2026 IFT Board Petition Form

Petition to nominate _____ ***(name)*** for _____ ***(Board member or President-Elect)*** of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT)

Petition process and guidelines	A copy of the form must be signed by 5% of Premier Members of the Institute. The exact number of signatures needed will be calculated utilizing the number of Premier Members at the time of the slate announcement and posted to https://www.ift.org/about-us/our-story/leadership/nominations-and-elections/petition-process-and-guidelines. A wet signature from a current Premier member is required to constitute a valid signature on the petition. A wet signature is defined as the process of signing a physical paper document, form or contract with pen and ink. A copy of the wet signature on the provided petition form must be scanned and emailed to CliftonLarsonAllen from the corresponding member email on file with IFT to be counted towards the total number of signatures. Completed signature forms should be scanned and emailed to Jessie.Struthers@claconnect.com. Candidates have three weeks from this slate announcement to the membership to have signatures submitted to support their petition to require a competitive election for the IFT Board of Directors. Signatures will be received and verified by IFT Audit Firm, CliftonLarsonAllen. At the end of the three-week period, the CEO of IFT will notify petitioning candidates whether or not they have reached the necessary threshold to require a competitive election for the IFT Board of Directors. The slate announcement occurred on November 6, 2026, therefore, candidates have until November 30, 2026, to submit this signature form to CliftonLarsonAllen. The number of Premier Members of the Institute at 8:00 a.m. CST on November 6, 2026, was 4,696. A copy of the form must be signed by 5% of Premier Members at the time of the slate announcement. The number of signatures required for a petition to be submitted is 234 (5% of 4,696).
Statement of support for candidate petitioning	I, the undersigned, am a Premier Member of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) in good standing as of 8:00 a.m. CST on November 6, 2026, and hereby nominate _____ ***(name)*** for the position of _____ ***(Board member or President-Elect)*** of the Institute of Food Technologists (IFT) for the _____ (**2027-2030 Board member / 2027-2028 President-Elect)** term.

IFT Member Number	**Home Address**	**Email Address**

Date	**Full Name**	**Wet Signature**

IFT Petition Policy

This policy was approved by the IFT Board of Directors in March 2021.

Any five percent (5%) of Premier Members of the Institute shall have the privilege of proposing a nominee for President-Elect or IFT Board Member by filing a written petition. Please see the Petition Process & Guidelines for information on submitting a petition to challenge the Board of Directors Slate.
Any candidate brought forth by petition must have submitted and completed their nomination and candidate information form through the online process.

Candidates have three weeks from the slate announcement to submit a petition to the CEO.

If there are no eligible candidates through the petition process, the slate presented to the membership by the Leadership Development Committee shall be deemed elected by the petition deadline and communicated to the membership. An eligible candidate is defined as one who submitted and completed their nomination and candidate information form through the online process.

If one or more eligible petitions have been received by the CEO, an election for the contested position(s) only shall be held. Mail or electronic ballots may be used to conduct the election for contested positions.
Nominees (selected by the nomination and the petition process) receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected, provided that a quorum of members (5%) has voted. Tie votes shall be resolved by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors.

Leadership Election Campaign Guidelines

If one or more eligible petitions are received by the CEO, an election for the contested position(s) only will be held. Should this take place in 2026, an electronic ballot will be utilized. All candidates on the ballot must adhere to the campaign guidelines listed below.

- As a candidate, you are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the webpage on the election website that IFT provides to all candidates by sharing the link or directing members to the page.
- You may use your personal email contact list and personal social media accounts to promote your candidacy.
- IFT will not provide a membership list.
- You may choose to campaign in person at Section or Division activities. The primary goal is to partner with Sections and Divisions to spread the word about the voting process. Should you choose to do so, all associated costs are your responsibility.
- The use of the following IFT communication channels is strictly prohibited which encompasses IFT-related social media including Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Instagram, IFT Section, and Division newsletters/emails, and IFT Connect.
- Candidates are strongly discouraged from issuing press releases, statements, announcements, or other forms of print or online advertising outside of those provided by IFT.
- All candidates are expected to adhere to the IFT Member Code of Professional Conduct and exemplify IFT Core Values.
- The use of the IFT logo is strictly prohibited without the express written consent of the association.
- Any violation(s) can be reported to the Leadership Development Committee Chair for review and discussion.

IFT Bylaws – Article VII – Elections

Section 7.1 Eligibility for Office

Being appointed or elected to one office shall not make a member ineligible for another office.

Section 7.2 Candidates by Nomination

a) President-elect
The Leadership Development Committee shall select and include on a slate to be presented to the membership, the names of one (1) Premier Member of the INSTITUTE as nominee for President-elect.

b) Board of Directors
The Leadership Development Committee shall select and include on a slate to be presented to the membership, the name of one Premier Member as nominee for each open position on the Directors of the Board of Directors.

Section 7.3 Candidates by Petition

Petitions, together with pertinent biographical information and a statement by the candidate, must be filed with the CEO. The deadline for petitions shall be determined by the Board of Directors and communicated to members before the election. Any candidate brought forth by petition must have submitted and completed their nomination and candidate information form through the online process.

a) President-Elect
   Any five percent (5%) of Premier Members of the INSTITUTE shall have the privilege of proposing a nominee for President-elect by filing a written petition. The president-elect candidate brought forth by petition must have participated in the official call for nominations in the year in which they are seeking election, and therefore should have a nomination form on file with the Leadership Development Committee. No one will be considered who has not submitted a complete nomination form in accordance with the process.

b) Board of Directors
   Any five percent (5%) of Premier Members of the INSTITUTE shall have the privilege of proposing a nominee for election to the Board of Directors by filing a written petition. No one will be considered who has not submitted a complete nomination form in accordance with the process.

Section 7.4 Election Process

The slate presented to the membership by the Leadership Development Committee shall be deemed elected unless one or more petitions have been received by the CEO which meet the requirements of Section 7.3 hereof.

If one or more petitions meeting the requirements of Section 7.3 hereof have been received by the CEO, an election for the contested position(s) only shall be held, under process approved by the Board of Directors. Mail or electronic ballots may be used to conduct the election for contested positions.

Nominees (selected by the nomination and the petition process) receiving the greatest number of votes shall be declared elected, provided that a quorum of members has voted. Tie votes shall be resolved by a majority vote of the members of the Board of Directors.