

Election of Royal Photographic Society President Information for Members

Prepared by RPS Nominations Committee, 27 March 2026

Introduction

This document has been prepared by the Royal Photographic Society (RPS) Nominations Committee (NomCom) to help RPS members understand the process being followed for the election of the next RPS President. NomCom is running the election process with the administrative support of RPS officers.

Background

The current RPS President and Chair of Trustees, Simon Hill CPhot HonFRPS, reaches the end of his term of office at the close of the RPS AGM in September 2027, having served in that capacity since January 2021. During 2026, RPS members will elect a new President who will take over from Simon at the close of the AGM in September 2027.

For the preceding year (that is from the close of the AGM in September 2026 until the close of the AGM in September 2027), the elected candidate shall hold the position of President Elect and, under RPS By-Law 2025:12.1, shall be elected by the BoT to serve in the office of Deputy Chair.

Who is eligible to stand for election as President?

By-Law 2025:11.4 states:

The President shall be elected by the Members from those persons

- (i) currently serving as a Trustee,*
- (ii) having a minimum of one year current service on the Board of Trustees, and*
- (iii) have indicated their willingness to stand for election as President.*

As of the date of this document, all current Board of Trustee members, are eligible to stand, with the exception of the current President and one Trustee who completes their six-year term before the close of the AGM in September 2027.

As regards clause (ii), and as confirmed in By-Law 11.4, "*the person elected to be the President shall take up their office from the conclusion of the Annual General Meeting at which the incumbent President retires*". The elected candidate will therefore take up the office of President at the close of the AGM in September 2027 which means that no current BoT member will have less than two years of service. During the preceding year, from the close of the AGM in 2026, during which the successful candidate will hold the position of President Elect and the office of Deputy Chair, there will be no current BoT member with less than one year's service.

As regards clause (iii), those seeking election will be required to communicate their willingness to stand for election as President to the NomCom Chair and will use their RPS email account to do so. No other form of communication will be accepted. Willingness to stand will be absolute with no added qualifications and/or conditions.

Does NomCom select or recommend candidates to stand for President?

NomCom does not select or recommend candidates to stand for President. The role of NomCom is limited to management of the election process.

Can the role of President and Chair of the Board of Trustees be shared?

The President elected by the Membership shall also be the Chair of the Board of Trustees. These two roles cannot be decoupled. Further, there is no provision in our By Laws for this coupled role (the office of President and Chair of Trustees) being shared by two or more individuals and must be held by one individual properly elected by the Membership. Therefore the roles of President and Chair cannot be decoupled and cannot be shared.

What are the key dates for the election?

At its December 2025 meeting, the BoT discussed the issue and agreed the following timetable for the election of President. Discussions were informed by input from the Representatives Committee (RepCom) and the timetable proposed by the NomCom as well as the timetable outlined by the President during the AGM held in September 2025.

DATE	ACTIVITY
31 March 2026	By this date, NomCom will ensure that By-Law 16.4 is followed, namely "Not less than 5 months before the AGM in any year, the Board of Trustees shall notify the Members of the Society of any vacancies expected to occur within the Board of Trustees and of the number of vacancies to be filled by election".
01 April 2026	NomCom will invite eligible Board members to indicate " <i>their willingness to stand for election as President</i> " and will confirm timelines, expectations and engagement rules.
23:59h on 12 April 2026	By this date, interested parties must have formally submitted " <i>their willingness to stand for election as President</i> " to the NomCom Chair, and have provided the required information in readiness for preparation of the members' prospectus. Personal Statements will be limited to 500 words and will use the RPS Letterhead.
May 2026	NomCom will have formal professional discussions with candidates to explain the role and ensure this is understood.
w/c 25 May 2026	Prospectus of candidates seeking election as President will be shared with RPS members and made available on-line on the relevant governance pages of the RPS Website.
Monday 15 June 2026	A "Town Hall" meeting (chaired by a member of NomCom) will take place where members can meet candidates to hear details of each candidate's plans and ambitions outlined in the prospectus.
Monday 6 July to Friday 24 July 2026	Election voting platform open for votes. Appropriate RPS Communications in place to encourage member participation.
Monday 27 July 2026	Provisional confidential result announced to candidates, the Trustees and relevant RPS officers.
26 September 2026	Results officially announced at RPS AGM. The successful candidate is formally appointed to the position of President Elect and the office of Deputy Chair of the BoT.

How does NomCom ensure that candidates understand the commitment and responsibilities associated with the Presidential Role?

NomCom believes that it is vital for both the RPS, and the candidate, that candidates appreciate the significant commitment and responsibilities involved in the role of President and chair of Trustees. NomCom takes responsibility on behalf of members to ensure proper due diligence is followed. By doing so, NomCom will do everything possible to ensure that the incoming President is sufficiently prepared for the role.

