

**14th Ward Independent Democratic Club (“Club”)
Proposed Constitution and Bylaws Amendments
January 2021**

The board of the Club has voted for changes to the Club’s Constitution and Bylaws. To be made, the changes must be approved by the Club voting membership. The three proposed changes are summarized immediately below and the proposed text changes and explanations follow.

- 1) Change the number of days from 60 to 45 that new and lapsed members (those who have not paid dues in the prior two calendar years) must pay current year dues to vote at the Endorsement Meeting.
- 2) Change the names of the Vice-Presidents and the procedure for the board to replace a vacated President position.
- 3) Make minor changes to the name and duties of the Publications committee.

Each section of the Constitution and Bylaws with suggested changes is listed as each exists now (“before change”) and with the suggested changes (“after change”). **Words in red in the “after change” sections are changed or new.** The current Constitution and Bylaws can be found at this link: <https://pgh14widc.org/about-us/by-laws-of-the-14widc/>

- 1. Proposed change: Change the number of days that new voting members and renewing voting members who have not paid dues within the prior two calendar years must pay their current year dues prior to the Endorsement Meeting to be eligible to vote for candidate endorsements. Changed from 60 to 45 days. Section affected: Bylaws Section IV(C).**

Reason: Due to the change in Pennsylvania voting law allowing mail-in ballots (similar to a no excuse absentee ballot), the date of the Endorsement Meeting may be moved earlier in the spring before the primary election to allow the mailing of the endorsement newsletter to reach voters’ homes sooner during the early mail-in voting period. Previously, the endorsement newsletter was mailed to arrive in the week before the date of the primary election.

Before Change - Bylaws

- IV. Voting Eligibility
- C. New voting members must have paid their dues at least 60 days prior to the Endorsement Meeting in order to vote.

After Change - Bylaws

- IV. Voting Eligibility
- C. New voting members must have paid their dues at least **45** days prior to the Endorsement Meeting in order to vote.

- 2. Proposed change: Change the name of the three Vice-Presidents from 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Vice-President to Vice-President for Annual Meeting, Vice-President for Endorsements, and Vice-President for Fundraising. Sections affected: Constitution Article VI; Bylaws Sections I(C), 1(D), 1(E), V(B), V(C), V(D), VII(B), VII(C).**

Reason: All Vice-Presidents are equally empowered and no Vice-President will be required to vacate their chosen role (Annual Meeting, Endorsements, Fundraising) due to the vacancy of the President.

Before Change - Constitution

- VI. Officers: The officers shall consist of a President, a 1st Vice President, a 2nd Vice-President, a 3rd Vice-President, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. Officers shall be elected from and by the Voting Membership for terms of two years, following the procedures set forth in the Bylaws, and their duties shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

After Change - Constitution

- VI. Officers: The officers shall consist of President, **Vice-President for Annual Meeting, Vice-President for Endorsements, Vice-President for Fundraising**, Secretary, and Treasurer. Officers shall be elected from and by the Voting Membership for terms of two

years, following the procedures set forth in the Bylaws, and their duties shall be as set forth in the Bylaws.

Before Change - Bylaws

- I. Duties and Responsibilities of Officers:
 - C. The 1st Vice-President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in cases of the temporary absence or incapacity of the President, and shall chair the Annual Meeting committee.
 - D. The 2nd Vice-President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in cases of the temporary absence or incapacity of both the President and the 1st Vice-President, and shall chair the Endorsement Meeting committee.
 - E. The 3rd Vice-President shall assume the duties and responsibilities of the President in cases of the temporary absence or incapacity of the President and the 1st and 2nd Vice-Presidents, and shall chair the Fundraising committee.

After Change - Bylaws

- I. Duties and Responsibilities of Officers:
 - C. The **Vice-President for Annual Meeting** shall chair the Annual Meeting committee.
 - D. The **Vice-President for Endorsements** shall chair the Endorsement Meeting committee.
 - E. The **Vice-President for Fundraising** shall chair the Fundraising committee.

Before Change - Bylaws

- V. Standing Committees:
 - B. Annual Meeting committee:

The Annual Meeting committee shall be chaired by the 1st Vice-President and shall be responsible for planning and conducting the Club's Annual Meeting. . . .
 - C. Endorsement committee:

The Endorsement committee shall be chaired by the 2nd Vice-President and shall be responsible for planning and conducting the Club Endorsement meeting. . . .
 - D. Fundraising committee:

The Fundraising committee shall be chaired by the 3rd Vice-President and shall be responsible for planning and conducting Club fundraising activities, including an annual Fundraising event.

After Change - Bylaws

- V. Standing Committees:
 - B. Annual Meeting committee:

The Annual Meeting committee shall be chaired by the **Vice-President for Annual Meeting** and shall be responsible for planning and conducting the Club's Annual Meeting. . . .
 - C. Endorsement committee:

The Endorsement committee shall be chaired by the **Vice-President for Endorsements** and shall be responsible for planning and conducting the Club Endorsement meeting. . . .
 - D. Fundraising committee:

The Fundraising committee shall be chaired by the **Vice-President for Fundraising** and shall be responsible for planning and conducting Club fundraising activities, including an annual Fundraising event.

Before Change - Bylaws

- VII. Terms of office for all Board Positions:
 - B. Election of officers and board members shall be conducted in alternating years: President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary, and seven members of the Board shall be elected in odd-numbered years. First Vice-President, 3rd Vice-President, Treasurer, and six members of the Board shall be elected in even-numbered years.
 - C. The 1st Vice-President shall fill a vacancy in the office of President, the 2nd Vice-President shall succeed to a vacancy in the office of the 1st Vice-President, and the 3rd Vice-President shall succeed to a vacancy in the office of the 2nd Vice-President. . . .

After Change - Bylaws

- VII. Terms of office for all Board Positions:
 - B. Election of officers and board members shall be conducted in alternating years: President, **Vice-President of Endorsements**, Secretary, and seven members of the Board shall be elected in odd-numbered years. **Vice-President for Annual Meeting, Vice-President for Fundraising**, Treasurer, and six members of the Board shall be elected in even-numbered years.
 - C. **In the event of a vacancy of the office of President, the Secretary shall convene a meeting of the Board at which the office of President is filled by a current officer or board member in the manner prescribed in Article II(B) of these Bylaws. ...**

3. **Proposed change: Change the name of the Publications Committee to Publications and Communications Committee. Section affected: Bylaws Section V(F).**

Reason: Name of the committee more fully describes the role of the committee. Also added social media communications and communication of endorsement results.

Before Change - Bylaws

- V. Standing Committees:
 - F. Publications Committee:

The Publications Committee is responsible for the preparation and distribution to the members and prospective members of the organization, and to other interested parties, all electronic and printed communications. This includes the maintenance and timely updating of a website, and periodic publication of a newsletter. The publishing schedule of the newsletter shall be set by the Board.

After Change - Bylaws

- V. Standing Committees:
 - F. Publications **and Communications** Committee:

The Publications and Communications Committee is responsible for the preparation and distribution to the members and prospective members of the organization, and to other interested parties, all electronic and printed communications. This includes the maintenance and timely updating of a website, **social media communications**, and periodic publication of newsletter(s) **including endorsement results**. The publishing schedule of the newsletter(s) shall be set by the Board.