

Request to Support the National Nominating Committee's Nominee for 2021 Vice President

Jennifer Marshall, SRA, AI-RRS sent a letter to Chapter leadership across the country requesting that the Chapters and individual members write a letter to the Appraisal Institute's National Board of Directors supporting the National Nominating Committee's (NNC) nomination for 2021 Vice President, Craig Steinley, MAI, SRA, AI-GRS, AI-RRS. Jennifer's message follows with two requests:

1. **Write a letter of support for Craig Steinley to the National Board of Directors.**
 - a. The attached letter of support for Craig Steinley was signed by almost 500 AI members and nonmembers and submitted to the National Board of Directors (BOD) for consideration. Per the Policy on Contested Elections, Chapters, Regions and members are encouraged to get involved and voice their opinions to the BOD – don't be silent. The deadline to submit your letter of support is **Wednesday, July 29, 2020 at 5:00pm CT**. All such messages should be sent by email to aielection@appraisalinstitute.org.
2. **Complete the Call to Action via the link provided.**
 - a. I also ask that you respond to the following link for a "Call to Action." Background information is included, and the survey takes 3-5 minutes. The results of this Call to Action will be presented to the Board of Directors prior to the 3rd Quarter BOD Meeting and will represent the voice of all Appraisal Institute professionals – YOUR voice. https://craigsteinleyforvp2021.formstack.com/forms/vp_petition_for_2021_vice_president_appraisal_institute

The request that you write a letter is not about the candidates but rather it is about the membership of the Appraisal Institute and their collective voice. The NNC consists of 10 representatives, one elected from each Region, who are knowledgeable but independent, impartial, and objective. The NNC vets the candidates via background checks, listens to the members through letters and personal calls, interviews each candidate by asking identical questions, and ultimately makes the hard decision about the best candidate to lead the organization into the future. The ten members of the NNC are the voice of membership. Members need to be heard, especially at this critical point in time.

I am not suggesting that the Board of Directors (BOD) has done anything unethical or that they do not have the right to petition for another candidate. The Board is given that right per the bylaws. However, a petition has been brought from the floor only twice before in the history of the Appraisal Institute. Both times, the results to the organization were devastating and divisive.

This petition option should only be used as a last resort and certainly not in anonymity or without disclosure of rationale. The act of petitioning results in grave consequences, especially for those good candidates who have their reputations tarnished. The prospect of petitions from the floor will prevent good candidates who are not aligned with current leadership from embarking on this journey. It is obvious that the existing petition process needs an overhaul.

In this instance, the unknown petition signers (only six members of the BOD) have used the petition process for unknown reasons to vet the same two candidates as previously interviewed by the NNC. I am asking all Chapter Presidents and members to send letters supporting the NNC and the process that this year's NNC used to select the 2021 VP from the two candidates. It is so important for the members' voices to be heard.

Please write a letter of support for Craig Steinley to the National Board of Directors (see #1 above) and complete the Call to Action via the link provided (see #2 above).

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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