

SECOORA BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2025 ELECTION PROCEDURAL FRAMEWORK

A. FINAL ARBITER OF THE SECOORA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION PROCESS

1. According to SECOORA By-Laws as revised and approved at the May 13, 2009 Members meeting, the SECOORA Board Development Committee has the following charges:
 - Establish criteria and processes for Board elections, accept nominations, screen prospective nominees, and provide a slate of candidates to the members for approval.
 - Develop the annual Board ballot and coordinate circulation to the membership, allowing ample time for consideration of all candidates and resolution of any technical problems.
 - Establish procedures for determining winners of Board elections and handling any disputed election results.
 - Establish procedures governing candidates' conduct regarding election campaigns.
2. The **2025 SECOORA Board of Directors Election Procedural Framework** has been drafted by the Board Development Committee, based on the 2024 Framework, which was based on earlier Frameworks that were vetted, commented upon, and supported by the Executive Committee (EXCOM).
3. A subset of the Board Development Committee will serve as an impartial Nomination Sub-Committee (NSC). Those on the NSC will be Board Development Committee members who are not running for re-election in the current term.
4. The NSC will act as the final arbiter of the 2025 Board of Directors Elections.

B. NOMINATION PROCESS AND THE OFFICIAL SECOORA BOARD ELECTION BALLOT FOR 2024

1. SECOORA By-Laws are the basis for the development of the 2025 Board Election process.
2. An oral vote will be taken at the 2025 SECOORA Membership Annual Meeting, May 14, 2025 if the ballot is uncontested. If the ballot is contested, then the full membership will vote virtually using a secure online voting system (Election Buddy). The winners of the election will be announced during the 2025 SECOORA Membership Annual Meeting on May 14, 2025.
3. The 2025 Board Election shall fill those positions on the Board of Directors that will become open on July 1, 2025, due to the staggered terms of SECOORA Board members.

The following seats are open for nomination. The attached Appendix shows a list of current Board members whose terms are expiring highlighted in yellow. The Appendix also shows those Members eligible for each seat and a list of Members in Good Standing.

At Large – GA

ONE POSITION AVAILABLE

Public Agency/Non-Profit/Other

ONE POSITION AVAILABLE

Industry/Private Sector

ONE POSITION AVAILABLE

Academic/Research/Education

ONE POSITION AVAILABLE

4. Criteria and Deadlines for nominees wishing to fill the Board position(s):
 - a. representative of SECOORA’s broad constituency
 - b. paid dues to become a SECOORA Member in Good Standing
 - c. submittal of a nomination that includes an agreement to be a nominee, 2 page CV consisting of background and experiences that pertain to ocean observing systems and ability to represent SECOORA, and Conflict of Interest (COI) statement of the nominee by **5 PM ET on March 14, 2025** to the Nominations Sub-Committee via Emily Noakes (emily@secoora.org) and copy to Gary Mitchum (mitchum@usf.edu), Molly Baringer (molly.baringer@noaa.gov) and Paul Sandifer (sandiferpa@cofc.edu). A nominee may be a candidate in only one category of Board Seat (i.e., Institutional Member Seat in the Industry/Private Sector or Institutional Member Seat in Academic/Research/Education Sector, etc.).
5. SECOORA members may nominate themselves or be nominated by other SECOORA members as candidates.
6. The NSC will review nominations of candidates on behalf of the Board Development Committee.
7. The NSC will review each nominee’s COI disclosure and determine to its satisfaction whether or not a COI exists. If a COI is viewed to exist, the NSC will develop a draft remedy. The NSC will explain the situation to the SECOORA Executive Committee and seek approval of the draft remedy. Once approval is given, the NSC will ask for agreement from the nominee to follow the remedy in order to be nominated.

