



# 2017 Election Voting FAQ

## Who votes in the UUA election?

Delegates vote. Certified congregations are entitled to one member delegate for every 50 members (or fraction thereof), with a minimum of two member delegates per congregation. Every congregation decides how to select member delegates and whether or not it will instruct delegates how to vote.

In addition, the following religious professionals serving/affiliated with certified congregations may also be delegates:

- Ministers in preliminary or final fellowship with the Association and employed at least half-time (including extension and interim ministers)
- Emeritus/a ministers
- Community ministers who maintain active involvement and affiliation with the congregation
- Directors of religious education with Credentialed Religious Education – Master Level status

Associate Member Organizations (UU Service Committee and UU Women's Federation) may each appoint two voting delegates. Delegates must be a member of a Certified UU congregation.

UUA Board of Trustees members may vote in the election.

## Is my congregation certified?

To be certified for General Assembly 2017, a congregation must:

- File for certification by February 1
- Have conducted regular religious services
- Have held at least one business meeting of its members, elected its own officers and maintained adequate records of membership;
- Have made a financial contribution to the Association between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016.

Most (not all) Unitarian Universalist congregations are certified. Check to see if your congregation is certified at <https://secure.uua.org/congregation/certlist.php>

## How are member delegates selected?

Every congregation decides how to select member delegates. All delegates must be voting members of the congregation.

## Can my congregation instruct delegates how to vote?

The relationship between a congregation and its delegates is determined by the congregation, not the UUA. There are no guidelines in the UUA Bylaws governing individual congregations. So, if a congregation wants to instruct its delegates, it can.

## Do I need to register for General Assembly to vote in the election?

You do not need to register for General Assembly to cast a vote in the election. Delegates who are not attending General Assembly in New Orleans may cast an absentee ballot. However, there is no absentee voting/proxy voting on General Assembly business items. Delegates need to be registered and present to vote on business items.

## How do I receive my delegate credential?

Obtain a delegate credential from your congregation. Beginning March 1, a congregational official may log in to the delegate credentialing portal [my.uua.org](http://my.uua.org), assign member delegates in the system, and distribute credentials to delegates by email or printout.

## When are the polls open?

Polls open June 1 at 9:00 am CT.  
Polls close June 24 at 5:00 pm CT.

## How do delegates vote in the election?

- **Vote in person at General Assembly in New Orleans**

On June 24, from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm CT, delegates may scan their GA name badge at voting kiosks in the Great Hall Lobby of the New Orleans Convention Center to vote.

- **Vote absentee online**

From June 1, 9:00 am to June 24, 5:00 pm CT, delegates unable to vote in person may access their election ballot by following the voting link found on their delegate credential document.

- **Vote absentee by mail**

Delegates unable to vote in person or online may request a paper ballot by mailing the request to:  
UUA General Assembly  
24 Farnsworth Street  
Boston, MA 02210

Requests must include a copy of the delegate's credential document. Requests must be postmarked by June 1. Completed ballots must be received by June 14 or postmarked by June 12.

## What is ranked choice voting?

The election for President will be conducted using Ranked Choice Voting also known as Instant Run-off Voting. Delegates rank the candidates as their first, second, third, etc., choice. If no candidate receives a majority of the first-choice votes cast, the candidate receiving the lowest first-choice vote shall be eliminated and the ballots cast for such candidate shall be redistributed in accordance with the second choice indicated. This process shall be repeated until one candidate receives a majority of votes.

For all other positions, voters will have the same number of votes as the number of seats to be filled. The candidates with the highest numbers of votes, a plurality, win.

## How do I learn about the candidates?

Visit [uua.org/elections](http://uua.org/elections) to learn about the candidates and to find a schedule of UUA Board of Trustees sponsored forums. On Friday, June 23 at 8:00 p.m. CT, go to [uua.org/ga](http://uua.org/ga) to watch the live stream from General Assembly of the Presidential Candidates Forum sponsored by the Election Campaign Practices Committee.

## Is internet voting secure?

Yes! Simply Voting, the chosen vendor, was designed from the ground-up to eliminate the risk of electoral fraud or breach of secrecy. The voting public will be able to see and audit the voting results. Each delegate will receive a receipt upon casting their ballot. After the results are published anyone can review the report of the results and verify that their ballot was counted as cast.

## Is internet voting accessible?

Simply Voting is committed to supporting electors with disabilities and making sure the ballot works with assistive technologies. They were assigned an "A" grade by the Bureau of Internet Accessibility.