1. Use applying aspects only. By the time the aspects separate the elected event may be over.

2. Use the so-called "classical" aspects, conjunction, sextile, square, trine and opposition. The quincunx, so important in natal interpretation because of its psychological application, seems to have much less effect in Electional Astrology.

3. The Moon is the primary consideration in electional charts. It is the fastest moving of the ten planets and often used as a timer. A difficult Moon precludes ease in accomplishing the specific happening you elect to do.
   a) Therefore avoid squares from the Moon. Oppositions are less difficult than squares or quincunxes, though the first can signify antagonism from someone and the latter suggests delays as well as the need for some changes or reorganization.
   b) A waxing Moon (time of growth) is always considered more advantageous than a waning one, but stay away from an exact New Moon - wait at least 12 hours until the Moon is noticeably increasing in light.
   c) A Void of Course Moon rarely brings the desired results in electional horoscopes, unless you are opting for a non-occurrence, such as mailing your income tax so it will NOT be audited.
   d) Many astrological calendars have daily lunar aspects, making it quite easy to find what you are looking for.

4. Except for Saturn ruled affairs (builders, printers, administration) try to keep Saturn out of the angles. Cadent houses are best, though Saturn in the 12th house should best be avoided when buying houses and land, or any similar situation where you don't want a secret happening to be revealed after you've bought the object in question.

5. It is also better to keep Uranus and at times, Mars out of the angles.

6. Choose a Rising Sign that supports the matter you are electing. 
   *(For example Gemini, Virgo or Sagittarius for the publication of a book.)*

7. Most electional charts benefit by having the Sun, Moon, Venus and Jupiter above the horizon.

8. I rarely use the Lunar Nodes in Electional Astrology, but according to the old rules, the North Node is considered lucky and the South Node unfavorable.

9. Cardinal Signs are best for new ventures and events that require initiative and energy. Fixed Signs have a lasting quality, although at times it may take longer to get results. Mutable Signs are flexible.
10. Remember the nature of the planets to describe areas they are best suited to
   a) If you want to sell your car place Mercury in a prominent position.
   b) Artistic pursuits would favor a strongly placed Venus.
   c) If you wish to start a strenuous exercise program, place Mars in an angle.
   d) Travel benefits from Jupiter in high focus.
   e) A strong Saturn is necessary for most businesses, since it embodies both discipline and organization;
   f) A well placed Uranus is superb for unique ventures as well as those which involve inventions, computers, novelties or gadgetry.
   g) A 1st or 10th house Neptune may be well suited to initiate a movie script, to direct or other areas where glamour and creativity count; also endeavors involving shipping and oil.
   h) The intensity of Pluto needs to be handled with care, but it can be very helpful in realms where power play is called for.

11. Despite some astrologer's predictions of doom and gloom regarding interceptions and retrogrades in horoscopes, I have never found either to really hurt or hinder anything or anyone in natal charts. At times an intercepted retrograde planet may slow the action or indicate that you look before you leap, but I in no way do I consider this detrimental. I approach Election charts with a similar attitude and have not found intercepted signs to be weak or non-functioning as some old books want you to believe. I have a discovered that a retrograde planet does not seem to hold back or negate the Election, unless it rules the Ascendant or the house pertaining to the main subject of the Election (10th for business, 7th for marriage etc)
   a) If you must choose an optimum time to sue someone, it is best not to a have a retrograde Jupiter ruling the 9th or 7th houses. Jupiter retrograde cannot always be avoided, since it retrogrades for nearly four months each year, but you can circumvent it ruling the legal houses or the Ascendant which rules you.
   b) I try to stay away from retrograde Mercury periods when I have to sign a contract or buy a car, not just in an electional chart, but on general principles. Mercury is never retrograde for more than 24 days, so it is, under most circumstances, a reasonable time to wait. If the elected event cannot be postponed, keep Mercury ruled signs away from the Ascendant and those houses directly affected by the election.
   c) I will avoid a retrograde Venus when choosing a time to get married or the purchase of high priced items. A retrograde Mars is not advisable when buying machinery, including a car nor should there be any cutting, in other words, avoid surgery while Mars is retrograde.

12. Do pay attention that the last aspect the Moon makes is not voided because the planet it aspects has changed sign before the Moon reached that point.
Example: The Moon at 14 Taurus applies to a trine to Mercury at 29 Capricorn, before it enters 0 Gemini. But by the time the Moon reaches 29 Taurus, (30 hours, more or less) Mercury may have moved into 0 Aquarius and thus deny the Moon that last trine. This situation can withhold the expected result of the election, so be sure to carefully check planets which may have moved into another sign.
13. Challenged planets can be strengthened by placing them in good aspect with the angles or angle rulers, or, according to the ancients, with the Part of Fortune. For example: Mars square the Sun and quincunx Mercury, but trine the Ascendant or Ascendant ruler.

If your astrological knowledge is weak in the areas relating to each planet and house, refer to Rex Bill's *Rulership Book* or Michael Munkasey's *Astrological Thesaurus*, Book I or for a classical interpretation, Dr. J. Lee Lehman's *The Book of Rulerships*.

An Electional chart is the Birth Chart for whatever event you choose...a wedding or business opening or...Therefore it should reflect and benefit the event and is the primary chart you deal with. Your natal chart, or that of your client, is secondary in importance. You should look for favorable aspects between the Electional chart and the natal chart only after you have fulfilled as many of the electional rules as possible.

Of course your natal chart will indicate significant events by progression, direction or transit, such as your wish to marry, open a new business, move or whatever the case may be.

*MOST IMPORTANT: There is no perfect chart.* You will always have to make some concessions along the way.