

Regional Norms on Governance Structure

1. Regional Administration – The Regional Superior

- 1.1. An individual member may serve as Regional Superior for a total of no more than two terms of six continuous years. The first term of office of Regional Superior is for three years. It begins after the term of his predecessor has ended. [S 68 §3]
- 1.2. The Regional Superior is recommended to the Visitor¹ and his Council by way of nomination. It is the prerogative of the Provincial after consultation with his Council to appoint the Regional Superior; the appointment is to be confirmed by the Superior General after consultation with his Council.
- 1.3. All members having passive voice³ in the Region and otherwise eligible shall have passive voice in the nomination of the Regional Superior. [CC 61, 100].
- 1.4. In order for a confrere to retain passive voice in regional elections, he must be incorporated for a minimum of three years in the Congregation and have exited initial formation. Initial formation for clerical students ends at priesthood ordination. For brothers, initial formation ends with the taking of vows and subsequent assignment by the Visitor.
- 1.5. It shall be the duty of the Regional Superior, in consultation with the Visitor, no later than eight months before the expiration of his term of office to appoint a commission of three members whose responsibility is to initiate the discernment and nomination process and to conduct the nomination. [S 68 §3]
- 1.6. Apart from whatever discernment process is established, the electoral process for the nomination is as follows: [C 124; S 68 §§ 3-4]
 - 1.6.1. Upon appointment of the Electoral Commission, the Regional Superior shall ask Local Superiors to convene house meetings to discuss the discernment and nomination process.
 - 1.6.2. On the first ballot a two-thirds majority of the votes cast is required for election. Ballots for any nomination may be cast in paper (hard copy) or electronic format. If no one is nominated on the first ballot, the names of the three men receiving the highest number of votes and at least three votes on the

first ballot shall be published with the number of votes received. If two or more members, having received the minimum number of three votes each, are tied for third place on the ballot, all of those so tied shall be listed on the second ballot. These men alone have passive voice on the second ballot, in which an absolute majority of those present shall be required for nomination.

1.6.3. A period of at least three weeks shall be provided before the second ballot is due in order to give the members time to meet, to discuss the nominees, and to discuss a candidate's qualifications.

1.6.4. If no one is nominated on the second ballot with an absolute majority of those present, the names of the two receiving the most votes on the second ballot shall be published, with the number of votes received. If two or more members are tied for the second place on the ballot, all of those so tied shall be listed on the third ballot along with the member holding first place. Only these members shall have passive voice on the third ballot, in which a simple majority⁷ of votes shall be required for nomination.

1.6.5. The results of the decisive ballot shall be kept secret until after the Provincial has been informed.

1.6.6. The name of the confrere who came second in the nomination process shall be presented alongside the name of the confrere with the highest votes. It will be the prerogative of the Provincial to choose from the two and present his choice to the Superior General for confirmation.

1.7. Should it be necessary to replace a Regional Superior who for any reason (as stipulated in canon law for the loss of office) fails to complete his term of office, the nomination of his successor shall begin within a month of the vacancy. If the Regional Superior will have failed to complete his term (because of the said reasons) while in his first or second year, his successor will lead the remaining period to the completion of the term. If the Regional Superior will have failed to complete his term while in his third year, the successor's term shall be a full term of three years.