2021 NOW Candidates Forums
Virtual Rules

NOW Presidential Candidate Forum -- Saturday, July 24, from 1:45 PM to 2:45 PM EST
NOW Vice-Presidential Candidate Forum -- Sunday, July 25, from 12:00 PM to 1:00 PM EST

Welcome to the 2021 NOW Candidates Forums for President and Vice President. These Forums are a safe place where candidates running for NOW office have the opportunity to present their platforms and answer questions.

The chair of the NOW Elections Committee will serve as moderator and run the Candidate Forums. Elections Committee members will assist with timekeeping and the selection of audience questions for the moderator.

This session will be recorded and saved for later viewing in the agenda section of the NOW conference website.

Overview
A total of 60 minutes has been allowed for each Candidate Forum. We anticipate the following flow:

- Welcome and Introductions (Elections Committee)
- Review of Forum Rules, Format, and the Code of Conduct (Moderator)
- Determination of Speaking Order (Moderator)
  - The moderator will place the names of both candidates in a bowl, then pick one candidate’s name. That candidate will choose the order for Opening and Closing Statements.
- Opening Statements
  Each candidate will receive 5 minutes for an Opening Statement. The timekeeper will display a YELLOW card indicating when 30 seconds are left, and a RED card when time is up.
- Moderated Q & A
  - The Elections Committee will monitor the chat box, select questions, and forward them to the moderator. The committee will select questions that are non-specific to a candidate.
  - Duplicative questions and issues will not be asked.
  - The moderator will ask the first question of the candidate who went second during Opening Statements. The moderator will then rotate questions between the candidates.
  - The moderator will receive 1 minute to ask each question. The timekeeper will display a YELLOW card indicating when 30 seconds are left, and a RED card when time is up.
  - Candidates will receive 2 minutes each to answer a question. The timekeeper will display a YELLOW card indicating when 30 seconds are left, and a RED card when time is up.
o If a candidate references the other candidate in their answer, the person referenced will have 1 minute to respond. The referenced candidate may decline to respond. After that 1 minute has expired, that closes out that question, and the moderator will move on to the next one.

- Closing Statements
  Each candidate will receive 5 minutes for a Closing Statement. The timekeeper will display a **YELLOW** card indicating when 30 seconds are left, and a **RED** card when time is up.

- Final Remarks (Moderator)

**Code of Conduct**
The [2021 NOW Officer Elections Procedures](#) and the [2021 NOW Conference Code of Conduct](#) will apply to all participants in the NOW Candidate Forums. Please take note of the following rules and regulations:

- For Attendees:
  a. Attendees are allowed to display background paraphernalia that shows support for a specific candidate.
  
  b. Attendees will be placed on mute during the Forum but may ask questions via the Chat Box.
  
  c. If an attendee is being verbally abusive in the chat room, the moderator will give one warning.
  
  d. If the behavior continues, the moderator will inform the tech support team to remove the attendee.

- For the Moderator:
  a. The Elections Committee will use best judgement when choosing questions from the chat and may bypass any questions that appear repetitive or specific to one candidate.
  
  b. The moderator has the authority to make the final decision to remove an attendee or candidate from the meeting if they are presenting abusive or disruptive behavior.

- For Media:
  a. NOW members with press identification may attend the Candidate Forum but pledge not to report on the general substance or the details of such session(s) through any media other than NOW publications or platforms.
  
  b. Members of the media who are not NOW members are not allowed to attend the Candidate Forum.