

Grand Chapter Mail Vote Considerations

Article XIX Amendments to the Bylaws Section 6. Mail Voting --- All proposed changes to the Bylaws to be considered by mail ballot shall be distributed from the Central Office. A proposed change may be accompanied by one (1) statement in support of the proposal and one (1) statement in opposition to the proposal. Statements shall be in writing and shall be no more than two hundred and fifty (250) words in length. To ensure that each Collegiate Chapter shall have sufficient time to consider proposed changes to the Bylaws and cast a vote, proposed changes shall be submitted to the Grand Chapter for consideration by mail ballot between October 1 and March 31 of the succeeding year. All proposed changes to the Bylaws submitted to the chapters for consideration shall be considered by them immediately at a regular called meeting, at which a quorum is present, or at a special meeting of the chapter, at which a quorum is present, called for the expressed purpose of considering the proposed change. A majority vote of those present at such regular or special meeting shall be required to approve or reject the change. Authority to consider the vote on proposed changes shall not be delegated to any officer or group of officers of the chapter. Forty-five (45) days shall be allowed all chapters in which to vote on proposed changes. Only the votes of those chapters in good standing received at the Central Office by mail, facsimile, electronic means or as determined acceptable by the Executive Director within forty-five (45) days after the date of the request to vote shall be counted. Ballots may be cast by electronic means as long as the casting of ballots by such means does not conflict with the laws and policies of the United States or the State in which the chapter is located.

There are no policies related to mail votes of the Grand Chapter.

1. Timing

“To ensure that each Collegiate Chapter shall have sufficient time to consider proposed changes to the Bylaws and cast a vote, proposed changes shall be submitted to the Grand Chapter for consideration by mail ballot between October 1 and March 31 of the succeeding year.”

“Forty-five (45) days shall be allowed all chapters in which to vote on proposed changes.”

Decision: Vote will go live October 1, 2024 (Tuesday) with due date of November 15, 2024 (Friday). Final tabulations will be determined on or after November 16.

2. Style/tool:

“Received at the Central Office by mail, facsimile, electronic means or as determined acceptable by the Executive Director”.

“Ballots may be cast by electronic means as long as the casting of ballots by such means does not conflict with the laws and policies of the United States or the State in which the chapter is located.”

Decision: A hub form will be used, becoming available on October 1 and disappearing at 5am eastern on November 16. Submitted forms will not be visible to any volunteers or chapter officer. A hub report will show the voted/not-voted status of all chapters, but not how a chapter voted. Only the chapter president will be able to submit. Hitting submit will be considered

equivalent to dropping a letter in the mailbox. No changes to votes, “un-submitting”, etc. will be allowed unless triggered by the Central Office staff in an unlikely case of verifiable technical error.

3. Chapter Eligibility:

“Only the votes of those chapters in good standing received at the Central Office”

Article X Section 3. Good Standing --- No chapter shall be in good standing that is on probation, that is indebted to the Grand Chapter for any sum of money past due, or that has been placed on probation by local university authorities.

Article XI Section 4. Good Standing --- No chapter shall be in good standing that is on probation, or that is indebted to the Grand Chapter for any sum of money past due.

Article XIX Section 1. Bylaws Changes --- These Bylaws may be amended or suspended in whole or in part by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates in Grand Chapter Congress assembled, or by a two thirds (2/3) vote by mail of all chapters in good standing and voting, provided; however, to amend Article XIX, Section 1, entitled Bylaws Changes, a ninety per cent (90%) vote shall be required.

Decision: Chapter Eligibility:

- Alumni Chapters must be franchised 30 days prior to the start of the vote to be eligible.
- Collegiate Chapters must be chartered/re-activated by the start of the vote to be eligible.
- Determination of a chapter’s good standing will be as of the close of the vote. For the purposes of good standing, “Past Due” will be defined as 30-day debt.

4. Verification of Chapter Vote:

“All proposed changes to the Bylaws submitted to the chapters for consideration shall be considered by them immediately at a regular called meeting, at which a quorum is present, or at a special meeting of the chapter, at which a quorum is present, called for the expressed purpose of considering the proposed change. A majority vote of those present at such regular or special meeting shall be required to approve or reject the change. Authority to consider the vote on proposed changes shall not be delegated to any officer or group of officers of the chapter.”

Consideration: Should the hub form require verification of a chapter vote?

*Option A: No – include Bylaw language as reference but do not ask question.

Option B: Yes – include a check box that must be clicked in order to submit.

Option C: Yes – include a yes/no question where ‘no’ votes are disqualified.

Decision: The Bylaw language will be included, but chapters will not be asked to verify a chapter vote.

5. Information on the hub form:

“A proposed change may be accompanied by one (1) statement in support of the proposal and one (1) statement in opposition to the proposal. Statements shall be in writing and shall be no more than two hundred and fifty (250) words in length.”

Consideration: Who should write the statements?

*Option A: The Organizational Development Committee writes the statements (pro & con) sharing with Board for review.

Option B: Appoint 1 Board member for each statement

Option C: Seek supporters and objectors from the general membership to write the statements.

Decision: The only information about the proposals on the form (or linked from the form) can be the details of the proposed amendment, a title for the proposal, and two 250-word statements either supporting or opposing the amendment. Any amount of information can be produced and distributed separately from the form, including in email communications reminding chapters to vote – however not included in the form itself.

The Organizational Development Committee writes the statements (pro & con) sharing with Board for review.

6. How many proposed changes included?:

Depending on Board’s approvals of some or all of R24-62, R24-55, and R24-52, the Board could choose to combine or keep separate any combinations of the approved proposals. Combining means they are treated as one proposal – 1 set of explanatory statements (pending on #4 above), and adoption or rejection is “all or nothing”.

Decision: R24-63, R24-55, and R24-52 will be separate proposals.

Communication Calendar

Throughout September:

- Pre-recorded video distributed by email and social media explaining this is happening, process, what is included, and why this is good for Delta Sigma Pi. Video features variety of Board members.
- Launch of dedicated web page including all relevant info and resources.
- Two virtual town halls moderated by independent “third party”
 - Presentation by Paul on path/process
 - For each proposal: presentation on why, pros & cons, statement of why presenter supports
 - Open “debate” with questions and opinions shared

September 22: Virtual Board meeting – opportunity to amend proposals as needed based on feedback. Not anticipated, but available.

October 1: Mail vote is live

- Email & pre-recorded videos
 - Explain process and instructions – stress need for chapter vote
 - Individual video supporting “why” for each proposal
 - Inclusion of pro/con statements from form in email
 - Similar email sent approximately October 23 and November 14 (to those not yet voted).

Throughout October: Why I voted videos posted to social media – neutral, not for or against

Mid/Late October: One virtual town hall moderated by independent third party

- Presentation by Paul on path/process (similar to September)
- For each proposal presentation on why, pros & cons, statement of why presenter supports (similar to September)
- Open Q&A session – not debate of opinions