8. All nominees meeting the announced criteria will be submitted as a Slate of Candidates to the Board of Directors for approval.
9. The approved Slate of Candidates, their CVs, their COI disclosure, and if applicable, the remedy, will be posted on the SECOORA website with a notice emailed to all SECOORA members.
10. No nominations to this Slate will be accepted from the floor during the annual meeting.
11. If there is a contested ballot, voting will take place using Election Buddy. Institutional Member representatives may vote for all candidates. Individual Members may only vote for At Large candidates.

C. PROCEDURES GOVERNING CANDIDATES' and MEMBERS' CONDUCT REGARDING ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

1. Once nominated to be a candidate for a Board seat, the person nominated may seek support for a position on the Board through verbal, electronic, or written communication. Campaigning for a SECOORA Board seat by a candidate or a member shall not occur in the form of negative criticism of any other person nominated for a Board Seat that is the subject of a 2025 Board Election.
2. Once nominated to be a candidate for a Board seat, nothing of tangible or intangible value may be exchanged between such candidate and any SECOORA member or member representative. No member of SECOORA shall engage in inappropriate or unethical activities associated with an election.
3. Should an incident be reported to the NSC that, if true, constitutes prohibited campaign activity, the NSC will investigate and resolve the matter. If unable to reach a resolution, the NSC will refer the matter to the full Board of Directors for resolution.

D. TIMELINE OF EVENTS FOR BOARD NOMINATIONS AND ELECTION PROCESS

1. **February 24, 2025** Notice. A notice shall be emailed by the SECOORA Staff to all SECOORA members and posted on the SECOORA website with the following information:
 - a. SECOORA Board of Directors Election Procedural Framework
 - b. Criteria for Board Nominations as provided in B.4 above with information on openings in the various Board categories (i.e., Institutional Member Seat in the Industry/Private Sector (one), etc.)

- c. Request all SECOORA members wishing to make nominations to send the nominations by COB on March 14, 2025 to the NSC (see page 2, B. 4c).
 - d. Reminder Notice: SECOORA members wishing to designate a proxy to vote on their behalf at the 2025 SECOORA Membership Meeting must notify the SECOORA Executive Director, Debra Hernandez (debra@secoora.org).
2. March 14, 2025 at 5pm is the Nomination Deadline.
3. To be determined: The NSC shall review nominations and CVs to assure the timeliness of the nomination and alignment with criteria for nominees. The NSC shall construct and approve the draft Slate of Candidates. With the approval of the Board Development Committee, the Slate of Candidates shall be submitted on or before, March 10, 2025 to the SECOORA Board for approval.
4. March 19, 2025 The SECOORA Board sends their approval of the draft or revised Slate of Candidates back to the NSC. The nomination period is closed.
5. To be determined, likely March 19, 2025, the approved Slate of Candidates is posted with their CVs on the SECOORA website.
6. To be determined, likely March 19, 2025 the NSC directs the SECOORA staff to construct the Official 2025 SECOORA Board Election Ballot and approves the final version thereof.
7. March 19, 2025 The SECOORA staff will post the Official 2025 SECOORA Election Ballot, the list of dues paying members in good standing, and the list of members' representatives (or approved proxy as of that date) voting in the 2025 Board election. The NSC shall confer on this date to review the items posted to confirm with SECOORA staff that the lists and other items posted for the 2025 Board Election are accurate.
8. Week of April 7, 2025: If the ballot is contested, SECOORA staff will prepare an electronic ballot using Election Buddy. An email to each Member Representative will be sent that contains a code to vote. The nature of the electronic vote eliminates the need for a proxy, but one is allowed to be designated to the Executive Director if it is requested.
9. Week of April 21, 2025 Any runoff elections for tie ballots will be held using Election Buddy. Results of Board members winning their respective elections will be announced at the SECOORA Annual Meeting.

E. ELECTION PROCESS

1. Contested ballot voting procedures are listed above.

2. Uncontested ballot voting procedures are listed above.

F. COUNTING OF VOTES AND ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS

1. SECOORA staff members will double check the Election Buddy votes and the results will be saved in the SECOORA records.
2. If there are no tie votes or issues with the 67% rule (see Section H), the election results shall be announced by the Chair of the NSC to the Annual Meeting attendees.

