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Proposed Updates to District Bylaws

In the Spring 2016 edition of the WesternITE, proposed updates to the Western District Bylaws were introduced and members asked for input/comments. The comment period closed on April 29th, and very helpful comments were received from some of our members. The comments received are indicated below along with revisions to the proposed updates to the District Bylaws to address the comments.

The proposed updates to the Bylaws, including the changes to accommodate comments from members, will be included in the upcoming District Elections Ballot.

Thank you to all of our members for their assistance and support in this process.

Comments Received on the Proposed Updates Published in the Spring 2016 WesternITE

1. What is it that you (the proposers of the change) are trying to accomplish by the change to the first sentence of Section 5.4? Is it to have a deadline for submitting ballots that is before the Annual Business Meeting? Historically, there has always been a final call for ballots at the beginning of the Annual Business Meeting. Are you attempting to change this?
2. “The election shall be concluded not more than 24 hours prior to the District’s Annual Business Meeting.” If the Annual Business Meeting takes place at noon on July 15, for instance, the language says that the election shall be concluded no earlier than noon on July 14. But, it does not say that the election shall be concluded by noon on July 15. Does the election conclude by no later than July 16? July 31? October 15th? The language is silent on when the election must end.
3. The words “canvassed” and “canvassing” are not well understood. Instead of “canvassed” and “canvassing”, do we really mean “counted” and “counting”?
4. To remedy the problems that I have identified above, I suggest the following language for Section 5.4.

Section 5.4 – Close of balloting shall be no earlier than 24 hours prior to the District’s Annual Business Meeting and no later than the District’s Annual Business Meeting. Not later than 30 days prior to the election, the District Administrator will transmit a final ballot, listing the candidates nominated for offices and containing a statement from the candidates (if provided by the candidate). Final ballots returned by eligible votes to the District Administrator shall be counted. Counting of the ballots shall be completed at the District’s Annual Meeting by a three-person Teller’s Committee appointed by the President.

The following modified version that addresses the comments above includes additional changes shown in italics.

Section 5.4 – The election shall be concluded not more than 24 hours prior to and no later than at the District’s Annual Business Meeting. Not later than 30 days prior to the election, the ~~Secretary-Treasurer~~ District Administrator will transmit a final ballot, listing the candidates nominated for offices and containing a statement from the candidates (if provided by the candidate). Final ballots returned by eligible voters to the ~~Secretary-Treasurer~~ District Administrator shall be canvassed counted. ~~Canvassing~~ Counting of the ballots shall be completed at the District’s Annual Meeting by a three-person Teller’s Committee appointed by the President. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for each office shall be declared elected. In case of a tie vote, the outgoing District Board, excluding any Board member who is a candidate for the position subject to a tie vote, shall select one of the candidates ~~the outgoing District Board, excluding any Board member who is a candidate for the position subject to a tie vote, shall select one of the candidates.~~