

# Membership

The Council is first and foremost a membership organization. With more than 4,300 members, the Council's ranks include top government officials, renowned scholars, business leaders, acclaimed journalists, prominent lawyers, and a host of distinguished nonprofit professionals. The current membership is divided almost equally among New York, Washington, and those across the country and abroad. The Council relies on its members for their engagement, substantive contributions, and support, and counts on members to identify and propose qualified prospects for membership. Membership development efforts are focused on identifying and attracting diverse leaders in international affairs across all sectors.

## *MEMBERSHIP SELECTION PROCEDURES*

New members are named twice a year by the Board of Directors, which invites selected men and women to join based on the recommendations of the Membership Committee. The committee, which meets twice a year, is composed of five members of the Board and other non-Board members the committee chair appoints. To be considered by the Membership Committee, candidates must be proposed for membership by current Council members. The roster of members is listed at the end of this annual report.

At every meeting, the Membership Committee considers significantly more candidates than there are vacancies. Thus, it is inevitable that some nominations will appear before the committee on several occasions. Given the high level of the competition, some candidates may never be elected even though they may embody many of the individual qualifications outlined below.

## *TERM MEMBERSHIP*

Under the auspices of the Membership Committee, candidates between the ages of the thirty and thirty-six are evaluated annually for consideration as five-year term members of the Council. The term member program has grown considerably since it was established more than thirty years ago, with the number of term members now indexed at up to 15 percent of the total Council membership.

## *BECOMING A MEMBER*

Candidates for life membership must be nominated in writing by one member and seconded by three other individuals (maximum of four). To be considered for

term membership, candidates must be nominated by one member and seconded by two other individuals (maximum of three). The seconding letters do not need to be from Council members, but letters from members are strongly encouraged. It is recommended that at least one letter from a current or former professional colleague be included. All candidates must complete a nominee information form, which can be found on the Council's website, and provide a curriculum vitae or chronological resume. If foreign born, the candidate must submit a statement that he or she has been naturalized or is a permanent resident who has made formal application for citizenship. All materials should be sent electronically to [applications@cfr.org](mailto:applications@cfr.org). Emailed letters must include an electronic signature or letterhead or must be supplemented with a signed hard copy, sent by mail or fax.

## *RULES AND REGULATIONS*

A candidate's nominator is responsible for ensuring that all required application materials are submitted to the Council's Membership Department by the filing deadlines. Candidates or their nominators are responsible for securing seconding letters within the guidelines prescribed below. Council members are advised to commit themselves to supporting a candidacy only when they can fairly meet the requirements of the process and the expectations of the candidates who depend on them for assistance. Please also note the following:

Council membership is restricted to citizens of the United States or permanent residents of the United States who have made application to become citizens.

Council visiting fellows are prohibited from applying for membership until they have completed their fellowship tenure.

Officers of the Council as well as members of the Board of Directors and Membership Committee are precluded from nominating or writing seconding letters on any candidate's behalf.

A member who is a spouse, close relative (such as a parent, sibling, cousin, and the like), or near in-law of a candidate may not formally propose or second that candidate for membership in the Council. Members should also refrain from writing on behalf of clients.

Members should write only in support of candidates whom they know well. Additionally, members are encouraged to make comparative judgments about candidates where appropriate. The committee also advises members

to write no more than two letters per round (either one nominating letter and one seconding letter, or two seconding letters).

In the first paragraph, a clear and comprehensive statement about the nature of the relationship with the candidate must be included.

### NOMINATING LETTERS

Thoughtful, candid, and succinct comments are far more important than formal endorsements of candidates. Letters nominating a candidate for consideration by the Membership Committee should be no more than five hundred words, and should also address the following criteria:

- intellectual attainment and expertise;
- degree of experience, interest, and current involvement in international affairs or in other areas affecting international affairs;
- promise of future achievement and service in foreign relations;
- potential contributions to the Council’s work;
- desire and ability to participate in Council activities; and
- standing among his or her peers.

### SECONDING LETTERS

Seconding letters need not be as comprehensive (and should be no more than 300 words) but should amplify why, in the opinion of the writer, a given candidate should be considered for Council membership. In seconding letters particularly, writers should express why a given candidate should be considered for Council membership for reasons beyond the basic criteria cited.

All membership nominating and seconding letters should be emailed as text or Microsoft Word documents to [applications@cfr.org](mailto:applications@cfr.org).

### DEADLINES

Strict observance of deadlines is essential to staff support of the Membership Committee’s work, and we request your continuing cooperation. The preparation of individual membership files for submission to the Membership Committee is an ongoing process. Candidates whose files are not completed in time for any given meeting of the committee have their files carried forward, without prejudice, to the subsequent meeting, but are considered only if completed.

### LIFE MEMBERSHIP

The deadlines for receipt of all materials for the two yearly meetings of the Membership Committee to consider life membership candidates are March 1 and October 1.

### TERM MEMBERSHIP

The deadline for receipt of all materials for the annual meeting of the Membership Committee to consider term membership candidates is November 1.

### NOTIFICATION OF CANDIDATES

All membership candidates and their nominators will receive notification of the committee’s decisions according to the schedule below. Seconders of elected candidates will also be notified.

	APPLICATION DEADLINE	NOTIFICATION
Life Membership	March 1	June
Term Membership	November 1	June
Life Membership	October 1	February

Candidates who are unsuccessful at any given meeting remain eligible for consideration at a subsequent meeting of the committee. An application is reactivated when new materials are received. It is strongly recommended that candidates submit at least one new letter of support, an updated curriculum vitae, and a new nominee information form.

If a candidate is not elected after two consecutive meetings, the application will be placed on hold for a period of three years for life membership candidates and one year for term membership candidates. After the hold period, the candidate may reactivate the file for consideration. For term membership applicants, the hold period does not apply if a candidate would be ineligible to reapply due to age.

The process is entirely one of affirmative selection from the large and evolving pool of nominees.

### PROFILE OF THE MEMBERSHIP

	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	PERCENTAGE OF MEMBERSHIP
Location		
New York Area	1,421	33
Washington, DC, Area	1,316	30
National/International	1,601	37
Total	4,338	100
Profession		
Business	1,244	24
Professors, Fellows, and Researchers	856	20
Nonprofit	667	15
Government	458	10
Law	298	7
University and College Administrators	206	5
Journalists, Correspondents, and Editors	398	9
Other	218	10
Total	4,338	100

Contact for all membership matters and correspondence:

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