

Notice of Election - Accepting Nominations for a Board Member

Pursuant to [S.C. Code Section 40-37-10](#), the Board of Examiners in Optometry will conduct an election for one (1) Optometrist-held Board seat. The Board is seeking candidates for the upcoming election. The Board will send the name of the candidate receiving the most votes to the Governor for consideration for the following seat:

SEAT TERMS

May 15, 2026 – May 15, 2030: Dr. Melissa Wood currently holds the seat and is eligible for re-election.

ELIGIBILITY FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE BOARD AND VOTING REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Each candidate for a Board seat must be a licensed optometrist in South Carolina.
- 2) The member of the Board serves a term of four years and may not serve more than two consecutive four-year terms.
- 3) Every licensed optometrist in the State, regardless of years of practice, is eligible to vote in the election.

NOMINATION PROCESS

Nominations of candidates must be made to the Board by written [petition](#) via mail or to the

- Board's email at Contact.Optometry@llr.sc.gov. In addition to the petition, all candidates must submit a short bio. Petitions must be postmarked on or before **June 11, 2026**.
- A nominee may withdraw his or her name by written notice to the Board.
- If only one candidate is nominated, he or she will be submitted to the Governor for consideration.
- If more than one candidate is nominated, ballots must be prepared with the names of the nominees in alphabetical order. Ballots will be accessible via the Board's online voting portal and notification will be sent to eligible licensed optometrists. Instructions for voting will be included in the notification. If you do not have a UserID for the LLR Licensee Portal, please contact Board staff for assistance. Voting will close two weeks after voting notifications are sent.
- In the event of a first-place tie, a new ballot must be prepared with the names of the tied nominees in alphabetical order. Voting will follow the same procedure as the initial vote.
- The optometrist with the most votes will have his or her name, along with a cover letter and resume, submitted for consideration.

Deadline date for the Board to receive petitions is June 11, 2026.

Patrice S. Deas
Board Executive