American Chemical Society
ACS Spring 2026 Meeting
Atlanta, Georgia
March 22 – 26, 2026

Councilor Talking Points: Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

The following summary is provided to help Councilors report to their Local Sections and Divisions on key actions taken at the ACS Council meeting held on March 25, and the Board of Directors meetings held on March 20 – 22, 2026.

Actions of the Council

Election Results:

Candidates for President-Elect, 2027

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E) presented to the Council the following *nominees* for selection as *candidates* for President-Elect, 2027: John Adams, Lisa McElwee-White, Mary Virginia Orna, and Laura Sremaniak. By electronic ballot, the Council selected **Laura Sremaniak and Lisa McElwee-White as candidates for 2027 President-Elect.** These two candidates will join any petition candidates to stand for election in the fall 2026 national election.

President-Elect 2027[a]

Nominee	1st Round	2nd Round	3rd Round
John Adams	59	-	-
Lisa McElwee-White*	114	132	155
Mary Virginia Orna	84	105	-
Laura Sremaniak*	159	177	218

[a]416 valid electronic ballots were cast, with 209 being the majority. The results of the first preference vote totals are shown in the 1st round column. No nominee attained a majority. Following the procedures approved by Council, the lowest vote-getter, John Adams, was dropped and his second-preference votes were distributed in the subsequent round. Those marked with an asterisk (*) were declared as candidates.

Candidates for Directors for Districts III and VI

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the results of the election held prior to the Council meeting to select candidates from the list of nominees for Directors from District III, and District VI, to serve on the Board of Directors for the term 2027-2029. By electronic ballot, the Councilors from these Districts selected **Bonnie Lawlor** and **Stephanie Watson** as **District III candidates** and **Anna Cavinato** and **Jeanette Van Emon** as **District VI candidates**. Ballots will be distributed to members residing in District III and District VI in the fall for election of a Director from each District.

Nominee[a]	**1st Round**	**2nd Round**
Mukund Chorghade	1	7
Bonnie Lawlor*	26	
Carl Picconatto	4	13
Stephanie Watson*	20	30
Total Ballots Cast:	51	50

Nominee	**1st Round**	**2nd Round**
Anna Cavinato*	17	18
Orlando Rojas	3	
Timothy Long	6	6
Jeanette Van Emon*	12	14
Total Ballots Cast:	38	

a The results of the first preference vote totals are shown in the 1st round column. 51 valid ballots were cast, with 26 being the majority. Bonnie Lawlor attained a majority. Following the procedures approved by Council, the ballot winner, Bonnie Lawlor, was excluded and her second-preference votes were distributed in one subsequent round. Those marked with an asterisk (*) were declared as candidates. In the second round, 1 ballot was unexercised.
b The results of the first preference vote totals are shown in the 1st round column. 38 valid electronic ballots were cast, with 17 being the majority. Anna Cavinato attained a majority. Following the procedures approved by Council, the ballot winner, Anna Cavinato, was excluded and her second-preference votes were distributed in one subsequent round. Those marked with an asterisk (*) were declared as candidates.

Candidates for Directors-at-Large

- The Committee on Nominations and Elections announced the following candidates for **Director-at-Large** for the 2027-2029 term: **Michael (Mick) Hurrey, Beth Lorsbach, William Provine, and Carolyn Ribes**. The election of two Directors-at-Large from among these four candidates and any petition candidates will be conducted in the fall. Ballots will be distributed to the Council in the fall. The incumbent, Carolyn Ribes, is eligible for reelection.

Other Council Actions:

Highlights from Committee Reports and Key Actions

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Committees (ConC), and with the concurrence of the Council Policy Committee (CPC), Council voted [Yes 401 (99.50%) / No 2 (0.50%)] to continue the Committees on Analytical Reagents, Constitution and Bylaws, Divisional Activities, and Local Section Activities and, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors, the Committees on Chemists with Disabilities, and Environment and Sustainability.

- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 377 (95.93%) / No 16 (4.07%)] to amend the name and duties of the Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) and change its name to the Committee Fiscal Affairs (CFA), subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This change reflects the growth and increased complexity of Society operations. CFA will continue to focus on financial stewardship of governance and component groups; a planned Board Finance Committee will have fiduciary responsibility and enterprise-level focus.

- ConC announced that the committee preference form is open to all ACS members through **July 6**. Councilors interested in serving on an ACS Committee in 2026 should go to CMTE.acs.org to complete their preferences.

- On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council voted to approve the creation of a new International Chemical Sciences Chapter in Sri Lanka [Yes 378 (98.18%) / No 7 (1.82%)], subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Membership Affairs (MAC), Council voted [Yes 388 (98.48%) / No 6 (1.52%)] to approve the 2027 Schedule of Dues and Benefits, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. MAC proposed no changes from the 2026 Schedule of Dues and Benefits.

- The Council Policy Committee (CPC) reported on its new strategic plan. The three overarching goals focus on Councilor Engagement, Council Structure, and Leadership Development. CPC has restructured its subcommittees to implement this plan.

- The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of 15 unit bylaws since the fall 2025 meeting. They include nine Local Sections: Central New York, Chicago, East Texas, Florida, Huron Valley, Pittsburgh, Rock River, Tampa Bay, and Trenton; four Divisions: Agrochemicals (AGRO), Energy and Fuels (ENFL), Inorganic Chemistry (INOR), and Small Chemical Businesses (SCHB); and two International Chemical Sciences Chapters: Guatemala and Nigeria.

- The Committee on Budget and Finance (B&F) reported that in 2025, ACS had a net revenue of $50.7 million from operations and met all five of its financial guidelines. Over the past 25 years, revenue has more than doubled, with a fourfold increase in unrestricted net assets. ACS receives 58% of revenue from outside of North America and is active 56 different jurisdictions.

- The Committee on Divisional Activities (DAC) reported on their new strategic plan, focusing on promoting Division impact, connecting Divisions to the greater ACS community, and supporting and recognizing Divisions. Collaborative programming at the spring 2026 meeting included 160 joint half-day sessions out of the 800 total sessions scheduled. More than 300 sessions were in the four community programming tracks of Pharma, Data Science/AI, Sustainability, and Startup.

Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:

- In memory of deceased Past President Charles Casey
- In memory of deceased Councilors
- In sincere appreciation of the Georgia Section, host Local Section for the ACS Spring 2026 meeting, as well as the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting.

The ACS Spring 2026 meeting was held from March 22-26. As of March 24, there were 13,521 registrations (12,475 in-person and 1,046 online). The ACS Fall 2026 meeting will be held in Chicago, IL, from August 23-27, 2026.

Actions of the Board of Directors Meeting

The ACS Board of Directors met on March 20-21, 2026, at the Omni Atlanta Hotel at Centennial Park in Atlanta, GA. The Board considered several key strategic issues and responded with numerous actions.

Board Actions

- The Board approved a resolution in honor of deceased past president Charles P. Casey.

- The Board approved the ACS Advocacy Strategy, which includes the development of a robust annual position agenda supporting long-term ACS priorities that maintain strong non-partisan relationships with legislators and support science and scientists. Key areas of focus for 2026 are available at https://www.acs.org/policy/memberadvocacy/issues.html.

- The Board voted to increase the size of the Committee on Pensions and Investments from 7 to 8 members to accommodate the broader expertise required for the increased complexity and expansion of ACS' investment portfolio.

- The Board approved proposed amendments to the Board Regulations intended to correct inconsistencies found following the implementation of the new Journals Advisory Board reporting to the Governing Board for Publishing.

- Contingent upon the ACS Council approving the Petition to Amend the Name and Duties of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board approved establishing a Board Standing Committee on

Finance and authorized conforming amendments to the Board Regulations to implement the Finance Committee and align the respective roles of the Finance Committee and the proposed Society Committee on Fiscal Affairs consistent with the Council-approved petition.

- The Board approved the establishment of a Board Task Force on Board Composition in order to review and vet potential new streams of Board candidates.

