

Overview of the Proposed Changes

Here is a quick guide to the changes on the proposed revision of the Bylaws. With one exception noted below, the Article numbers reflect the new version. These changes were approved by the requisite two-thirds vote of the Steering Committee, and the Steering Committee recommends their ratification by the membership.

In addition to the changes listed below, some of the language has been modified. We had an attorney with experience in writing bylaws on the rewrite team, and he made numerous technical improvements.

Article I: Name

Changes the order of the two interchangeable names of the organization. Also defines “The Organization” so we don’t have to repeat the names throughout the document.

Article II: Purpose

Drops the paragraph referring to the County and State parties. These references were overly vague and did not belong in “Ideals and Values.”

Article III: Organizational Structure

Replaces Articles III through VI. The major changes are as follows:

Four Steering Committee positions are now “at large”

The proposal unlinks four seats from specific functional positions. Those positions (Registrar, Volunteer Coordinator, Block Walk Coordinator and Phone Bank Coordinator) still exist, and the people in those spots may also be elected as Steering Committee members, but the two roles are no longer automatically linked. Four other positions (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) have very specific legal and fiduciary responsibilities and must be on the Steering Committee, so they are still linked.

The unnecessary linkage has caused confusion and frequent amendment of the Bylaws. New positions arise, and old ones are redefined, combined or even dropped. If these positions are linked to Steering Committee seats, these changes require amendments to the Bylaws.

In addition to Bylaws churn, there should be a way to serve on the Steering Committee without agreeing to extra responsibilities of one of those positions. (For example, we have a vacant Steering Committee seat because no one has stepped up to be Block Walk Coordinator.) And some people who fill those roles have no interest in being on the Steering Committee. (For example, the current Phone Bank

Coordinator is dedicated to electing Democrats but has no compelling interest in the day-to-day issues of the Steering Committee.)

The proposal explains how the vote for the “at large” seats will be conducted, and it adds a way to resolve tie votes.

Allows for expansion of the Steering Committee as new precincts are created

Wimberley’s Democratic precinct chairs have seats on the Steering Committee. Recently, one Wimberley precinct was split into two. The changes provide for the creation of new Steering Committee seats when this happens.

Reordering

Over time, text referring to some topics wound up scattered over several sections. The revisions bring all text relating to a single topic into a contiguous block.

Article IV: Funds and Expenditures

Raises the dollar level that requires two signatures on a check.

Former Article VIII: Communication Policy

The Steering Committee has several written policies that do not rise to the level of being Bylaws. The Communication Policy of the Bylaws will be moved into the Steering Committee’s *External Communications Policy*.

Article V: Amendments to Bylaws

The date of the Annual Meeting is not fixed, but the notification deadline had a fixed date. It now is expressed as “three weeks before the next Annual Meeting.”

Adds time to distribute a second round if there are changes due to comments on the first round.