

NVDS Delegate & Alternate Delegate Candidates

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

1. What is the House of Delegates (HOD)?

The House of Delegates is the governing body of the Virginia Dental Association (VDA), where VDA policy decisions are debated and voted on. Delegates represent their component society and help shape the direction of organized dentistry in the Commonwealth.

2. How does the VDA HOD differ from the Virginia Board of Dentistry?

The VDA House of Delegates (HOD) and the Virginia Board of Dentistry are separate and distinct entities. The HOD establishes policy for the professional association, while the Virginia Board of Dentistry is a regulatory body responsible for licensure and enforcement of laws and regulations governing the practice of dentistry in Virginia. While HOD policies do not directly change laws or regulations, they may be intended to influence legislation, regulatory decisions, and broader advocacy efforts, including those related to the Virginia Board of Dentistry.

3. What are the dates for the 2027 HOD?

VDA Dental Days at the Capitol and House of Delegates will take place at the Omni Richmond Hotel:

- Thursday, January 21, 2027 – ***Optional*** Legislative reception (evening)
- Friday, January 22, 2027 – ***Mandatory*** First HOD session & NVDS reception
- Saturday, January 23, 2027 – ***Mandatory*** Second HOD session (adjourning by noon)

4. What is the time commitment?

Delegates are expected to fully participate in both days of the HOD (Friday and Saturday). Candidates should only accept nomination if they can commit to attending all sessions in full.

5. How is the HOD structured over the two days?

The HOD is a two-day process. Delegates must participate in both days.

- The first day (Friday) is primarily focused on review and debate of resolutions and reports.
- The second day (Saturday) is dedicated to final voting of those items. In addition to the HOD session, please plan to be available to meet on Saturday morning with the NVDS delegation 30 minutes prior to the HOD as indicated by the NVDS Delegation Chair or NVDS President.

6. What happens if I arrive late, leave early, or miss a session?

Delegates who fail to fully participate in both days of the HOD, including late arrival, early departure, or absence from any session, could affect the ability to conduct business at the meeting (if a *quorum** is not met) and will be reported to the NVDS Executive Committee. Failure to meet attendance expectations may impact future delegate eligibility and future service as a Delegate or Alternate.

* *Quorum*: The minimum number of credentialed delegates who must be present and registered on each day for the VDA House of Delegates to conduct official business and vote.

7. What if I have a conflict or emergency?

If an unavoidable conflict arises, you **MUST** notify NVDS leadership and staff as soon as possible so that a replacement can be arranged. Advance notice is critical to ensure full representation.

8. Is orientation required?

YES. Selected Delegates and Alternates **MUST** participate in the NVDS delegation orientation on Tuesday, January 12, 2027, at 6:30 p.m. This session covers logistics, key issues, and expectations.

9. Do I need to register for the VDA Dental Days at the Capitol?

YES. In addition to agreeing to serve, you must also register for VDA Dental Days at the Capitol once the registration link becomes available on the VDA website in the fall. Delegates are also encouraged, but not required, to participate in the Legislative Reception on Thursday evening and the Legislative Visits to our Virginia Senators and Delegates in General Assembly on Friday morning.

10. What costs are associated with attending the HOD?

- Registration: \$90 for VDA Dental Days at the Capitol
- Lodging: 1–2 nights at the Omni Richmond Hotel, depending on arrival and departure timing.
- Other: Additional expenses such as parking and dinners may also apply.

11. What preparation is expected in advance of the meeting?

Delegates should review all HOD materials in advance, including proposed resolutions, reports, and background information. Preparation is essential for informed participation. HOD materials are typically available from the VDA by mid-December.

12. How should I approach speaking or raising issues during the HOD?

Delegates are expected to consult with the Delegation Chair (Chair of the NVDS Executive Committee and Board of Directors), NVDS President, NVDS staff, and/or experienced delegates before bringing questions, comments, or positions to the floor. This ensures alignment and a coordinated voice for the NVDS delegation. Delegates should also use this process to clarify any foundational or procedural questions in advance. Questions raised on the floor should be thoughtful, relevant, and advance the discussion, rather than addressing basic or easily clarified points.

13. Is the HOD discussion confidential?

YES. All discussion and debate during the HOD is confidential; only the House final outcomes and votes are public. Delegates are expected to exercise discretion and professionalism at all times during the House of Delegates—live sharing, posting, or commentary on social media or other public platforms (including real-time updates, photos, or summaries of ongoing discussion or debate) is strictly prohibited. We strongly encourage our Delegates and Alternates to be familiar with The Chatham House Rules, which can be a helpful guideline in this decorum expectation—meaning that information disclosed during the HOD may be used but neither the identity nor affiliation of speakers may be disclosed.

14. What level of professionalism is expected?

Delegates serve as representatives of NVDS and are expected to demonstrate professionalism, respect for colleagues, and adherence to the ADA Principles of Ethics and Code of Professional Conduct.

15. How do I submit a resolution?

Delegates who are considering submitting a resolution should share it with NVDS staff or leadership as early as possible and at least 2-weeks before the VDA resolution deadline on December 21, 2026. This process allows NVDS leadership to review, provide feedback, and help strengthen the proposal before submission to the VDA.

16. Am I expected to attend the Reference Committee meeting on Friday?

YES. Delegates are expected to attend the Reference Committee meeting, which follows the first HOD session on Friday. Much of the detailed discussion, testimony, and refinement of resolutions takes place during this meeting. Therefore, participation is essential to understanding the issues, shaping outcomes, and effectively representing the NVDS delegation.

17. What is the role of an Alternate Delegate?

Alternate Delegates are expected to be fully prepared for the HOD. They may be called upon to serve as voting Delegates if needed and should be ready to actively participate in all discussions and meetings. Alternates must reserve the HOD dates on their calendars in case the delegation requires their presence to meet a quorum. Alternate Delegates are strongly encouraged to attend both days. Attendance provides valuable insight into the process, strengthens engagement with the delegation, and prepares Alternates to serve effectively as Delegates in the future.