

ASA Bylaws Amendment Proposal 1

Ballot question: Do you approve amending the ASA Bylaws to make the Finance Committee a subcommittee of the ASA Council, as recommended by the ASA Council? If approved, this revision will be effective September 1, 2024, and initial implementation will involve replacing one current at-large member with a Council member-at-large for each of the next three years.

Rationale: Our current structure is atypical. Best practice in governance, and common practice, is for the Finance Committee to be a subcommittee of the board. Financial decisions need to be made within a broader context of strategic organizational understanding that comes from membership on the association's governing body. Council members also have a very clear fiduciary responsibility to the Association, so it is preferable that this committee be composed entirely of members of Council to ensure clarity in this regard. Further, the current non-Council members of the Finance Committee are appointed by Council, not elected by the membership. If we replace those three committee members with Council members-at-large, the Finance Committee will then be entirely composed of people elected by the membership.

Proposed amended text: ~~Article V Standing Committees, Section 1 Finance Committee~~
~~Article III Council, Section 7 Finance Committee.~~

A. Members. The Finance Committee shall consist of the following members: Secretary-Treasurer, President-Elect, President, Immediate Past President, three Council members-at-large elected by the Council members, Secretary-Treasurer-Elect (non-voting), and Executive Director (non-voting), ~~and three members appointed by the Council on the recommendation of the Secretary-Treasurer for three-year terms.~~ The Secretary-Treasurer shall serve as Chair. ~~Terms of the appointed members shall be staggered, such that a term of one member shall expire each year.~~

B. Duties. The Finance Committee shall be responsible for supporting the Association's financial health, including recommending to Council an annual budget proposal, changes to investment policy, and other relevant policy proposals, and other matters as requested from time to time by the Council.

ASA Bylaws Amendment Proposal 2

Ballot question: Do you approve amending the ASA Bylaws such that all Council members will elect the Council member-at-large on the Executive Committee, rather than an election by the Council members-at-large, as recommended by the ASA Council?

Rationale: Should the Bylaws amendment proposal indicating that Finance Committee will become a subcommittee of Council, with the specification that Council members-at-large on the Finance Committee shall be elected by the Council, be passed, this would align practice across committees. Further, this expands input into membership on the Executive Committee to a broader number of elected leaders of the association.

Proposed amended text: Article III Council, Section 6 Executive Committee

- A. Members. The Executive Committee shall consist of the following members: President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Secretary-Treasurer, a Council member-at-large elected by the Council members ~~-at-large~~, and Executive Director (non-voting).

ASA Bylaws Amendment Proposal 3

Ballot question: Do you approve amending the ASA Bylaws to stipulate that the member resolution process is for public policy positions of the Association, as recommended by the ASA Council?

Rationale: It is important for the membership to have a mechanism for influencing the public policy agenda of the association, as it currently does. This has been used in the past, for example, for resolutions related to Vietnam and gay marriage. It is also important to ensure that operational decisions of the association remain under the purview of our organizational fiduciaries, the elected members of the ASA Council. This amendment clarifies that point. Members will, of course, continue to be able to bring operational issues to Council for consideration and to advocate for particular decisions, as they often do.

Proposed amended text: Article II Meetings of Members, Section 9 Member Petitions.

Voting members of the Association may take any action otherwise within the powers of the Council regarding public policy positions of the Association. Such an action by voting members requires the completion in sequence of the following steps: (a) A written statement of the proposed action, hereinafter called the Members' Resolution, is signed by three percent of the voting members of the Association. The introductions of all petitions circulated for the purpose of validating a Members' Resolution shall contain the following statement: "For signatures to be valid, the signee must be a voting member of the American Sociological Association as of December 31 of the year of the signing. The signee's name must be written as it appears on the membership rolls of the Association, and signers must provide their addresses as they appear on the membership rolls of the Association. The date of signing shall be indicated." (b) The Members' Resolution and the accompanying petition signature are sent to the Executive Office of the Association, postmarked no later than December 31 of the year during which the signatures were affixed. All signatures for a given Members' Resolution must be affixed within a calendar year. Each page of the Members' Resolution and accompanying signatures must include the following statement: "This resolution (or these signatures) is submitted by _____, a voting member of the American Sociological Association." (c) The Members' Resolution is received by the Secretary-Treasurer who shall verify the validity of the signatures and the requirement that the petition has been signed by three percent of the voting members of the Association. Following this verification, the Secretary-Treasurer shall distribute the Members' Resolution to the Council. (d) The Members' Resolution is included on the agenda and discussed by the Council at its next scheduled meeting. (e) If the Council disapproves the Members' Resolution, the Members' Resolution and any resolution of the Council alternative to it are published in an appropriate Association publication or by other means as deemed appropriate by the Council. (f) A ballot containing the Members' Resolution and any alternative resolution of the Council is sent to the voting members of the Association; such a referendum will accompany the annual election ballot except under unusual circumstances as determined by the Council. (g) The Council shall consider the urgency of any Members' Resolution brought by the voting members and shall employ special procedures without regard to the schedule of publications where it deems this justifiable.