

# AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION

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## Applicability

As provided in Article I, section (1)(c) of the Bylaws, members of the association are entitled to vote by electronic ballot on the following measures:

- a. Election of officers and at-large members of the Council
- b. Resolutions put before the members
- c. Amendments to the Bylaws of the association

A person must be currently enrolled as a member of the Association as of the appropriate record date in order to vote on such matters; institutional members do not have voting rights.

As provided in Article IX, section (2)(b) of the Bylaws, the Rules and Elections Committee oversees balloting, supervises the counting of ballots, and certifies the results to the President and the Executive Director for announcement to the membership.

## Elected Officers and At-large Members of Council

At-large members of Council are nominated and elected as provided in Article 5, sections (2), (3), and (4) of the Bylaws. Officers are nominated and elected as provided in Article VI, section (1) of the Bylaws. The procedures for nomination and election are further specified in the Policies Manual section Rules for the Conduct of Nomination and Elections.

## Resolutions Put Before the Members

Resolutions may be put before the members for a vote by:

- a. Recommendation of the Council
- b. A petition signed by 5% of the membership as of the most recent record date

Article III, section 3(c)(2) of the APSA Bylaws provides that 5% or more of the members of the Association may present a resolution to be put before the members for a vote.

- 1) The petition must be signed by 5% or more of the members of the Association as of the most recent record date; to be counted to meet the 5% threshold, the signer must be a member in good standing of the Association as of the record date.
- 2) The petition must be delivered to the President of the Association accompanied by at least the required number of signatures.
- 3) The text of the petition must set forth fully the matter to be presented to the membership in the resolution. In addition, the petition may contain explanatory or background information to be transmitted to the membership along with the text of the resolution.

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- 4) The resolution must be put to a vote of the membership no less than 30 and no more than 90 days following receipt by the President. Within those limits, the Council may set the dates for balloting to either precede or follow the date of the Annual Business Meeting. (This provision enables the Council to avoid presenting the membership with conflicting proposals – for a direct vote by the membership and for discussion at the Annual Business Meeting – if the timing for consideration required by the Bylaws might cause them to be before the membership simultaneously.)
- 5) The President will circulate the petition to the Council upon receipt. Following the procedure in Article V, section (7)(a), the President may call a special meeting of the Council to consider whether to attach recommendations to the resolution when it is presented to the membership. Such recommendations are permitted by Article III, section (3)(c) of the Bylaws of the Association.
- 6) As provided by Article III, section (3)(a) of the Bylaws, the ballot for the membership must include, in addition to the text of the resolution, any supporting materials provided by the petitioners, and any recommendations from the Council:
  - a. The number of ballots that must be returned to constitute a quorum, which is 10% or more of the members of the Association as of the most recent record date (Article III, section (3)(5));
  - b. The date by which ballots must be returned in order to be counted, which may be no less than 30 days from the date when the ballot is presented to the membership (Article III, section (3)(a)); and
  - c. The proportion of returned ballots that must vote in the affirmative for the resolution to be approved, which is more than the number of negative votes cast assuming the quorum has been achieved (a simple majority). Blank or spoiled ballots will be counted in determining the quorum, but will not be counted as either affirmative or negative votes.
- 7) A resolution is approved when the quorum has been achieved, the balloting period is concluded, and the count of the votes shows that a simple majority has voted in the affirmative.
- 8) A resolution takes effect immediately unless the text of the resolution as adopted states a later effective date.

## Amendments to the Bylaws

Amendments to the associations Bylaws may be proposed by:

- a. The Council
- b. The Council on the advice of the Rules and Elections Committee
- c. A petition signed by 10% of the membership as of the most recent record date

Article XIII, section 1 of the APSA Bylaws provides that 10% or more of the members of the Association may present a resolution to be put before the members for a vote.

- 1) The petition must be signed by 10% or more of the members of the Association as of the most recent record date; to be counted to meet the 10% threshold, the signer must be a member in good standing of the Association as of the record date.
- 2) The petition must be delivered to the President of the Association accompanied by at least the required number of signatures.

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- 3) The text of the petition must set forth fully the amendment to be presented to the membership. In addition, the petition may contain explanatory or background information to be transmitted to the membership along with the text of the amendment.
- 4) The amendment must be put to a vote of the membership no less than 30 and no more than 90 days following receipt by the President. Within those limits, the Council may set the dates for balloting to either precede or follow the date of the Annual Business Meeting. (This provision enables the Council to avoid presenting the membership with conflicting proposals – for a direct vote by the membership and for discussion at the Annual Business Meeting – if the timing for consideration required by the Bylaws might cause them to be before the membership simultaneously.)
- 5) The President will circulate the petition to the Council upon receipt. Following the procedure in Article V, section (7)(a), the President may call a special meeting of the Council to consider whether to attach recommendations to the amendment when it is presented to the membership. Such recommendations are permitted by Article XIII, section 2 of the Bylaws of the Association.
- 6) As provided by Article III, section (3)(a) of the Bylaws, the ballot for the membership must include, in addition to the text of the amendment, any supporting materials provided by the petitioners, and any recommendations from the Council:
  - a. The number of ballots that must be returned to constitute a quorum, which is 10% or more of the members of the Association as of the most recent record date (Article XIII, section 3);
  - b. The date by which ballots must be returned in order to be counted, which may be no less than 30 days from the date when the ballot is presented to the membership (Article III, section (3)(a)); and
  - c. The proportion of returned ballots that must vote in the affirmative for the resolution to be approved, which is two-thirds or more of the completed ballots in favor of the amendment and less than one third opposed. Blank or spoiled ballots will be counted in determining the quorum, but will not be counted as either affirmative or negative votes.
- 7) The amendment is approved when the quorum has been achieved, the balloting period is concluded, and the count of the votes shows that two-thirds or more of the completed ballots cast in favor of the amendment.
- 8) An amendment takes effect immediately unless text of the amendment as adopted states a later effective date.