- Upon recommendation of the Editor Search Committee, the Board approved the appointment of an Editor-in-Chief of the journal *ACS Nano Medicine*.

- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Science, the Board approved a nominee for the 2027 Grand Prix de la Fondation de la Maison de la Chimie.

- Upon recommendation of the National Awards Advisory Board, the Board approved a nominee for the 2027 Othmer Gold Medal.

- Upon recommendation of the Subcommittee on the Priestley Medal Slate, the Board approved a screened list of nominees for the 2027 Priestley Medal.

- Upon recommendation of the Subcommittee on the Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS Selection, the Board approved a screened list of nominees for the 2027 Award for Volunteer Service to the ACS.

- The Board approved the meeting dates and locations for their 2027 June and December Board meetings. The June 2027 meeting will be held in conjunction with the 2027 Green Chemistry & Engineering Conference in Minneapolis, MN. The December 2027 meeting will be held at ACS headquarters in Washington, D.C.

- The Board approved suspension of the Regulations governing the timing of the 2027 Board Chair election and approved advancing the timing of the Board Chair election to a special Board meeting to be held virtually following the close of the fall elections.

- The Board approved minutes from the Board Executive Session on December 12-13, 2025.

- The Board also acted on recommendations of the Committee on Executive Compensation.

Board Discussions

- Committee on Strategic Alignment Chair Will Lynch facilitated a strategic discussion on advocacy.

- Board Chair Wayne Jones facilitated a discussion about themes emerging from feedback Board members have received from the ACS community.

- ACS President Rigoberto Hernandez brought new business to the Board, requesting a review of the Presidential Succession budget allocation. The Board directed the request to the new Committee on Fiscal Affairs.

Councilor Talking Points and Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

Reports

- CEO Albert Horvath and his staff provided organizational updates on current affairs and planning for 2026. He highlighted:
  - ACS pilot corporate membership agreements and organizational partnerships,
  - the global strategy for Society Programs,
  - a proposed ACS advocacy strategy,
  - ACS 150th anniversary activities, and
  - ACS financial performance for year-end 2025.

- General Counsel Tokë Vandervort provided the annual conflict of interest disclosure report and Head of Global Ethics and Compliance Natalie Thingelstad facilitated an educational session on fiduciary duties and conflicts of interest.

- Chair of the Committee on Audits and Risk Management Lisa Houston provided a brief update on the ongoing efforts of the committee, including an update from Chief Information Security Officer Jason Ridgeway on enterprise information security.

- Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer Emily Kunchala reported that the external audit of ACS financials for year-end 2025 was successfully completed and accepted by the Committee on Audits and Risk Management.

- Representatives of the Future of Meetings Task Force, Amber Hinkle (Chair), Sheila Murphy, Jarrod Cohen and Young-Shin Jun, provided the final report to the Board. The Task Force was discharged with thanks.

- The Governing Board for Publishing provided updates from interim CAS President Tim Wahlberg and ACS Publications President Jim Milne, including highlights on strategic investments in AI and priorities for 2026.

- Chair of the Committee on Budget and Finance Paul Jagodzinski reviewed the Petition to Amend the Name and Duties of the Committee on Budget and Finance.

- Members of the Presidential Succession provided reports on their 2026 initiatives and activities.

- Written reports were reviewed from the 2025 CEO Initiative Fund, Human Resources, Treasurer, Committee on Strategic Alignment, Board of Trustees for the Group Insurance Plans, National Awards Advisory Board, and the Committees on Chemistry and Public Affairs, and Education.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR COUNCILORS

The following is a list of URLs and email addresses for supplemental information offered in oral reports at the Council meeting.

Officers

Rigoberto Hernandez, President	acs-hernandez@jh.edu
Dorothy J. Phillips, Immediate Past President	d.phillips@acs.org
Christina Bodurow, President-Elect	president@acs.org

ACS Offices

Office of the Secretary	secretary@acs.org

Resources

Committee Preference Form	www.cmte.acs.org
N&E Nomination Form	nominations.acs.org
National Election Candidate Information	www.acs.org/elections
ACS Governing Documents	www.acs.org/govdocs