/regions.

COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES

At the following SBC Annual Meeting, the Committee on Committees recommends to messengers 68 people to serve a one-year term as the Committee on Nominations. The Committee is comprised of two representatives from each of the 34 states/regions, with one representative being a layperson and one being a minister. Each representative must have been a member of an SBC church located in that state/region for the preceding three years.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS

Once elected by messengers at the SBC Annual Meeting, the Committee on Nominations is tasked with selecting, vetting, and nominating trustees to be voted on by messengers at the subsequent year's SBC Annual Meeting. Each committee member receives information on vacancies that need to be filled by representatives from their state/region and the qualifications required by each board's governing documents.

SELECTING

Committee members may gather names of potentially qualified nominees from a variety of sources, including church members, pastors, associational directors, and state convention leaders. Any SBC church member can contact their Committee on Nominations representative and recommend a person for one of the vacancies.

Entity leaders do not select or nominate people to serve on their own boards. The Committee on Nominations, however, may inquire regarding skill sets needed for entity boards. For example, they may receive guidance such as, "It would be beneficial to have at least one new trustee with a legal background" or "Having a Spanish speaker as one of our new trustees would be helpful so that other Spanish speakers can communicate with our board more easily." While not binding, this information can be helpful in creating healthy boards.

VETTING

Once potential nominee names are gathered, the entire Committee on Nominations meets to vet the names brought forward by the two representatives from each state/region. SBC Bylaw

15 states, "**The committee shall recognize the principle that the persons it recommends shall represent the constituency of the Convention, rather than the staff of the entity.**" Achieving this typically involves the two representatives from each state/region providing rationale on their state's potential nominees, confirming they are members of a cooperating SBC church, and examining the church's Cooperative Program Giving. For example, the nominees who were recommended in 2022 were members of churches that averaged over 6.5% of undesignated offerings given to the Cooperative Program.

Persons are disqualified from serving if they or their spouse are serving on another SBC entity board, they have served on another SBC entity board in the preceding two years, or if there is a conflict of interest.

NOMINATING

The list of nominees is published by Baptist Press 45 days before the SBC Annual Meeting so that messengers have an opportunity to research and consider those being nominated. During the Annual Meeting, messengers have an opportunity to discuss, amend, and ultimately vote on the trustees of their SBC Entities and Executive Committee.

The Southern Baptist Convention is a denomination led by its people. **Each person has a voice in nominating and electing those who lead** our important boards and committees.

For more information on how trustees are chosen, refer to SBC Bylaws 15 and 19.