

SAN FRANCISCO REGIONAL MENSA 2009 BALLOT

This is the ballot for the 2009 SFRM Bylaw Amendments. In order to have your vote counted, please follow these instructions, as mandated by the SFRM bylaws.

The envelope you send (we suggest a #10) must have the following in the upper left hand corner: the word "Ballot", your name, your address, your Mensa membership number, and your signature. Only one ballot can be in each envelope. Photocopies and printouts of online editions are treated the same as printed ballots. Duplicate ballots in any envelope will cause all ballots in that envelope to be declared invalid.

Your completed ballot must be returned to the SFRM President, Francesca Guido, at the following address:

Francesca Guido, President SFRM
605 Dorchester Road
San Mateo CA 94402-1023

All ballots must be received by December 31, 2009. Ballots received after that date will not be counted. The ballot count will be held Sunday, January 3, 2010, 1:00 PM, at the above address in San Mateo. An affirmative vote of sixty percent of the ballots is required for the proposed changes to pass.

This election calls for us to accept or decline the revised Bylaws, as printed in the September issue of the *Intelligencer* (available online at us.mensa.org in the publications section). In the event of any question about exactly what the item is being voted on, please see the wording as printed in the September issue or online at www.sfmensa.org. Questions may be referred to the President.

These bylaw amendments may be voted on in whole or in part. **You may accept the bylaw revisions by marking the "Yes" box below. Alternately, in the second portion, you may address each revision item by item, accepting them by marking "For", or rejecting them by "Against" in each case. You may NOT use both methods; if you mark the "acceptance as a whole" option, that will be counted and all other votes will be invalid.**

Please take the time to consider the revisions and vote accordingly. Thank you for your participation in the SFRM elections.

Francesca Guido
SFRM President

I vote to accept all 34 proposed bylaws changes Yes

Article I Designation	Pro	Con	Vote	
In Section 1B, delete "International" before "Mensa" in the phrase "subject to the Constitution of International Mensa"	Recommended by National Local Group Minimum Standards Bylaws Committee (NBC)	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
Add new Section IC: The governing body of SFRM is the Executive Committee. This consists of the following representatives of the members of SFRM: the Local Secretary/President, the Assistant Local Secretary/Vice President, the Treasurer, the Scribe, and the Members-at-Large.	Recommended by NBC; clarifies the existence and make-up of the ExComm; introduces the terms President/Vice President in addition to Local Secretary and Assistant Local Secretary	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In Section 2a: Change "county" to "County" in San Francisco County.	This change fixes a typographical error	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST

Article II Membership, Privileges, and Responsibilities	Pro	Con	Vote	
In Section 1: Change "county" to "County" in San Francisco County	This change fixes a typographical error	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
Article III Requirements				
In Section 1B: Add a last sentence: "SFRM ballots and related materials may be viewed until their destruction thirty days after the close of the polls or when all formal challenges are decided, whichever is later."	We want to clarify when election materials are to be available to the membership for viewing.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In Section 2A: Add a last sentence: "The newsletter is the publication of the Executive Committee of SFRM."	Recommended by National Local Group Minimum Standards Bylaws Committee (NBC).	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
Add Section 2C: "A printed copy of the newsletter shall be sent to all members of SFRM unless they request the electronic version only."	Recommended by (NBC).	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
Add Section 2D: "If the SFRM Ombudsman or the National Ombudsman submits matter to the newsletter marked "for publication," relating to his/her official duties, anything so marked shall be given the highest practicable priority for publication."	Recommended by (NBC).	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In Section 3: After "SFRM shall conduct regular member activities" remove "in addition to meetings of the Executive Committee"	Separates SFRM activities from ExComm meetings.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In Section 3: Change "quarterly" to "monthly..." The sentence will read "SFRM shall conduct regular member activities at least monthly, with notice of such activities distributed to all members by publication in the newsletter and/or calendar of events."	Reflects the fact that SFRM has many meetings each month.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
Article IV Officers and Duties				
Add a new Section IA with subsequent renumbering: "An officer of SFRM is any person having a title and specific responsibilities within the local group."	Recommended by (NBC).	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In new Section IG add the text: ", equipment, and other relevant SFRM materials" to make IG read, "Outgoing officers shall transfer their files, equipment, and other relevant SFRM materials to their successors within fifteen days after leaving office."	We want to clarify that more than files may be involved.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
Delete Section 2A ii and renumber as needed: "Pass along information to and from SFRM in a timely way."	This is not clear and adds nothing	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
Replace old Section 2A iii: "Appoint and remove appointed officers and designate duties for such officers not otherwise provided for herein." with new 2A v: Establish and abolish appointed officer positions not otherwise provided for herein, and appoint and remove appointed officers and designate duties for such officers.	We feel this is more clear.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In Section 2 A vii: Concerning the appointment of a committee "to perform an annual financial review," change the wording after "to be conducted" from "in the month of December" to "following the close of the fiscal year"	We have wanted this change but have been constrained by Minimum Standard Bylaws, which have changed.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST

