Frequently Asked Questions about the Alumni Trustee Election

How can I nominate someone for the role of alumni elected trustee?
Nominations are accepted online here. If you have not yet created a profile in CUVolunteer, you will be asked to do so prior to submitting a nomination.

What is the nomination period for 2016?
April 25 – June 13, 2016

Who makes the decision as to which candidates are listed on the ballot?
The Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations.

What is the role of the Committee on Alumni Trustee Nominations (CATN)?
CATN is composed of alumni members, one representing each college and eleven others from a broad range of alumni organizations. The committee was charged by the Cornell Alumni Association with the responsibility of screening and endorsing qualified alumni to stand as candidates in the annual election for alumni trustees. The nominations that the committee receives are submitted by alumni. Committee members are appointed for four-year terms in rotation. While administratively supported by staff, the review of candidates and selection of nominees are wholly the responsibility of the alumni committee.

How many alumni elected trustees are there on the Board?
At one time, there are 8 on the board and two are elected each year. The term is four years. Each year, two alumni-elected trustees complete their term and two new alumni-elected trustees begin their term.

What are the steps for unendorsed candidates to get added to the ballot?
An unendorsed candidate (someone who has not been nominated through the official process AND endorsed by the CATN) must obtain a nomination petition with signatures from 400 alumni. The closing date for filing the petition with the Office of Alumni Affairs and Development is one month prior to the first CATN meeting (for 2016, the first meeting is scheduled for September 9). Unendorsed candidates appearing on the ballot must wait one year before placing their name on the ballot once again.

Can unsuccessful past candidates be re-nominated and run again on the ballot?
Yes, unsuccessful past candidates can be re-nominated but must have a one year hiatus prior to being listed on the ballot. The choice to be an endorsed candidate on the ballot is given to the candidate once the endorsed candidates have been chosen by the CATN.

Who are the current alumni elected trustees?
For the complete list, visit http://alumni.cornell.edu/trustees/

Why doesn’t Cornell publish the number of votes each candidate receives?
In early 2014, President Skorton charged the Task Force on Alumni Trustee Elections to consider the issue of transparency as it relates to the alumni trustee election. After research and deliberation, the task force made recommendations to increase transparency in a variety of ways, but did not agree that there was benefit in publishing the number of votes each candidate receives. For further details, see the Report of the Task Force on Alumni Trustee Elections.