

Tab for LHCC Board Meeting 9/08/20

Issue: The Nominating Committee proposes to improve our election process by allowing online voting. Since this is a departure from our normal practice, the Committee seeks Board approval to proceed.

Discussion: LHCC has never attempted online voting, but this year it has come to light that such a method should be an option for our Members in the future. The present Bylaws are silent on this issue, presently limiting voting to “in-person” or by “absentee ballot”; and the ballots have to be “written”. However, the LHCC Board President has sought and received a legal opinion to verify that:

1. “In-person” voting can be virtual rather than physical as long as the membership is given proper notice.
2. A validated and secure electronic voting submission can be considered the equivalent of a “written ballot”.

Therefore, we can proceed without amending the Bylaws.

During the recent years, many online voting options/vendors have emerged, and many Associations are transitioning to this approach for the benefits outlined below. The pandemic has accelerated this trend for obvious reasons. Since the Board can override or make any changes it so desires to PRP 16 (Elections & Voting), it makes sense to craft amendments to PRP 16 after a trial run.

Proposed Solution: The Nominating Committee proposes a phased approach to mitigate risk. The Committee plans to offer a limited number (roughly 20) Members to opt for online voting this year. Taking into account lessons learned, the Committee then intends to propose changes to PRP 16 during the winter so that online voting becomes the norm for LHCC starting in 2021. Provisions will be made to accommodate those who are unable, uncomfortable with, or otherwise not interested in voting online. While the Committee has not selected the vendor yet, it is anticipated that there will be no cost for a trial run this year. For next year, we should budget roughly \$500. This could be offset by choosing to no longer use the paid “Elections Official” (\$1,800 budgeted for 2021 at the present time.)

Benefits: The many benefits from online voting include:

- Safety (Members would not have to leave their homes.)
- Convenience (Members could vote from anywhere using a variety of devices.)
- Member participation in Association governance would increase. (Always a plus)
- Less cost (administrative labor, paper reproduction, mailing costs; voting should no longer require a paid voting administrator or election official.)
- Environmental (less paper)

Recommendation: The Nominating Committee hereby requests approval to proceed with online voting, using a trial run this year at no cost, and to proceed with a goal to make online the norm starting in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

The LHCC Nominating Committee