TO: THE ALA MEMBERSHIP
FROM: Tracie D. Hall, Secretary of the Council
DATE: February 2022
RE: PROPOSED CHANGES TO ALA CONSTITUTION

The following amendments to the ALA Constitution & Bylaws have been approved by ALA Council for referral to the Membership for ratification in accordance with the ALA Constitution, Articles XI and XII. Any text to be deleted is shown in [brackets]; new text to be inserted or substituted is underlined.

ALA Policy 4.8 states “Amendments to the Constitution and/or Bylaws, when placed on the ballot, will be accompanied by pro and con statements of not more than 250 words each, such statements to be prepared by two Council members (who voted on opposite sides of the issue as indicated by their voting record) appointed by the president.”

ITEM #1-

CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT TO CLARIFY ELECTRONIC MEETINGS AND VOTING

ACTION: Adding language to the Constitution which clarifies that both Council and membership meetings may be held electronically and that voting through electronic means may take place at those meetings.

Given the need to conduct business of the association in an online environment, these changes clarify that the requirements for a quorum are the same in both physical and synchronous online formats, and that voting can occur by electronic means.

CURRENT LANGUAGE:
Article VI, Section 3.
“Seventy-five voting members of the Council shall constitute a quorum.”

Article VI, Section 4.b.
“Any question of policy may, by a majority vote of the Council, be submitted to the Association to be voted upon either at a membership meeting or by mail as the Council may determine.”

Article VI, Section 4.c.
“Any action of the Council may be set aside by a majority vote by mail in which one-fourth of the members of the Association have voted. Such vote by mail shall be held upon petition of one percent of the personal members as certified by the Executive Director of the Association.”

Article VIII, Section 2a.
"subject to a confirmation mail vote by Council."

Article VIII, Section 2b.
"subject to a confirmation mail vote by Council."
PROPOSED LANGUAGE:
Article VI, Section 3.
"Seventy-five voting members of the Council shall constitute a quorum for a meeting, whether held in person or electronically."

Article VI, Section 4.b.
"Any question of policy may, by a majority vote of Council, be submitted to the Association to be voted upon either at a membership meeting or by mail or electronic means as the Council may determine."

Article VI, Section 4.c.
"Any action of the Council may be set aside by a majority vote by mail or by electronic means in which one-fourth of the members of the Association have voted. Such vote by mail or electronic means shall be held upon petition of one percent of the personal members as certified by the Executive Director of the Association.

Article VIII, Section 2a.
"subject to a mail or electronic vote by Council."

Article VIII, Section 2b.
"subject to a mail or electronic vote by Council."

PRO STATEMENT:

“I write in support of these changes, to enable Council to meet electronically and to vote electronically at these meetings. The experience over the past year has demonstrated the importance of sustaining the work of Council. The electronic meetings of Council have proceeded effectively and without problems. They enabled wider participation in the discussions and debates. ALA is facing challenging financial, organizational and policy matters, so it is important to have this option. Furthermore, for these electronic meetings of Council, it is totally appropriate to have a quorum requirement consistent with in person meetings.” – Jim Neal, Councilor at Large

CON STATEMENT:  There were no dissenting votes in Council.