

# 2027-2029 CERF Governing Board Nomination Form

CERF is soliciting nominations for our next President-Elect, Secretary, and three Members-at-Large, including a student Member-at-Large. Board members are responsible for the overall planning, management, and oversight of CERF activities. You may nominate yourself or a colleague; however, if you are nominating a colleague, please obtain their consent so we know all nominees are willing to serve if elected. All candidates for election will be required to attest they have upheld and will continue to uphold the [CERF Code of Ethics](#).

[2027-2029 CERF Governing Board Position Descriptions](#)

Please complete this form in its entirety by the **11:59pm EST on 15 January 2027** for full consideration.

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\* Indicates required question

1. I am nominating \*

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Myself      *Skip to question 12*

☐ A colleague

## Nominating a Colleague

If you are nominating a colleague, please complete the information below.

2. Your first and last name \*

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3. Your email address \*

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4. Your phone number \*

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5. First and last name of the person you are nominating \*

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6. Nominee's current email address \*

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7. Nominee's current phone number \*

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8. Nominee's institutional affiliation \*

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9. I am nominating this person for the 2027-2029 CERF Governing Board following position(s). \*

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ President-Elect
- ☐ Secretary
- ☐ Member-at-Large
- ☐ Student Member-at-Large

10. Is the person aware that you are nominating them? \*

*Mark only one oval.*

☐ Yes

☐ No

11. Please explain why you are nominating this person to serve on the 2025-2027 CERF Governing Board (optional).

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### Nominee Information

If you are nominating yourself, please complete the information below.

#### CERF's Competency-Based Leadership Approach

Beginning in 2026, CERF is switching to a **competency-based approach** to Governing Board nominations. This approach focuses on the **leadership capacities needed across the Board as a whole**, rather than expecting every individual to bring the same background, expertise, or experiences.

Key commitments of this approach include:

- Valuing diverse pathways into leadership, including lived experience, community leadership, and professional expertise
- Viewing leadership readiness as developmental, supported through onboarding, mentoring, and shared learning
- Using competencies to guide reflection, conversation, and discernment of prospective board members

No single board member is expected to demonstrate all competencies. Strong governance depends on **complementary strengths across roles**.

12. First name \*

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13. Last name \*

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14. Preferred email address \*

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15. Preferred phone number \*

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16. Job title \*

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17. Institutional affiliation (no acronyms please) \*

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18. City and state/province (if applicable) of current residence \*

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19. Country of current residence \*

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20. Career stage \*

*Mark only one oval.*

- ☐ Undergraduate
- ☐ Graduate student
- ☐ Early Career (<5 years post degree)
- ☐ Mid-Career (5-15 years post degree)
- ☐ Late Career (15+ years post degree)
- ☐ Retired
- ☐ Other:  
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21. Which Governing Board position(s) are you applying for? \*

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ President-Elect
- ☐ Secretary
- ☐ Member-at-Large
- ☐ Student Member-at-Large

22. CV or résumé \*

Please upload a current CV or résumé that is no more than two pages in length. Please use the file name LASTNAME\_CV (e.g., Smith\_CV). We encourage you to include information such as the information listed below (as applicable) or other relevant accomplishments:

- Up-to-date contact information
- Professional preparation (post-secondary education and training along with institution, degree, major, year)
- Appointments and positions (academic, professional, and/or honorary appointments including both paid and unpaid roles)
- Professional affiliations (e.g, CERF, Affiliate Society, SWS, ASLO)
- Titles of five products such as published papers, books, technical reports, white papers, class or laboratory papers and/or special projects, or other work products
- Certifications, if any (e.g., wetlands assessment, professional engineer)
- Relevant volunteer service

Files submitted:

23. Which of the following best describes your personal style? (Pick up to two) \*

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Consensus builder
- ☐ Mediator
- ☐ Strategist
- ☐ Implementor / Gets things done
- ☐ Catalyst for change
- ☐ Lead with clear direction
- ☐ Lead with inclusivity and equity
- ☐ Use data to learn and improve

24. Which of these personal qualities best describes you and your interest in serving on the CERF Governing Board? (Pick up to two). \*

*Check all that apply.*

- ☐ Willingness to work/availability
- ☐ Personal connection with the mission
- ☐ Leadership skills/motivator
- ☐ Formulate innovative policies to support the mission
- ☐ Continue to build an inclusive and equitable environment for members

25. CERF priorities \*

Which of the following priorities interests you the most and why? And how do your skills and experiences align with that priority?

