

§ 452.79

or who have any business or contractual relationship with the labor organization.

§ 452.79 Opportunity to campaign.

There must be a reasonable period prior to the election during which office-seekers and their supporters may engage in the campaigning that the Act contemplates and guarantees. What is a reasonable period of time would depend upon the circumstances, including the method of nomination and the size of the union holding the election, both in terms of the number of members and the geographic area in which it operates. For example, a candidate for office in a local labor organization was improperly disqualified and then appealed to the international union which directed that his name be placed on the ballot. A complaint was considered properly filed alleging election violations because the candidate's name was restored to the ballot two days prior to the election so that he was denied an equal opportunity to campaign. Similarly, in a mail ballot election a union's delay in the distribution of campaign literature until after the ballots have been distributed and some have been cast would not satisfy the requirement to distribute such literature in compliance with a reasonable request.⁴⁰ Such a delay would deny the candidate a reasonable opportunity to campaign prior to the election and would thus not meet the requirement for adequate safeguards to insure a fair election. Where access to the convention floor is limited exclusively to delegates at a convention at which officers are to be elected, there must, nevertheless, be equal opportunity for all nominees to campaign. Thus, if the privilege of addressing the convention is accorded to any of the nominees, it must be accorded to all nominees who request it, whether they are delegates or not.

§ 452.80 Bona fide candidates.

A person need not be formally nominated in order to be a bona fide candidate entitled to exercise the rights

⁴⁰ *Wirtz v. American Guild of Variety Artists*, 267 F. Supp. 527 (S.D.N.Y. 1967).

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mentioned in §§ 452.67 and 452.71.⁴¹ Thus, any qualified member seeking to be nominated and elected at a convention would be able to take advantage of the distribution rights even before the convention meets and thus attempt to influence members to select delegates favorable to his candidacy or to persuade the delegates to support his candidacy. A union may reasonably require that a person be nominated in order to be elected, but may not prevent a member who actively seeks office and is otherwise qualified from taking advantage of the campaign safeguards in the Act in an effort to gain the support necessary to be nominated.

§ 452.81 Rights in intermediate body elections.

While the literal language in section 401(c) relating to distribution of campaign literature and to discrimination with respect to the use of membership lists would seem to apply only to national, international and local labor organizations, two United States District Courts have held that these provisions also apply to intermediate bodies.⁴² The Department of Labor considers these rulings to be consistent with the intent of Congress and, therefore, has adopted this position.

§ 452.82 Reprisal for exercising rights.

A member has a right to support the candidate of his choice without being subject to penalty, discipline, or improper interference or reprisal of any kind by the labor organization conducting the election or any member thereof.

§ 452.83 Enforcement of campaign safeguards.

Certain of the safeguards of section 401(c) are enforceable at the suit of any bona fide candidate. This special statutory right to sue is limited to the distribution of campaign literature by the labor organization and the forbearance of such organization from discrimination among candidates with respect to

⁴¹ *Yablonski v. United Mine Workers*, 71 LRRM 2606, 60 L.C. 10,204 (D.D.C. 1969).

⁴² *Antal v. UMW District 5*, 64 LRRM 2222, 54 L.C. 11,621 (W.D. Pa. 1966); *Schonfeld v. Rabback*, 49 L.C. 19,039 (S.D.N.Y. 1964).