

Dear Member,

We warmly encourage you to consider standing for election to the General Council (GC). Serving on the GC is a meaningful way to contribute to the OR Society's mission, while also offering personal and professional growth.

As a GC member, you'll have the opportunity to connect and collaborate with dedicated individuals from all corners of the operational research community. You'll gain valuable insight into the Society's core activities—such as publications, events, outreach, and advocacy—and develop a deeper understanding of both academic and practitioner perspectives. The experience also provides a unique chance to build skills in governance, strategy, and decision-making.

For those in the early or middle stages of their careers, GC involvement offers exposure to new challenges and leadership development. For more experienced professionals, it's a rewarding way to stay engaged and give back to the field.

While the role is a commitment, it's a manageable one. GC members typically attend two Council meetings and two subcommittee meetings each year, which are usually held online (and occasionally hybrid, with the opportunity to visit us at our Birmingham office). Additional responsibilities—such as reviewing papers and following up on action items—can usually be completed flexibly. Overall, members should anticipate dedicating around 6–8 days annually, with a standard term lasting three years.

Serving on GC can also open the door to further opportunities within the Society, such as chairing a subcommittee or joining the Board. These roles come with greater responsibility—and the potential for even greater impact. Without the time and energy of our volunteer Council members, the Society simply couldn't offer the rich and diverse services that members have valued for over 70 years.

To put yourself forward, you'll need the support of six OR Society members to nominate you. If you are applying for the student representative role, you will need two academic references and four ORS members. This can be done via a downloadable paper form or through our website's online nomination process. The deadline for submitting your application is 3pm on Wednesday 30 September 2026.

If the number of candidates exceeds the available positions, an election will be held. In that case, you'll be asked to submit a brief statement (up to 150 words) to help members make their choice.

The nomination process confirms that all candidates have the standing and credibility to take on this important role. However, election outcomes can vary, and you may not be selected on your first attempt. If that happens, we hope you'll remain interested and consider standing again—it truly is one of the most rewarding ways to contribute to the OR community.

If you'd like more details or want to have an informal conversation about what the role involves, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our new Executive Director, Colette Fletcher (colette.fletcher@theorsociety.com).

With best wishes,
Sanja Petrovic
President, The OR Society