In the first instance, Nom Com will ask candidates to confirm that they have read and understand the Role Description and Person Specification for the office of President and Chair, and the Role Description and Person Specification for the office of Deputy Chair.

All candidates will be invited to participate in a professional discussion with members of NomCom and the RPS Chief Executive. The purpose of this is to ensure that candidates understand what will be required of them for this important role, the rules and codes of conduct they must follow, and to ensure that they have truly considered the demands, commitment and responsibilities required of the role.

How will RPS Members develop their understanding of the Presidential role?

Choosing the next RPS President is an important decision for members. NomCom will provide members with a statement as to what is expected of the President and Chair and the Deputy Chair based on the information provided in the By-Laws 2025, and the associated Role Description and Person Specification.

It is important that members understand the limitations of the role and how the executive/non-executive positions are managed. Members should also appreciate that the RPS President does not manage RPS business operations; their role is limited to governance unless invited to contribute to specific executive and operational functions. To help members better understand the requirements, members will be given access to a Candidate Prospectus, with links to the Role Description and Person Specification for the President and Chair, and the Deputy Chair, together with various codes of practice relating to charity governance, and other relevant information on the role of non-executive boards.

How will RPS members find out about the candidates standing for election as President?

NomCom seeks to make this as inclusive as possible and to that end will offer members a range of opportunities where they can find out about candidates and from which they can make an informed choice when it comes to the election.

Candidates will be expected to provide a Personal Statement describing their qualities and why they feel they are suitably qualified to undertake the role of President. This will be published in a Presidential Election Candidate Prospectus together with details of their participation on the RPS BoT and involvement with sub-committees during their time as a Trustee.

NomCom will arrange a Town Hall Meeting where members can hear from candidates about why they are standing to be President. In advance of this meeting, there will be an opportunity for members to submit questions. The meeting will be chaired by NomCom on behalf of the Society.

Candidates will be encouraged to produce a video of no more than 3 minutes duration where they will introduce themselves to members and explain what they will bring to the role of President and Chair. This will be made available online to members.

Are Candidates permitted to self promote through official RPS social media platforms?

No. The candidate prospectus, the candidate video, and any official communications from RPS HQ are all that is allowed.

Candidates must not promote their candidature on any RPS social media channel or use their access to RPS member email addresses. They must also take great care in their use of social media and at all times follow the official RPS Social-media Volunteer Policy which can be downloaded at: <https://rps.org/media/vor15mz5/social-media-volunteer-policy.pdf>.

What happens if only one person stands for the Presidential position?

NomCom will firstly ensure that all eligible BoT members have considered the role and not inadvertently missed out on the opportunity.

If only one candidate stands, and NomCom has reassured itself that this is the final position, then there will be no need for an election, and at the AGM 2026 the candidate will be formally appointed to the position of President Elect to take up the office of President and Chair of at the close of the AGM 2027.

Should this circumstance arise, NomCom will inform members at the earliest possible opportunity.

Who will be the Deputy Chair when the President Elect becomes the President and Chair of Trustees?

For any period during which there is no President Elect (for example, in the first year of a Presidential term or when the incumbent President has been re-elected to serve a second two-year term), the Board shall elect a Deputy Chair from amongst its number.

What happens if the President Elect stands down after the election and before they commence the Presidential Role?

Under these circumstances, NomCom will conduct a new election along the lines of that described in this document. If this cannot be completed before the current President completes his term of office, then By-Law 2025:11.8 applies, namely:

Whilst the post of President remains vacant, the Deputy Chair of Trustees shall perform the functions of President.

What happens if no one is prepared to stand for President?

Under these circumstances, NomCom will work closely with the BoT to resolve the position. Again, By-Law 2025:11.8 described above applies.

By-Law 2025:12.4 is also relevant, namely:

In the event of the death or resignation of the Deputy Chair of Trustees, the Board of Trustees shall appoint one of their number to be the Deputy Chair of Trustees.

How is the President Elect supported in the period before they take up the Presidency

It is planned that between the close of the AGM in 2026 and the close of the AGM in 2027, the current President will work closely with the President Elect to ensure, as far as possible, that the next President will be fully briefed on the role, duties and on-going activities to effect a seamless handover from the current President to the new President.

The candidate taking up the position of President Elect will be appointed, by the BoT, as Deputy Chair and will be increasingly involved with BoT activities. NomCom will maintain a watching brief as part of its routine activity to understand BoT skills and attributes such that it can ensure a well-balanced board with a diverse skillset, through its Trustee election and appointment processes.

How is compliance against these arrangements to be assured?

The election process will be subject to internal audit at key stages to ensure all By-Law requirements have been met and that best practice is followed at all times.

PLEASE NOTE

This information for members has been produced by NomCom in good faith. Should any additional questions arise, NomCom reserves the right to update and amend this document accordingly. In accordance with RPS document control requirements, the date of the document will be stated with its title.