

Committee members: Richard G. Cohen, Chair; David Card, Peter F. Culhane, David Kaplan, Chris Spitz, Andrew Wolfberg

## Report of PPCC Bylaws Committee – March 2019

The Bylaws Committee is continuing to review and discuss suggestions for revisions to the Bylaws. The Committee has now completed its consideration of possible changes to the provisions for the election of Area and At-large Representatives, as originally recommended by the Election Committee following the 2018 Elected Representatives' election (see [9/13/18 Election Committee Report](#)). Consistent with the Election Committee's recommendations, the Bylaws Committee is now proposing that the PPCC board adopt comprehensive amendments to Attachment A of the Bylaws (Election Procedures) and related Bylaws provisions.

Two documents are being sent to each board member for review and have been published on our website: a "redline" version, with each and every recommended addition highlighted [additions in red font; deletions in notes in right margin], and a final "clean" draft for voting purposes. Before any Bylaws amendments may be adopted, they must be distributed with the agenda for two consecutive PPCC meetings per Bylaws Article XII. So, the proposed changed document will be introduced in this case at the first meeting in March (3/14/19), and it will be distributed again and voted on at the second meeting in March (3/28/19).

Many of the changes are minor and have been recommended to assure clarity, consistency and uniformity of application of rules under Attachment A and the Bylaws. These include changes in timing, nomenclature and nomination procedures. Others are more substantial, such as new provisions governing the conduct of campaigns, as suggested by the Election Committee. In summary, the proposed changes include:

- Adjusting and clarifying timing, deadlines and other procedures governing the nomination, candidates' statements, election and results announcement processes (Ex: Attach. A, Secs. 1.A, 2.A, 3.D & G, 4.B.2, 5.C, 7.C. & D; Bylaws Art. IX)
- Increasing maximum word count for candidates' statements to 200 words and allowing for addition of optional campaign website addresses (Ex: Attach. A, Sec. 3.G.3-5)
- Eliminating unnecessary or outdated provisions for mail-in procedures and for voting alternatives other than the electronic ballot (Ex: Attach. A, Secs. 3.E.2, 5.B, 7.D.2)
- Enhancing provisions governing the conduct of campaigns (Ex: Attach. A, Preface & Sec. 3.H)
- Providing for candidates' forum procedures (Ex: Attach. A, Sec. 6)
- Giving eligible voters the option of voting for either Area or At-large Representative and more instruction on ballot and vote disqualification (Ex: Attach. A, Sec. 4.A.2)
- Clarifying definitions and eligibility for candidacy and vote or ballot disqualification (Ex: Attach. A, Sec. 7.B; Bylaws, Arts. III, IV & Appendix C/new S-R 11)

The Committee moves that the recommended amendments be adopted by the Board; because of slight differences in voting criteria, three votes are required. As noted, voting will take place after discussion at the Board meeting on March 28, 2019. A two-thirds vote of Board members present is required for adoption of amendments to the Bylaws; abstentions are counted as "No" votes (Art. XII, Sec. 2.B).