G. ELECTION PROCESS IN CASE OF A TIE VOTE FOR A SPECIFIC BOARD SEAT.

1. Tie votes will be handled by a run-off election in the week of April 21, 2025 via Election Buddy. SECOORA staff members will double check the Election Buddy votes and the results will be saved in the SECOORA records.

H. ELECTION PROCESS TO SEEK A MORE DISPERSED GEOGRAPHIC COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD

SECOORA By-Laws, Article IV – BOARD OF DIRECTORS; Section 1 states: “Composition of the Board. The Board will be composed of 11 members. The number of Board seats filled should always be an odd number. No state will hold more than sixty-seven (67%) percent of seats on the Board”.

1. It is possible in any given election year to have an election that, when the individuals who have won their respective Board Seats are installed as Board members in June or so of each year, results in Board composition that will violate this By-Law section (more than 67% of the Board come from one state).
2. After the ballots are counted and results are reported to the SECOORA Membership by the NSC, if any state has more than (67%) of Board membership, then the NSC will follow this procedure:
 - a. The NSC will first ask if any of the newly elected Board members from that state with more than 67% Board Seats wish to relinquish so that the number of seats from one state can conform to the By-Law requirement in Article IV, Section 1. Should such a Board member announce that he or she wishes to relinquish; the NSC will draw up and approve the Slate of Candidates to fill the seat vacated and, with SECOORA staff, present another ballot to the SECOORA Members for election to the newly opened Board Seat.
 - b. If no Board member from such a state wishes to resign, the matter will be turned over to the Board of Directors for resolution no later than June 15th and sent to the Governance Committee (options include an election of one or more new

Board members, acceptance of resignations from one or more existing Board members, or appointment of members to Public Seats by the Board of Directors).

I. CLOSING COMMENTS AND PROCEDURES

1. All 2025 Board Election ballots through Election Buddy shall be kept as SECOORA records on the 2025 Board Election and shall be reviewed prior to storage by the Secretary of the SECOORA Board of Directors.
2. After the announcement of the results of the 2025 Board Election, the Chair of the NSC will confirm the 2025 Election is concluded and that the newly elected Board of Directors will be installed as Board members on July 1, 2025.

APPENDIX

The SECOORA Board voted in January 2019 that PIs are no longer eligible to serve on the SECOORA Board. The SECOORA membership voted to change the bylaws in May 2023 to make the size of the Board 13 as follows:

Public Seat: 3

Industry/Private Sectors: 2

Academic/Education Research Sectors: 2

Public Agencies/Non-Profit/Other Sectors: 2

At Large Member Seats:

1 North Carolina

1 South Carolina

1 Georgia

1 Florida

Current List of Board Members

The SECOORA Board seats and term limits are given below. Yellow highlighted are the ONLY SEATS BEING FILLED in the 2025 Election.

Industry/Private Sector: Term Limit (yr)

Jeff Copeland 3 (as of 7/1/2022) TERM IS UP – willing to rerun for seat

Patrick Barrineau 3 (as of 7/1/2021)

Academic/Research/Education Sector: Term Limit (yr)

Bryan Franks 3 (as of 7/1/2022) TERM IS UP – willing to rerun for seat

Gary Mitchum 3 (as of 7/1/2023)

Public Agencies/Non-Profit/Other Sector: Term Limit (yr)

Evelien VanderKloet 3 (as of 7/1/2021)

Duane DeFreese 3 (as of 7/1/2022) TERM IS UP – willing to rerun for seat

At-Large: Term Limit (yr)

William Savidge (GA) 3 (as of 7/1/2022) TERM IS UP – not eligible to rerun for seat

Nathan Hall (NC) 2 (as of 7/1/2022)

