

April, 07th 2021

The purpose of this document is to present a side by side comparison of the constitutional changes proposed to membership in the form of an electronic vote (which took place from 21JAN21 – 03FEB21), provide an official record of the vote tally and record the comments from members and provide clarifications where appropriate to accompany the adoption of the proposed amendments.

COMPARISON OF CURRENT AND AMENDED CONSTITUTION

In the following section you will find a comparison between the current constitution and the amendment approved by the membership.

ARTICLE IV.2.(B)

Current	Amended
(b) The term of office for the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be two (2) years, beginning 1 January.	(b) The term of office for the President, Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer shall be two (2) years, beginning 1 January, unless extenuating circumstances prevent regular elections from being held.

ARTICLE IV.2.(C)

Current	Amended
<p>(c) The President and Vice-President may be elected for a second consecutive term. Following such second consecutive term, at least one (1) term must elapse before becoming eligible for service in the same office. In order to assure continuity the outgoing President may serve as an ex officio officer during the term of his/her successor. The outgoing President shall not be eligible to vote on issues considered by the Officers.</p>	<p>(c) The President and Vice-President may be elected for a second consecutive term. Following such second consecutive term, at least one (1) term must elapse before becoming eligible for service in the same office. In order to assure continuity the outgoing President may serve as an ex officio officer during the term of his/her successor. The outgoing President shall not be eligible to vote on issues considered by the Officers. The President and Vice-President shall not serve more than (6) consecutive years.</p>

Article IV.3.(a)

Current	Amended
<p>(a) Elections shall be held during the month of November in even numbered years.</p>	<p>(a) Elections shall be held during the month of November two years after the previous election or after resolution of extenuating circumstances.</p>

Article IV.3.(l) new

(l) In the event that extenuating circumstances exist and thus prevent the normal conduct of Officer elections, the election cycle may be delayed by up to two (2) years. Such circumstances may include, but are not limited to, pandemic, civil unrest, or military operations. Extenuating circumstances will be declared by unanimous consent of the Officers.

VOTE METHOD AND OUTCOME

During the period 21JAN21 – 03FEB21 an electronic vote was put to the SAPOE Membership regarding a proposed amendment to the constitution to adjust the period and frequency of election of officers. The intent of the amendment was to introduce a small amount of flexibility into the timing of the vote to account for unforeseen circumstances that can prevent the ability of candidates to be nominated for officer positions and/or for a vote to be administered.

The result of the vote was 137 in favor, 2 opposed, all other members either abstaining or not responding to the electronic outreach. The final tally represented an overwhelming majority of members in favor of adopting the amendment and the Officers will proceed to update the Constitution.

DISCUSSION OF COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS REGARDING THE AMENDMENT

The comments received from members can be summarized into two topics related to the month when a bi-annual election should occur and the decision to delay an election.

Bi-Annual Election Month

The current constitution establishes through Article IV.3.(a) that elections shall be held during the month of November in even numbered years. The constitution amendment doesn't change the month of election. The new Article IV.3.(l) determines that an election may be delayed by up to two years to provide flexibility in case extenuating circumstances persists.

Decision to Delay an Election

The SAPOE constitution states that before each election, a Nominating Committee shall be established and the Nominating Committee shall identify candidates for officer positions. During this process, the Nominating Committee may indicate whether they are having challenges identifying candidates for one or more officer positions, and/or whether they believe that it would be impractical/impossible to hold an election. Following the identification of these extenuating circumstances by the Nominating Committee, the current SAPOE Officers must agree, via unanimous consent, that these extenuating circumstances are a reasonable basis to postpone the normal officer election process.



Bi-annual Election

Amendment to constitution clarifications

The result of this process between the Nominating Committee and the SAPOE Officers resulted in Article IV.3.(l) has being incorporated to the constitution to establish that extenuating circumstances will be declared by unanimous consent of the Officers.

SAPOE Officers

Paul Hannah
President

Craig Nordstrom
Vice President

Roesney Santos
Secretary

Mimi Hoover
Treasurer