

Proposed By-laws Amendments on Ranked-Choice Voting Options for Board Elections

Article III, Section 2: Composition and Election

COMMENTARY:

The rationale for this change is that the method given in the bylaws is extremely specific, which limits the balloting methods the AEU is permitted to use. Since the time this was written, there has been a great deal of interest in ranked voting, meaning that additional research has been done and new methods have become available. Requiring the AEU to use this one very specific way of ranking the candidates for Director positions limits the voting technologies we can potentially use, which is a particular problem for virtual meetings.

This document contains one (1) non-substantive revision to the proposal suggested during the Delegate discussion sessions. This revision removes the reference to the Single Transferable Vote method, which was included only as an example of a possible alternative ranked-choice voting method, but was found to be superfluous.

CURRENTLY:

f.) **“Rank-Weighted” Balloting:** Each voter may vote for up to as many candidates as there are slots open and shall rank their choices from highest to lowest. Each voter's highest ranked candidate shall receive the same number of points as there are slots open, the next highest ranked candidate shall receive one point less and so on, down to the lowest ranked candidate, who shall receive one point. The total points from all voters shall be tallied for each candidate, with the highest number of points receiving the longest open slots.

g.) **Election Criteria:** The candidates receiving the greatest number of points shall be elected unless more than one are from the same Society, in which case only the highest scoring candidate from each Society would be elected. When a candidate is a member of more than one Society, the candidate shall state in advance of the election which one of their Society memberships shall apply for this restriction.

h.)

ORIGINAL PROPOSED REVISION (*changes in red, subsequent sections to be renumbered accordingly*):

h.) Alternate Ranked Voting Methods. Other Ranked Choice Voting methods, such as the Single Transferable Vote (STV) method, may be used as an alternative to the rank-weighted balloting procedure outlined above when authorized by the Board of Directors. Any alternate voting method used must be one that preserves the

intent of accurately capturing the preferences of the voters. ~~and be recommended by relevant experts in ranked voting systems.~~

i.)