Erin Hague (FL) 3 (as of 7/1/2023)

Scott Harris (SC) 3 (as of 7/1/2024)

Current List of Eligible Members (see table below)

At Large – GA – ONE POSITION AVAILABLE

Asli Aslan, Georgia Southern University

Adam Greer, Skidaway Institute of Oceanography

Academic/Research/Education – ONE POSITION AVAILABLE

Bryan Franks, Jacksonville University

Jim Fourqurean, FIU-SEAS

Monty Graham, Florida Institute of Oceanography

Patrick Halpin, Duke University

Christopher Post, Clemson University

Industry/Private Sector – ONE POSITION AVAILABLE

Jeff Copeland, Tempest

Matt Upton, Upton Environmental Inc.

Public Agency/Non-Profit/Other – ONE POSITION AVAILABLE

Duane DeFreese, Indian River Lagoon Council

Patricia Gomez, Miami-Dade County

Michael Crosby, Mote Marine Laboratory

Susan Lovelace, SC Sea Grant Consortium

| Organization | Representative | Date Received |
|---|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Institutional Members - Director | | |
| Jacksonville University Marine Science Research Institute | Bryan Franks | 7/29/2024 |
| Skidaway Institute of Oceanography | Adam Greer | 6/11/2024 |
| OTN NETWORK AT DALHOUSIE | Evelien VanderKloet | 6/24/2024 |
| Coastal Science & Engineering, Inc. | Patrick Barrineau | 5/29/2024 |
| Tempest | Jeff Copeland | 7/29/2024 |
| Indian River Lagoon National Estuary Program | Duane De Freese | 7/30/2024 |
| College of Charleston | Scott Harris | 9/10/2024 |
| UNC-Chapel Hill | Nathan Hall | 8/22/2024 |
| Sustaining Members - Director | | |
| USF | Gary Mitchum | 5/29/2024 |
| Sustaining Members - Non-Director | | |
| Mote Marine Laboratory | Michael Crosby | 7/22/2024 |
| Miami-Dade County | Patricia Gomez | 7/22/2024 |
| Institutional Members - Non-Director | | |
| SC DNR Marine Resources Division | Tracey Smart | 6/18/2024 |
| Florida Institute of Technology | Steven Lazarus | 5/22/2024 |
| NC State University | Ruoying He | 8/31/2024 |
| Upton Environmental Inc. D/B/A ROFFS | Matt Upton | 5/22/2024 |
| UNC Wilmington | Lynn Leonard | 7/22/2024 |
| USC College of Arts and Sciences (new emails here) | George Voulgaris | 7/2/2024 |
| FIU-SEAS | Jim Fourqurean | 5/21/2024 |
| USC Arnold School of Public Health | Dwayne Porter | 8/8/2024 |
| Florida Institute of Oceanography | Monty Graham | 5/21/2024 |
| FL Fish and Wildlife Research Institute | Luke McEachron | 6/18/2024 |
| Fathom Science | Jennifer Warillow | 8/30/2024 |
| SC Sea Grant Consortium | Susan Lovelace | 7/22/2024 |
| ECU (Coastal Studies Institute) - replaced JP Walsh | Mike Muglia | 5/22/2024 |
| University of Miami-Rosenstiel School | Nick Shay | |
| The Nature Conservancy | Mary Conley | |
| DUKE University | Patrick Halpin | 8/30/2024 |
| Coastal Carolina University | Paul Gayes | 7/16/2024 |
| Georgia Southern University | Asli Aslan | 10/8/2024 |
| Clemson University Water Resource Center | Christopher Post | 12/3/2024 |
| Individual Members | | |
| Cliff Merz - Dialytics, Inc. | Cliff Merz | 7/8/2024 |
| Erin Hague | Tetra Tech | 8/30/2024 |
| Lisa Adams | Lisa Adams | |
| Peter Hamilton | Peter Hamilton | 8/22/2024 |