1. revising CERF's communication strategy, emphasizing *Estuaries and Coasts* and the translation of science to broader audiences;
2. developing fundraising and sponsorship strategies to support the long-term financial stability of CERF; or
3. advancing CERF's goals in the advocacy and policy arena.

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26. Why do you want to serve on the Governing Board? How do you think you can contribute? What do you hope you will get back from your service? \*

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## 27. **Written Reflection: Aspirational Competencies for CERF Governing Board Members**

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Prepare a written reflection on one of the competencies (described below) that most closely align with your lived experiences, professional pathways, and leadership aspirations. The reflection should be no more than a 250-word response focusing on specific examples that illustrate your perspectives, contributions, and areas for continued growth.

### **Aspirational Competencies for CERF Governing Board Members**

The following competencies are intended to recognize diverse ways of knowing, leading, and contributing. They serve as a framework for reflection, dialogue, and ongoing leadership development, rather than evaluation.

- **Lead with Clear Direction:** CERF leaders strive to be capable at *governance* (consistent oversight, accountability, and checks and balances) and *strategic alignment*. They work to become systems thinkers (able to align, blend/braid strategies and activities to achieve desired outcomes) while maintaining a focus on CERF's vision, mission, ethics and code of conduct. Board members work to ensure that decisions are results-driven and rooted in long-term strategic direction. This type of leader seeks to translate CERF's vision and mission into actionable priorities, guide discussions toward outcomes rather than operations, and uphold integrity and accountability across all board deliberations.
- **Lead CERF through Growth/Change.** CERF must continue to evolve to meet membership needs and goals while remaining true to the mission and vision. Navigating change involves adaptability, transparency, and an emphasis on building capacity within the board and membership. To achieve this end, CERF leaders work to strengthen collective performance by fostering open communication, serve as thought leaders, mentoring peers, and model resilience during times of transition. They cultivate a culture of trust and growth, using reflection, and feedback, and a sense of shared ownership within CERF to guide continuous growth of the organization towards strategic plan goals.
- **Span boundaries across coastal and estuarine groups.** CERF leaders aim to serve as connectors across ecosystems, disciplines, and professional networks to integrate knowledge and approaches from all to accelerate research and management practices. They translate policy and research insights into clear, actionable messages and build partnerships that advance CERF's mission through collaboration and co-production (working with stakeholders to jointly identify challenges, design and implement research, and develop science-based solutions).
- **Lead with Inclusivity and Equity.** CERF's leaders endeavor to be culturally responsive, inclusive, and globally informed so that board decisions uphold access, representation, and justice across all levels of governance. CERF's governing board works to promote authentic global and equity-driven responsibility in policies,

initiatives, and partnerships, that move beyond representation toward shared influence and mutual accountability.

- **Use Data to Learn and Improve.** Board members use data and performance indicators to track progress toward achieving strategic plan goals. Transparency and ethical data use are central to these board activities.
- **Formulate Innovative Policies.** To achieve this end requires conceptual, solution-oriented thinkers who engage in high-level policy development while fostering creativity within the board process. They promote experimentation in decision-making while safeguarding organizational integrity and policy coherence.
- **Working Smarter Together.** Through collaboration and open communication, CERF leaders consider systemic implications of board decisions, leverage collective expertise, champion efficiency in operations, and prioritize long-term stability of CERF.

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