

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA  
NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

**DESCRIPTION OF ELECTION AND POST-ELECTION  
REPRESENTATION CASE PROCEDURES**

**Election** – A secret ballot election will be conducted by an agent of the National Labor Relations Board on the date and at the time(s) and location(s) specified in the Notice of Election. Unless the election is conducted by mail ballot, each party is usually represented by an equal number of observers at the polls during the election. When a voter appears to vote, the voter is asked to state his or her name and is given a ballot to take to a voting booth and mark in secret. The voter folds the marked ballot and then drops it into a ballot box without showing the marking to anyone. Parties or the Board agent may challenge for good cause the eligibility of a voter to participate in the election. A challenged voter will place his or her ballot in a special envelope before placing it in the ballot box. After the time for voting has concluded but before counting the ballots, the Board agent will see if the parties can agree to resolve some or all of the challenges. The Board agent will then count the ballots and prepare a Tally of Ballots and make that Tally available to the parties. If the unresolved challenged ballots will not determine the outcome of the election, the challenged ballots are never opened and no determination is made on the voters' eligibility. If the remaining challenged ballots are determinative of the results of the election, those challenged ballots will be sealed in a special envelope in front of the parties and stored in a safe in an NLRB office.

**Challenged Ballots** – If the challenged ballots are determinative, the regional director will send a letter to the parties after the election, listing the challenged voters and asking the parties to submit a statement of position with respect to the challenge to the ballot of each voter listed above detailing why each of the challenged individuals is or is not eligible to vote. The regional director will then determine whether it is necessary to conduct an investigation or schedule a hearing to resolve the determinative challenges.

**Objections** – Within 7 days after the Tally of Ballots has been prepared, any party may file objections to the conduct of the election or to conduct affecting the results of the election. The objections must be submitted within this time frame, regardless of whether the challenged ballots are sufficient in number to affect the results of the election. The objections must contain a short statement of the reasons for the objections and be accompanied by a written offer of proof identifying each witness the party would call to testify concerning the issue and summarizing the witness's testimony. Upon a showing of good cause, the regional director may extend the time for filing the offer of proof. The party filing the objections will serve a copy of the objections, but not the written offer of proof, on each of the other parties to the case, and include a certificate of service with the objections. The objections may be E-Filed through the Agency's E-Filing system. Objections may also be submitted by facsimile transmission, but the filer must also file an original for the Agency's records.

**Certification in the Absence of Objections, Determinative Challenges, and Runoff Elections** -- If no timely objections are filed, no runoff election is required to be held, and the challenged ballots are insufficient in number to affect the results of the election, the regional director will issue a certification of the results of the election, including certification of representative where appropriate.

**Regional Office Investigation and Decisions without a Hearing** -- A Board agent may be assigned to conduct an administrative investigation of determinative challenges and objections. If the regional director determines that the evidence described in the offer of proof would not constitute grounds for setting aside the election if introduced at a hearing, and the regional director determines that any determinative challenges do not raise substantial and material factual issues, the regional director will issue a decision disposing of the objections and determinative challenges, and a certification of the results of the election, including certification of representative where appropriate.

**Notices of Hearing on Challenges and/or Objections** -- The regional director will schedule the hearing on challenges and/or objections 21 days after the preparation of the tally of ballots or as soon as practicable

thereafter, unless the parties agree to an earlier date. In some cases, the regional director may consolidate the hearing concerning objections and challenges with an unfair labor practice proceeding before an administrative law judge. In any proceeding involving a consent election where the representation case has been consolidated with an unfair labor practice proceeding for hearing, the administrative law judge will, after issuing a decision, sever the representation case and transfer it to the regional director for further processing. If there was no consent election, the administrative law judge's recommendations on objections and/or challenges that have been consolidated with an unfair labor practice proceeding will be ruled upon by the Board if exceptions are filed or adopted in the absence of exceptions.

**Voluntary Resolution** -- An objecting party may wish to withdraw its objections. The withdrawal may be oral or written. When objections are withdrawn, the regional director may issue the appropriate certification. If the parties agree to set aside the election and conduct a new one, the Board agent will prepare a written agreement for their signature and approval by the regional director. Agreement of the objecting party is not required.

**Hearing on Challenges and/or Objections** -- The hearing will continue from day to day until completed unless the regional director concludes that extraordinary circumstances warrant otherwise. Any party will have the right to appear at the hearing in person, by counsel, or by other representative, to call, examine, and cross-examine witnesses, and to introduce into the record evidence of the significant facts that support the party's contentions and are relevant to the objections and determinative challenges that are the subject of the hearing. Post-hearing briefs may be filed only upon special permission of the hearing officer and within the time and addressing the subjects permitted by the hearing officer.

**Hearing Officer's Report and Exceptions** -- After the hearing, the hearing officer will prepare and serve on the parties a report resolving questions of credibility and containing findings of fact and recommendations as to the disposition of the post-election issues. Within 14 days from the issuance of that report, any party may file with the regional director exceptions to that report and a supporting brief if desired. A copy of the exceptions and any supporting brief must immediately be served on the other parties and a statement of service filed with the regional director. Within 7 days from the last date on which exceptions and any supporting brief may be filed, or such further time as the regional director may allow, a party opposing the exceptions may file an answering brief. A copy of the answering brief must immediately be served on the other parties and a statement of service filed with the regional director. Thereafter, the regional director will decide the matter or make other disposition of the case. If no exceptions to the hearing officer's report are filed, the regional director may decide the matter upon the record or make other disposition of the case. The decision of the regional director will be final unless a request for review is granted by the Board.

Briefs in support of exceptions and answering briefs may not exceed 50 pages, excluding the subject index and table of cases and authorities, unless permission is obtained from the regional director by motion, setting forth the reasons for exceeding the limit, filed not less than 5 days (including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) before the date the brief is due. If a brief filed exceeds 20 pages, it must contain a subject index with page references and an alphabetical table of cases and authorities. All documents filed with the regional director must be double spaced and on 8 ½ by 11-inch paper, and be printed or otherwise legibly duplicated.

**Request For Review by the Board** -- In stipulated and directed election cases, any party may request Board review of the regional director's post-election decision. The request for review must be filed with the Board within 14 days of the director's post-election decision and must be served on the regional director and the other parties. This may be combined with a request for review of the regional director's decision to direct an election. A statement of service must also be filed with the Board. Any party opposing the request for review may file a statement in opposition within 7 days after the last day for which the request for review must be filed. If the Board grants the request for review, the parties have 14 days from the order granting review to file briefs with the Board. A party seeking review must identify a significant, prejudicial error or some other compelling reason for Board review.