Southwestern Minnesota Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

2027 Bishop Election Balloting Process

S9.04.01. The bishop shall be elected by the Synod Assembly by ecclesiastical ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no one is elected, the first ballot shall be considered the nominating ballot. Three-fourths of the legal votes cast on the second ballot shall be necessary for election. The third ballot shall be limited to the seven persons who receive the greatest number of legal votes (including ties in the final qualifying position) on the second ballot, and two-thirds of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. The fourth ballot shall be limited to the three persons who receive the greatest number of legal votes (including ties in the final qualifying position) on the third ballot, and 60 percent of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. On subsequent ballots a majority of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election. These ballots shall be limited to the two persons who receive the greatest number of legal votes (including ties in the final qualifying position) on the previous ballot.

S9.04.04. On the first ballot at the Synod Assembly, each voting member may write the name of one person who is eligible to serve as Synod Bishop.

(*All pre-identified nominees must be nominated by a voting member of the assembly on the first ballot.)

FIRST BALLOT	**POINT OF INFORMATION**	**TO BE ELECTED**
No names are printed on the first ballot. Each voting member may write the name of one Minister of Word and Sacrament on the roster of the ELCA. Nominees who have not submitted biographical info must do so before the second ballot for distribution to the assembly.	There are no names on the first ballot. If no one is elected, nominees who wish to withdraw must do so before the second ballot is cast. After each ballot, biographical info for all remaining nominees will be available to the synod.	**75%** of legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the first ballot. If no election results, voting members will receive a list of pastors who were nominated on the first ballot.
SECOND BALLOT	**POINT OF INFORMATION**	**TO BE ELECTED**
The second ballot is limited to eligible nominees from the first ballot who have not withdrawn.	After the second ballot is cast, nominees' names may no longer be removed from the balloting process.	**75%** of legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the second ballot.
THIRD BALLOT	**POINT OF INFORMATION**	**TO BE ELECTED**
The third ballot shall be limited to seven persons (including ties in the final qualifying position) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the second ballot.		**Two-thirds** of legal votes cast shall be necessary for election on the third ballot.
FOURTH BALLOT	**POINT OF INFORMATION**	**TO BE ELECTED**
The fourth ballot shall be limited to three persons (including ties in the final qualifying position) who receive the greatest number of legal votes on the third ballot.		**60 %** of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.
FIFTH AND SUBSEQUENT BALLOTS	**POINT OF INFORMATION**	**TO BE ELECTED**
Limited to the two persons receiving the most legal votes on the previous ballot, including ties in the final qualifying position.		A majority (more than half) of the legal votes cast shall be necessary for election.