

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENTS

BYLAW AMENDMENT 1

TITLE: NEA Representative Delegate Terms and Service

TEXT:

Bylaw 3. Representative Assembly

3-3. Term

Delegates shall be elected for a term not to exceed three (3) ~~years~~ consecutive Representative Assemblies. An individual elected to a multiyear term shall serve if the individual and the affiliate continue to qualify for the delegate position.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

Currently NEA local and state delegates are elected under procedures set forth by the local and state associations to terms of between one and three years. If adopted, the proposed amendment would change the process by which delegate service for a given term is defined from the number of years in a term to the number of consecutive Representative Assemblies in a term.

In accordance with Article III, Section 5 of the Constitution, the NEA Representative Assembly (RA) is held annually. However, if the RA were cancelled due to an emergency or the frequency of the RA convening annually were changed through amendment to Article III, Section 5 of the Constitution, the proposed amendment would set forth that a delegate would not accrue service in their elected term during a year in which the RA does not convene.

Local and state delegate election procedures would be required to adhere to this revised term procedure for all elected delegates. The position to which a delegate is elected would need to continue to be allocated to the respective local or state association represented by the delegate, and the delegate would need to continue to be eligible to maintain their position.

Submitted by:

50 delegates

Contact Person:

Matthew Gresick, Maryland

BYLAW AMENDMENT 2

TITLE: NEA Board Meeting Contingency Should Annual Meeting Not Occur

TEXT:

Bylaw 5. Board of Directors

5-11. Meetings

(b) One (1) meeting shall be held in connection with the Annual Meeting or in substitute of Annual Meeting if need arises.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

Currently NEA Bylaw 5-11(a) provides that the NEA Board of Directors meets four times per year and other times as necessary to conduct the business of the Association. Bylaw 5-11(b) further clarifies that one of the four Board meetings scheduled annually must be held in connection with the NEA Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly (RA). If adopted, this proposed amendment would provide that the NEA Board convene “in substitute of” the Annual Meeting in the event that the Annual Meeting, for whatever reason, did not convene.

If adopted, at a minimum this proposed amendment would affirm that the Board remains permitted to convene at a meeting time normally held in connection with the Annual Meeting even if extraordinary circumstances prevented the Annual Meeting from taking place. At most, this proposed amendment would establish that the Board of Directors convene a meeting “in substitute of [the] Annual Meeting if need arises.”

Any meeting of the Board of Directors intended to serve as a substitute for the Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly would further be subject to Constitutional provisions in Article III, Section 7, which set forth the functions of the Representative Assembly; and both Article V, Section 3 and Bylaw 5-7 which set forth the functions of the Board of Directors.

Submitted by:

50 delegates

Contact Person:

Matthew Gresick, Maryland

PROPOSED STANDING RULE AMENDMENTS

Note: Unless otherwise indicated in the impact statement, a proposed Standing Rule amendment that is adopted will go into effect at the current NEA Representative Assembly.

STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 1

TITLE: Limiting the Total Daily Duration of Agenda Items not Related to Delegate Debate

TEXT:

Rule 3. Order of Business and Debate

J. Length of Remarks

Except for the keynote address by the President of the Association, ~~and any address by the President of the United States, speakers delivering prepared speeches to the Representative Assembly should be advised that their remarks should be limited to 15 minutes.~~ NEA candidates, statements of the chair and any other person(s) and/or item(s) outside the scope of member debate should not total more than 75 minutes daily. People must speak virtually if they would induce more than one (1) hour of a security delay.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

If adopted, this provision would limit the total daily duration of speeches by candidates for NEA office, remarks of the presiding officer and officials, and items such as award ceremonies, videos, and other such content to 75 minutes, excluding the keynote address by the NEA president. In its implementation, this provision would require direct monitoring of all such agenda items to ensure that the cumulative time does not exceed the 75 minute daily maximum.

The proposed amendment could potentially raise conflicts with the requirements of NEA Standing Rule 11.B.6(c) which sets forth the time limits for addresses by candidates for the office of president (five minutes); vice-president, secretary-treasurer, and Executive Committee (three minutes), and at-large positions on the NEA Board (two minutes). Because there is no limit on the number of persons who may be nominated to such positions, the combined time required for floor nominations and candidate speeches alone could in certain years exceed the daily time limit set forth in this proposed standing rule. For example, at the 2017 Representative Assembly a total of 25 candidates ran for NEA elected office, requiring approximately 80 minutes to complete all floor nominations and candidate speeches. Similarly, Standing Rule 4.E sets forth a fixed duration for any person, chairperson, or member who is presenting a committee report to speak for five (5) or fewer minutes unless permission is granted by majority vote of the Representative Assembly (RA).

Because the agenda is prepared by the NEA president and adopted by delegates at the beginning of the RA, if adopted, this proposed amendment would take effect beginning with the 2026 RA.

Submitted by:

50 delegates

Contact:

Joe Rowe, Oregon

STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 2

TITLE: Enhanced Parameters for Closing Debate on a Motion Before the Body

TEXT:

Rule 3. Order of Business and Debate

H. Closing Debate

No member speaking on a question may move to close debate.