Article IV Officers and Duties (continued)**Pro****Con****Vote**

In Section 2 A vii: delete "actual" in the line "review of [actual] statements from banks or other financial institutions..."	A more reasonable bylaw for this electronic age.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In Section 2C iv, on Treasurer duties, delete "original" from the phrase "original statements from banks."	In keeping with the electronic age, this is more reasonable wording.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In Section 2C iv, delete the last sentence: "All accounts shall be separate accounts in the name of SFRM and shall have more than one signatory so that funds can be accessed in the temporary absence of the treasurer."	This essentially repeats 2Ci: "Establish separate financial accounts in the name of SFRM which have at minimum Treasurer and LocSec as signatories."	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In Section 3B on vacancies, add the words "next possible" before "newsletter" in the phrase "announced in the newsletter"	We want to clarify that we want a printing as soon as possible.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In Section 3B, add the sentence, "The new officer shall be considered elected and shall serve until the next regular election."	Recommended by (NBC).	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST

Article V Elections

Reverse the order of Sections 1 and 2 for clarity.	For clarity.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In new Section 1A – Election Committee: add "even-numbered" before "year" in the phrase "appointed by the LocSec no later than 1 June of each year."	This clarifies SFRM timeline.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In new Section 1B iv, in the first sentence add "no later than 1 July" and "for approval" such that the sentence reads "Prepare the rules for the election and present them no later than 1 July to the Executive Committee for approval."	This adds a date to the procedure and it acknowledges that the ExComm has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that bylaws and ASIEs are followed.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In Section 3A, add at the end of the sentence ", the close of the polls."	This makes clear that 31 October, when ballots must be received by the Election Committee, is synonymous with the close of the polls. Recommended by NBC.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In Section 3, reverse the order of B and C.	For clarity.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST
In Section 3, add new E and renumber subsequent items: "Ballots shall be counted by the end of the first full weekend of November."	Takes into account the timeframe required by the possibility of challenges and the newsletter deadline.	no con statement submitted	<input type="checkbox"/> FOR	<input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST

Article V Elections (continued)**Pro****Con****Vote**

<p>In Section 3, add new G and renumber subsequent items: “The Election Committee shall submit the results of the election to the editor for publication in the December newsletter, including information about unresolved complaints or challenges.”</p>	<p>The new officers take office as of 1 December, and it is the practice to announce their names in the December newsletter. This statement also admits the possibility of an unresolved complaint or challenge.</p>	<p>no con statement submitted</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST</p>
<p>In Section 3 new I, change “fifteen” to “thirty” days as the time for keeping all election materials after the close of the polls – or when all formal written complaints are resolved, whichever is later.</p>	<p>We want to ensure that the membership has time to learn of the election results and to ask to see the relevant materials while not putting an undue storage burden on the Election Committee.</p>	<p>no con statement submitted</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST</p>

Article VI Meetings

<p>Section 1 – Delete and renumber following</p>	<p>This was moved up to Article 1 Section 1C</p>	<p>no con statement submitted</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST</p>
<p>In new Section 1A: Change “time, place, and agenda of each Executive Committee meeting” to “time and place of each ...”</p>	<p>The change does not preclude the placement of a preliminary agenda into the newsletter; it simply acknowledges that changes occur.</p>	<p>no con statement submitted</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST</p>
<p>In new Section 1A, in the last sentence which begins “Actions of the Executive Committee shall be reported to the entire membership” change the ending from “prior to the succeeding Executive Committee meeting” to “in the next available newsletter.”</p>	<p>This makes possible ExComm meetings mid-month, when the next newsletter might already have gone to press, without jeopardizing the possibility of a followup ExComm meeting.</p>	<p>no con statement submitted</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST</p>
<p>In new Section 1B, delete the phrase “, and regular membership activities,” in the sentence “Regular Executive Committee meetings, and regular membership activities, shall be convened at least bimonthly within the geographic boundaries of SFRM.”</p>	<p>This is addressed in Article III Section 3. Our group has many membership activities every month.</p>	<p>no con statement submitted</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST</p>
<p>In new Section 1 add C (and renumber accordingly): “At the discretion of the LocSec, any one or more members of the Executive Committee may participate in a meeting of the Committee by means of telephone or on-line conference or similar communications equipment allowing all persons participating in the meeting to communicate with each other at the same time. Participation by such means shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.”</p>	<p>We recognize that ExComm members may need to request an alternate way to attend an ExComm meeting. This needs to be at the discretion of the LocSec.</p>	<p>no con statement submitted</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST</p>

Article IX Amendment

<p>In Section 3, add new G and renumber subsequent items: “The Election Committee shall submit the results of the election to the editor for publication in the December newsletter, including information about unresolved complaints or challenges.”</p>	<p>We want the membership to be aware of changes being considered, but placement of the specific wording on the agenda may be cumbersome.</p>	<p>no con statement submitted</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> FOR</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> AGAINST</p>
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