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**Supported by:** CA NOW and WA State Board, April 23, 2021

**Summary:** Change to Article VII, The National Board Section of the NOW bylaws regarding procedures and standards for elections.

**Rational:** To clarify which State Presidents are eligible to serve on the Nominating Committee for their District, update the language in the NOW Bylaws to reflect the the correct title of NOW State leaders, and clarify the role and duties of both State Presidents and National Board Members in setting up a District Election. It also serves to strengthen the role of the Districts and solidify their role within NOW. NOW Districts need District Bylaws to govern themselves.

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## **ARTICLE VII. THE NATIONAL BOARD**

### **Section 5. Procedures and Standards for Elections**

1. Any NOW member who has been a member in good standing for at least two years immediately prior to the date of election and has held an elected or appointed position in a chapter, state, or the national organization shall be eligible to serve on the National Board. Board members must remain residents of the electoral district from which elected in order to remain on the Board.
2. All National Board members shall be elected at district caucuses held during NOW's annual national conference in even-numbered years or at a district conference held in March, April, or May of even-numbered years. All members of the electoral district in good standing whose dues are received by the national organization or its appropriate subunits at least ninety days prior to the national, district in-person, or online district conference and who are present may vote. Minimum procedures shall be:
3. The National Board members must be elected by a majority of the votes cast. Preferential or cumulative voting is permissible. In preferential voting, Board members must be elected by a majority of preferences counted in the final tally.
4. National Board Member elections shall be preceded by a sixty-day notice posted

on the Members Only section of the National NOW website and notice sent to the member email list.

5. Electronic voting in accordance with procedures adopted by the national Board and approved by the National Conference is permitted, provided that it must be conducted in a secure, affordable, and accessible manner.

6. The procedure for nominating National Board members in the electoral districts shall be the same as that for nominating officers of the national organization. The State ~~Coordinators~~ **Presidents** in each electoral district or their designees shall serve as the nominating committee for that district. **State Presidents who are candidates for the National Board shall not serve on the nominating committee.**

This amendment serves to clarify which State Presidents are eligible to serve on the nominating committee for their District. The amendment also updates the language in the NOW Bylaws to reflect the correct title of NOW State leaders to State "President" instead of State "Coordinator".

**a. Nominations** Nominations for National Board members through a District election shall be submitted to the District Nominating Committee (State Presidents) in writing at least 90 days before the election Conference. Nominations shall not be taken from the floor.

**b.** The members of the Nominating Committee shall designate the chair from among its members.

7. Districts must notify the National Action Center no later than January 1 of an election year that the election will be held at a District Conference. The State ~~Coordinators~~ **Presidents** and National Board members in each district who are not running for election or re-election shall select the site **and date** for a district election conference.

This amendment serves to clarify the role and duties of the State Presidents and National Board Members in setting up a District Election. This amendment also serves to strengthen the role of the Districts.

Section 7. District **Bylaws and** Directors

~~One National Board member from each electoral district may be designated by the district to serve as the District Director of the district.~~

Each District shall draft and adopt District Operating Rules or Bylaws to govern the policies, procedures of the District and duties of the National Board members to the District they represent.

This amendment serves to strengthen and solidify the role of the Districts within NOW. NOW Districts need District Bylaws to govern themselves.