

# Bylaw Amendment Referendum

The process for amending the SFRM Bylaws is described in Article IX of the Bylaws. At SFRM Executive Committee meetings on March 8, 2021 and April 5, 2021, the ExComm voted unanimously to submit three proposed amendments to the membership. These amendments were proposed by the Bylaws Committee and have been reviewed by and approved by American Mensa. The text of the motions to adopt these amendments, with summaries of the changes, was published in the April *Intelligencer*. The current SFRM Bylaws, the proposed amended Bylaws, and a redline markup showing the changes can be found at [sfmensa.org](http://sfmensa.org) or a printed copy may be requested by sending an email to SFRM Bylaws Committee Chair Susan Heimlich at [susan.heimlich@gmail.com](mailto:susan.heimlich@gmail.com).

## Balloting Instructions

- Voters must use this ballot, the ballot available online at [sfmensa.org](http://sfmensa.org), or a facsimile of one of these.
- Ballots must be marked in ink. Mark an **X** in the box to approve or reject the amendment
- Enclose the ballot in an envelope, only one ballot per envelope.
- Envelopes must be sealed.
- The upper left corner of the front of the envelope shall contain:
  - The voter's printed name
  - The voter's address
  - The voter's Mensa membership number (available on your newsletter label)
  - The voter's hand-written signature, in ink. (Other info may be by hand, printed or in a label.)
- All ballots must be returned no later than **June 30, 2021**, by U.S. mail, to:

**BYLAW REFERENDUM**  
**c/o LocSec Michael Eager**  
**1960 Park Blvd.**  
**Palo Alto, CA 94306**

Pro and con statements are found on the next page.

### Amendment 1: Changes we want.

Allow voting by electronic means in addition to mail-in ballots.

Reorder text in Bylaws regarding appointment of Editor.

Clarify that special meetings of the SFRM ExComm may be announced electronically.

APPROVE

REJECT

### Amendment 2: Changes to conform to American Mensa's Minimum Standard Bylaws.

Change "Ombudsman to Ombudsperson," add references to RVC, clarify multiple issues.

APPROVE

REJECT

### Amendment 3: Changes recommended by American Mensa.

Use latest roster for ballots; clarify officer duties, eligibility, and removal; clarify duration of Election Committee.

APPROVE

REJECT

## **Bylaw Amendment Statements**

### **PRO**

These changes need to be passed in order for SFRM to keep from falling behind the times. Electronic voting has been working at the national and international level for some time and increases member participation by making it easy (and free) to vote, and the bylaws changes will allow us to implement it for SFRM. All the other changes fix small flaws, correct imprecise phrasing, make the bylaws match how SFRM actually operates, or bring us into compliance with AML requirements. Vote yes!

*Alan Winson*  
former SFRM LocSec

Hello fellow Mensans, my name is Nick Kloski and I was one of the members of the bylaws committee. I would encourage voting in approval of the proposed bylaws changes. The majority of changes center around adding the option for SF Mensa members to vote on chapter elections via electronic means. With a “yes” vote on these bylaws you will still be able to vote in a paper ballot should you so choose, but you will also be given the option to vote online if you prefer. Other Mensa groups throughout the country have either made this change or are in the process of it, and the SFRM ExComm (I'm sure) will learn from and implement the best practices from other groups to make local voting the easiest and most secure it can be.

We also cleaned up wording about our newsletter. We made some changes (I also urge a “yes” vote on) to make an electronic newsletter the default option unless someone requests a physical copy. This change will not influence existing choices...only for new members to the chapter.

Other changes to the bylaws were smaller. When any group updates their bylaws, the existing bylaws must be brought up to American Mensa “minimum standards” as set forth by the national group.

Please vote yes to accept these changes and hopefully, this will be the last time many of us will need to find envelopes, stamps, and the time to mail our votes in.

*Nick Kloski*

### **CON**

*No opposition statement was received by the deadline.*