A motion to close debate shall apply to no more than the single question immediately before the Representative Assembly.

Before a motion to close debate will be considered, the Chair will recognize at least ~~one speaker~~ two speakers in support and ~~one speaker~~ two speakers in opposition if speakers have called in on the motion on the floor. The Chair may move the question if there are no speakers on one side of a motion.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

If adopted, this provision would require a minimum of two speakers in favor and two speakers against a motion before a procedural motion to close debate will be considered. Additionally, the presiding officer would be permitted, though not required, to call the question on the motion if there are no speakers in the queue wishing to speak for a motion *or* if there are no speakers in the queue wishing to speak against a motion.

Submitted by:

50 delegates

Contact:

Daniel Solkowitz, California

STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 3

TITLE: Extended Timeframes for Consideration of New Business

TEXT:

Rule 3. Order of Business and Debate

D. Scheduling of New Business Items (NBI)

Items of new business submitted in accordance with these Standing Rules shall be considered for at least ~~one hour~~ 90 minutes at the second business meeting and for at least ~~90 minutes~~ two hours at each subsequent meeting.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

If adopted, this provision would adjust the total time set forth for new business during the second business meeting on the first day from one hour to 90 minutes, and from 90 minutes to two hours during each subsequent business meeting on days two through four. Certain agenda items are fixed at a specific duration by NEA Standing Rules (e.g., length of remarks, candidate speeches, committee presentations, delegate speaking time, lunch breaks, voting) and may be adjusted only through corresponding amendments. Assuming the typical starting and ending times for each day of the RA are not adjusted, time available for the scheduling of traditional or new RA agenda items, including other business items, would potentially need to be shortened or eliminated as necessary to accommodate each newly extended block of time reserved for discussion of new business.

Because the agenda is prepared by the NEA president and adopted by delegates at the beginning of the Representative Assembly (RA), if adopted, this proposed amendment would take effect beginning with the 2026 NEA RA.

Submitted by:

50 delegates

Contact person:

Sharon Stanford, Colorado

STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 4

TITLE: Voting Requirement by Secret Ballot

TEXT:

Rule 11. Elections Conducted at the Representative Assembly

B. Procedures

7. Voting Procedures

Elections shall be by ~~printed~~ secret ballot by the delegates to the Representative Assembly.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

Standing Rule 11.B.7 currently requires that all election procedures for persons elected to office at the NEA Representative Assembly are conducted by printed paper ballot. If adopted, the proposed amendment would permit the NEA Elections Committee to continue to conduct elections by printed paper ballot or some other means of voting that complies with NEA election requirements. The addition of the word “secret” to this Standing Rule would have no impact as Article VI, Section 1(a) already provides that the election of executive office and Executive Committee members will be by secret ballot, and Bylaw 5-1(a) already provides that all Board members shall be elected by secret ballot for each individual office.

If adopted, this proposed amendment would take effect beginning with the 2026 RA.

Submitted by:

State Delegation

Contact person:

Matthew Gresick, Maryland

STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 5

TITLE: Definition of Secret Ballot

TEXT:

Standing Rule 13. Definition of Terms

B. Secret Ballot

Secret ballot shall mean a procedure for voting on slips of paper (or via a ~~voting machine~~ secure electronic ballot) on which the voter may mark the vote in secrecy.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

This proposed amendment broadens NEA's definition of secret ballot to include any such elections through the use of printed paper ballot or through a secure electronic ballot system selected as an alternative to paper ballots, provided the selected procedure ensures that the voter marks their vote in secrecy. Standing Rule 11.B.7 currently requires that all election procedures for persons elected at the NEA Representative Assembly are conducted by printed paper ballot. Therefore, if adopted, the revised definition of secret ballot to include the use of secure electronic ballot voting could only be used for elections at the Representative Assembly if Standing Rule 11.B.7 were amended to permit an elections procedure that does not require printed paper ballots.

If adopted, this proposed amendment would take effect beginning with the 2026 RA.

Submitted by:

State Delegation

Contact person:

Matthew Gresick, Maryland

STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 6

TITLE: Clarify Mailing Requirement of Registration Materials

TEXT:

Standing Rule 1. Delegates

C. Registration

1. Registration Materials

Registration materials shall be sent ~~by mail~~ to all delegates prior to the time of the Annual Meeting.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

NEA currently construes Standing Rule 1.C.1 to be inclusive of communications of delegate registration materials by email. If adopted, the proposed amendment would further clarify the existing flexible means by which NEA sends registration materials to all elected delegates in advance of the NEA Annual Meeting and Representative Assembly. This would codify current practice.

