

BY-LAWS
SECTION ON POLITICAL SOCIOLOGY
Amended passed in 2020, 2023

The purpose of the Section on Political Sociology is to promote the scholarly research and professional activities of those concerned with a sociological understanding of political phenomena. To this end, the Section will sponsor meetings and conferences, newsletters and publications, and other means of communication deemed appropriate by the Council of the Section. The phrase "sociological understanding" is interpreted to encompass the wide variety of theoretical and associated methodological approaches with which sociologists attempt to describe and explain social phenomena. The phrase "political phenomena" is interpreted to encompass the wide variety of topics investigated by sociologists including the social and cultural bases of power and authority: The organization, management, process and change of power and authority structures, and the effects of decision-making and decision-making structures on the surrounding society and culture.

OFFICERS OF THE SECTION: The officers of the Section shall be elected, and they include a Chair, a Chair-elect, a communications director, and a Secretary-Treasurer.

1-The Chair shall serve for one year. The Chair-elect shall serve for one year, after which he or she will assume the Chair. Both the chair and chair-elect are voting members of the Council. **2-The Secretary-Treasurer** shall serve for a period of three years. The Secretary-Treasurer shall keep the minutes of Council meetings including a historical record of past minutes, and handle the finances of the section. The Secretary-Treasurer is a voting member of the Council. **3-The Communications Director** shall serve for a period of three years. The Communications Director shall handle the website, the newsletter, liaisons with the ASA communications director, and deal with section publicity. The Communications Director is a voting member of the Council.

4-Council: There shall be a Council, consisting of eight members, six regular members serving for three years, with two Council seats being vacated each year, and two student members who will serve for two years each, with one of those seats being vacated each year. In the first election of student members to the Council, the terms of office whether for one or two years, shall be designated by the Chair. Officers shall not succeed themselves. All council members are voting members.

5-Single Membership: No member can hold two elective offices simultaneously. If an elected officer is elected to another position is vacated before the term is completed, it shall be filled through appointment by the Chair for the unexpired term subject to confirmation by the Council at its next meeting.

6-Elections: Only voting members of the American Sociological Association and members of the Political Sociology Section shall be eligible to hold office.

POWERS OF THE OFFICERS: The Council is vested in principle with the power to carry out all necessary operations for the section, acting as the representative of the membership of the Section. The Council shall make decisions by majority rule of its attending members. Any action of the Section, including changes of the By-Laws, may be brought to the vote of the Section, or by twenty-five members of the Section, whichever is less. Questions that are interpreted by the

Council to be matters of new program development or policy shall be brought before the membership for discussion,

ELECTIONS AND VOTING: The elections of the Section shall be carried out in cooperation with the American Sociological Association and coordinated to their schedule. The exception for this shall be the first election, which shall be carried out concomitantly with the formation of the Section. Officers elected shall serve through the first year after the Section is formed and accepted into the Association. Newly elected officers and Council members shall assume office on the day following the annual business meeting of the Section at the American Sociological Association's Annual Meeting. Newly elected officers and Council members may attend meetings of the Council prior to assuming office as non-voting participants.

COMMITTEES: There shall be at least five committees:

1-The Committee on Nominations will be appointed each year by the Chair of the section at the annual meetings of the American Sociological Association. The Nominating Committee shall be constituted of at least four members, with the stipulation that no member serve on the Nominating Committee for two consecutive years. Two candidates will be presented for each office by the Committee on Nominations.

2-The Awards and Awards Committees. The Section shall give four awards every year. Each of the first four awards shall be to a winner, and if appropriate, one honorable mention, or two winners and no honorable mentions. a-*The Distinguished Contribution for Scholarship Award for a Book:* This committee shall be headed by the 3rd year Council Members with one of them designated as chair. They, in coordination with the chair, will recruit one or two more members for the committee. The chair of the committee shall make the award at the section reception or business meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer will provide the plaques.

b-*The Distinguished Contribution for Scholarship Award for an Article:* This committee shall be headed by the 2nd year Council Members with one of them designated as chair. They, in coordination with the chair, will recruit one or two more members for the committee. The chair of the committee shall make the award at the section reception or business meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer will provide the plaques.

c-*The Distinguished Contribution for Scholarship Award for a Graduate Student Paper:* This committee shall be headed by the 1st year Council Members with one of them designated as chair. They, in coordination with the chair, will recruit one or two more members for the committee. The chair of the committee shall make the award at the section reception or business meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer will provide the plaques.

d-*The Distinguished Career Award in Political Sociology:* This committee shall be headed by the Chair and two to three other members. The chair of the Political Sociology Section shall make the presentation at the section reception or at the business meeting. The Secretary-Treasurer shall provide the plaque.

e. No member of the section may serve on any award committee for more than two years. **3-**

Other Committees: All other committees shall be appointed by the Chair with the approval of the Council on an ad hoc basis.

MEMBERSHIP: The membership of the Section is open to any member of the American Sociological Association without regard to the classification of membership. Members who do

not pay their Section dues shall be suspended and dropped from the rolls after two years. If membership is low, the Chair of the section may appoint a membership committee.

DUES: Dues shall be set by the Council to cover the operation of the Section in accord with the requirements of the American Sociological Association.