

Proposed Bylaws Changes for 2024 Election

During the 2024 election that runs from April 15 through May 15, International Lutheran Laymen's League/ Lutheran Hour Ministries' members who have registered to vote will weigh in on proposed Bylaws changes in addition to voting for open positions on the Board of Directors. Below is a brief explanation of the changes that the Board recommends for adoption and has approved to appear on this spring's ballot. To view a full copy of the current Bylaws, visit lhm.org/about/bylaws_2021.pdf.

As the world around us continues to change, Lutheran Hour Ministries seeks to respond in the most effective ways for sharing the Gospel whenever and wherever it needs to be heard. A bold plan for global expansion is the latest evolution for this strong, emergent, future-focused ministry that harnesses new opportunities, research, and resources to fulfill our mission of *Bringing Christ to the Nations—and the Nations to the Church*.

Below is an overview of Bylaws changes that the Board of Directors recommends for adoption to help accomplish this goal.

- Extend the number of allowable terms for existing Board members to provide more continuity in leadership during times of change.
- Allow past Board members who have termed out but have extensive organizational knowledge to be considered as new candidates for re-election following one or more intervening years off the Board.
- Establish a process to ensure that all constituents may submit petitions to the Board of Directors to have them addressed.
- Remove obsolete language about convention voting since official business no longer takes place at LHM events.

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Recommended Changes to the Bylaws

ARTICLE III – Board Composition and Functions

Section F— Elections and Appointments

3. Procedures and Terms of Office

- i. **Board Members** - A multi-slate ballot will be prepared by the Nominations Committee under the guidance of the Board for capable men and women to serve as Board Members. The term of office for Board Members shall be three years, and an individual may run for consecutive re-election ~~twice only once~~.
- ii. **Additional Standards** - After one or more intervening years off the Board, a candidate may be eligible for election to the Board for ~~an~~ additional ~~three-year~~ terms ~~as provided in Article III, Section F, 3. i. of these Bylaws~~. In the case of any person appointed by the Board to fill a vacancy, the partial term will not count towards the term limit. Each term of office shall commence with the first Board meeting following the election, such that the term of office for departing Board members shall conclude immediately prior to the commencement of such Board meeting. To the extent an amendment to these Bylaws changes the length of time for any term of office, the Board shall, in Policy, decide at what point in time such change becomes effective, whether during an existing term of office or once the existing term of office expires or becomes vacant.

ARTICLE IV – Conventions and Conferences

Section B - Petition and Appeal. Members of the Organization may bring forth a formal petition to the Board at any time, requesting consideration of an important matter for the well-being of the organization. A petition must contain the verified signatures of at least 300 active members, indicating their complete addresses. The matter ~~must~~ ~~may~~ be taken up by the Board for consideration and action. ~~If the Board chooses not to consider the petition, then the petitioners may present an appeal to the Chairman of the Board for automatic consideration at the next convention. Members assembled in convention must vote by simple majority to present the petition to the membership for a final vote. If presentation of the petition passes, then a ballot shall be drafted and sent to all members who are then registered to vote in accordance with these Bylaws. Ballots must be returned within 40 days of being sent. A 2/3rds majority of returned ballots shall be necessary for passage.~~

~~**Section E – Quorum.** A quorum with respect to any matter shall constitute a majority of the members present in person at a convention or of those casting a ballot on such matter.~~