Submitted by:

State Delegation

Contact person:

Matthew Gresick, Maryland

STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 7

TITLE: Extended Timeframes for Consideration of New Business

TEXT:

Rule 3. Order of Business and Debate

D. Scheduling of New Business Items (NBI)

Items of new business submitted in accordance with these Standing Rules shall be considered for ~~at least one hour at the second business meeting and for~~ at least 90 minutes at each ~~subsequent~~ business meeting.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

If adopted, this provision would adjust the total time set forth for new business at all eight business meetings of the Representative Assembly, including the first business meeting, for a duration of 90 minutes during each business meeting. Certain agenda items are fixed at a specific duration by NEA Standing Rules (e.g., length of remarks, candidate speeches, committee presentations, delegate speaking time, lunch breaks, voting) and may be adjusted only through corresponding amendments. Assuming the typical starting and ending times for each day of the RA are not adjusted, time available for the scheduling of traditional or new RA agenda items, including other business items, would potentially need to be shortened or eliminated as necessary to accommodate each 90 minute block of time reserved for discussion of new business.

Without altering the current agenda requirements, this amendment would add an additional 90 minutes to the first business session on the first day of the RA, and an additional 30 minutes to the second business meeting, which also occurs on the first day.

Because the agenda is prepared by the NEA president and adopted by delegates at the beginning of the Representative Assembly (RA), if adopted, this proposed amendment would take effect beginning with the 2026 NEA RA.

Submitted by:

State Delegation

Contact person:

Matthew Gresick, Maryland

STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 8

TITLE: Elimination of the Practice of Yielding Speaking Time

TEXT:

3. Order of Business and Debate

G. Yielding Speaking Time

A member ~~may~~ shall not yield the microphone or speaking time to another delegate ~~only for the unused portion of the allotted time, and only for the purpose for which the member was recognized.~~

IMPACT STATEMENT:

Under Standing Rule 3.G a delegate recognized to speak is permitted to yield to another delegate for purposes of speaking to an issue provided the speaker is furnished only the unused portion of allotted speaking time remaining and provided the speaker addresses only the purpose (e.g., speaking for, speaking against, etc.) for which the original delegate was recognized. If adopted, the proposed amendment would entirely prohibit a recognized delegate from yielding the microphone or speaking time to another delegate.

Submitted by:

State Delegation

Contact person:

Paul Lemle, Maryland

STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 9

TITLE: Holding a Bylaw Amendment Dependent on a Constitutional Amendment

TEXT:

5. Amendments to the NEA Constitution, Bylaws, and Standing Rules

B. Amendments to Bylaws

2. Bylaw Amendments Contingent on Adoption of Amendments to the Constitution

A proposed amendment to the Bylaws which is dependent upon adoption of a proposed amendment to the Constitution shall be ~~deemed to have failed unless~~ held in abeyance until the proposed amendment to the Constitution is adopted.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

Currently companion amendments to the NEA Bylaws that are adopted by a majority vote at the NEA Representative Assembly in which their implementation is dependent upon the adoption of a proposed amendment to the Constitution are deemed to have failed if the Constitutional amendment does not pass by the required two-thirds vote. If adopted, this proposed amendment would provide that such a Bylaw amendment would be adopted and included in the NEA Bylaws. However, the new provision would be held in abeyance and therefore prohibited from being implemented until a corresponding Constitutional amendment on which the adopted Bylaw amendment is dependent is also approved. Such a Bylaw amendment would not need to be resubmitted and adopted by the Representative Assembly.

Submitted by:

State Delegation

Contact person:

Paul Lemle, Maryland

STANDING RULE AMENDMENT 10

TITLE: NEA Resolutions Committee Member Elections Parameters

TEXT:

7. Resolutions Committee and Procedure

B. Resolutions Committee

5. Election Procedure

Elections shall be by secret ballot. Voting shall be by those delegates present and shall take place ~~at the third~~ at a time and place that does not conflict with the summer meeting of the Resolutions Committee and not later than the business meeting of the state delegations held on the first day of the Representative Assembly and by the retired and aspiring educator delegates at the time and place designated in the annual program by the President of the Association except as may otherwise be approved in advance by the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules. If the number of candidates for Resolutions Committee positions is equal to or less than the number of positions to be filled, elections may be waived, and the candidates declared elected to the positions in question. The report of election results shall be submitted on the proper form to the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules before the close of the fifth business meeting of the Representative Assembly.

IMPACT STATEMENT:

Currently the sequencing and number of pre-RA state delegation meetings and morning state delegation meetings held once the RA is underway varies from state to state. Given the recent introduction of virtual state caucus meetings and adjusted pre-RA schedule, there is not a standardized daily, sequential schedule of all state delegation meetings in the Annual Meeting program. If adopted, the proposed amendment would strike the requirement that voting by state delegations for state Resolutions Committee positions must take place at the state delegation's "third business meeting." Instead, a state delegation would be required to conduct such elections:

- (1) At a feasible time and place that does not conflict with the summer meeting of the Resolutions Committee which is scheduled on the two days immediately preceding the first day of the Representative Assembly, convening 9:00am to 5:00pm on the first day and 10:00am to 5:00pm on the second day.
- (2) Not later than the state delegation meeting held on the first day of the Representative Assembly.

Standing Rule 7 would continue to require that registered delegates to the RA from each state must elect committee candidates from among the state and local delegates in the state delegation and that voting must be by those delegates present. Any departure by a state delegation from these election procedures must be approved in advance by the Committee on Constitution, Bylaws, and Rules.

Submitted by:

State Delegation

Contact person:

Tanya T. Coats, Tennessee