

Preparing for the SOA Board of Directors Election 2026

It's time to begin the election process for the Sandestin Owners Association (SOA) Board of Directors. The election will include two homeowner seats (Class A), that will be voted upon by the Class A members. There will a Class B (commercial) election for one seat, which will be voted upon by the Class B members.

Board of Directors Overview

The Board of Directors oversees the staff, policies, operations, and financial management of the SOA in accordance with the Bylaws and Declarations of the Association. The Bylaws call for a 9-member Board, currently that composition is 6 homeowners, 2 commercial, and 1 declarant representative.

The Mission of the SOA is to "*PRESERVE AND ENHANCE THE EXPERIENCE AND ASSETS OF THE SANDESTIN COMMUNITY*". Board members are obligated to consider the Mission Statement as they deliberate on decisions regarding the SOA that come before them.

Some of the expectations include interaction with staff, consideration of legal matters, budget and financial responsibilities, overseeing a \$12M+ budget, special projects, committee assignments, and issues that impact the way of life in Sandestin. Becoming acquainted with the SOA governing documents is also a requirement.

The following are some commonly asked questions regarding service on the Board.

How much of a time commitment is required for serving on the Board?

Board members should expect to commit up to 20 hours per month (sometimes more) to prepare for and attend the regular monthly board meetings. A briefing packet is prepared by staff for each meeting, and a significant amount of time is required to review and research information in order to be well prepared, and this could entail additional meetings with staff to clarify particular issues. There may also be special board meetings to review items that cannot wait until the regularly scheduled meeting. In addition, Board members usually serve as a Chairperson or liaison to one or more of the Board appointed committees.

How much does it pay?

There is no compensation for serving on the Board of Directors.

Is it necessary to be a permanent resident in Sandestin to serve on the Board?

No, permanent residency in Sandestin is not required. It is desirable to have strong representation from full-time and part-time members, as well as rental owners. (Class A)

What are the qualifications for being a member of the Board?

- You must be a member in good standing, which means you must be current on assessments and that you have no unresolved financial issues with the Association.
- Per Florida Statute, qualified candidates may not have a conviction of a felony charge.
- It is desirable and almost mandatory that candidates be able to communicate by electronic means via Microsoft applications and email.

Why should you serve on the Board?

Sandestin is an exceptional place to live. There is a great deal of satisfaction in helping to ensure that the Sandestin Owners Association continues to be a quality, well-run association meeting the needs of all members.

What is involved in running for the Board?

You must first submit a Nomination Application which will be available on June 1, 2026 in the SOA office or on-line at www.sandestinowners.com. If you would like an application emailed to you, please send a message to: soa@soaowners.com and provide your name and Sandestin address.

Completed applications must be received prior to 5 p.m. on June 30, 2026.

The Class A Nominating Committee will review the applications and confirm the slate of candidates whose applications will be reproduced and included in a packet to each of the Advisory Board Representatives. The Candidates will be presented with a Questionnaire, comprised of questions submitted by the Advisory Board Members (HOA/COA presidents). Completed Questionnaires will be sent to the Advisory Board members with the election ballot. If questions are not received from the Advisory Board members, no Questionnaire will be sent.

What is the election procedure?

In August, ballots will be mailed to the Advisory Board Representatives. In accordance with the SOA documents, the Advisory Board Representative will be entitled to cast one vote for each residential dwelling unit (RDU) in good standing from their neighborhood. The Advisory Board Representative, as of the date of the election, must sign the ballot. Advisory Board representatives are encouraged to solicit opinions from their members before voting. **To be counted, ballots must be returned prior to call to order of the Advisory Board meeting on October 2, 2026, 9 a.m.** Ballots will be tallied and candidate elects announced at that time. The candidates elected will take office on November 1, 2026 for a three-year term, ending on October 31, 2029.