

# WLB Voting Process and Procedures

## 1. Eligibility to Vote

- Voting is open to all members of Wat Lao Buddhavong who reside in Washington, D.C., Maryland, or Virginia.
- Each member is entitled to one vote.
- Voting members must be over 18 years old, support the Lao community, and respect Buddhist teachings. Each person who desires to vote shall complete a voting registration form or be identified on the existing membership list.

## 2. Voter Identification

- To vote, members must present a valid photo ID. Acceptable forms of ID include:
  - Driver's License
  - Passport
  - State-Issued ID Card
  - Military ID

## 3. Date, Time, and Location

- **Date:** October 19, 2024
- **Time:** Voting begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 4:00 PM.
- **Location:** Wat Lao Buddhavong, 3043 Catlett Rd, Catlett, VA 20119
- **Contacts :**
  - Email :** [info@watlao-buddhavong.org](mailto:info@watlao-buddhavong.org)
  - Phone :** (703) 399-9469

## 4. Voting Procedure

- Upon arrival, voters will check in at the registration table where they will present their photo ID.
- Once verified, voters will receive a ballot.
- Voters will proceed to a designated voting area to mark their ballots.
- After marking the ballot, voters will place it in the sealed ballot box.

## 5. One Person, One Vote

- Each voter is allowed to cast one vote. Multiple voting by the same individual is prohibited.

## 6. Closing of Polls

- Voting will close promptly at 4:00 PM. Any member in line to vote by 4:00 PM will be allowed to vote.
- The ballot box will be sealed immediately after the last vote is cast.

## 7. Counting of Votes

- Votes will be counted immediately after the polls close.
- The counting process will be supervised by designated officials to ensure transparency.

### **8. Announcement of Results**

- The election results will be announced at the conclusion of the vote count on October 19, 2024
- Results will also be posted on the temple doors and on Wat Lao's website.

### **9. Ballot Creation**

- Call for Applicants – Anyone interested in running for a board of director position (7 total) must have applications turned into WLB no later than October 10, 2024. All board members shall be residents of the DMV area.
- All names shall be placed on a ballot for voting
- The voting will be for 7 board of director positions
  - Group A will consist of 4 positions will serve for an initial term of 4 years
  - Group B will consist of 3 positions which will serve for an initial term of 3 years
  - The top four candidates with the most votes will be placed in Group A, while the remaining candidates will be placed in Group B.

### **10. Debate/Candidate presentations.**

- On October 12, 2024 a candidate presentation will be held and shown on Facebook live where each candidate will have up to 10 minutes to give a presentation as to why they want to serve and why they are an ideal candidate.

### **11. Qualifications for Board of Director**

- To serve on the Board of Directors, it is highly encouraged that members possess an understanding of and connection to Lao heritage, culture, and religious practices. As Buddhism plays a central role in the spiritual and cultural life of the Lao community, board members should: (1) Be of Lao Heritage and ; (2) Commitment to Buddhist Values by demonstrating an understanding and respect for the principles of Theravada Buddhism, which is central to the Lao Buddhist faith, and show respect for the religious and spiritual traditions upheld by the temple; (3) recognize the importance of preserving and promoting Lao culture and language, as well as actively supporting the temple's role in maintaining these traditions within the community
- For this initial term the board of directors shall reside in Washington DC, Maryland, or Virginia to ensure ease of making meetings and assisting in the management of the Wat.
- At least 18 years old
- Not be convicted of a felony in the last 10 years. If the felony conviction is greater than 10 years old, it must be disclosed on the application form.
- Cannot be a director of another nonprofit.