

TO: THE ALA MEMBERSHIP  
 FROM: Dan Montgomery, ALA Executive Director & Secretary of the Council  
 DATE: February 2026  
 RE: **PROPOSED CHANGES TO ALA BYLAWS**

The following amendment to the ALA Bylaws has been approved by ALA Council on January 28, 2026 for referral to the ALA Membership for ratification in accordance with the ALA Bylaws, Articles XVII.

**BYLAWS AMENDEMENT 1 - Clarification of what happens when the position of ALA president-elect is vacated**

**ACTION ITEM: Adopt ALA Bylaws Amendment to Clarify a vacated ALA President-elect Position.**

- Yes
- No

| CURRENT LANGUAGE   | PROPOSED REVISION  | NEW LANGUAGE   |
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| <p><b>Article IV. Officers</b></p> <p><i>Section 3. Elected Officer Vacancies.</i> Upon a vacancy in the office of the president, the president-elect shall assume the office, thereby creating a vacancy in the office of the president-elect. The Executive Board shall fill a vacancy in the office of the president-elect or the treasurer within thirty (30) days of any such vacancy, subject to a confirmation vote by Council.</p> | <p><b>Article IV. Officers</b></p> <p><i>Section 3. Elected Officer Vacancies.</i> Upon a vacancy in: <del>the office of the president, the president-elect shall assume the office, thereby creating a vacancy in the office of the president-elect.</del> The Executive Board shall fill a vacancy in the office of the president-elect or the treasurer within thirty (30) days of any such vacancy, subject to a confirmation vote by Council.</p> <p><u>A. the office of the president, the president-elect shall assume the office of the president to complete the unexpired term;</u></p> <p><u>B. the office of the president-elect, the Executive Board shall fill that office within thirty (30) days of any such vacancy, subject to a confirmation vote by Council; or</u></p> <p><u>C. the office of treasurer, the Executive Board shall fill that office within thirty (30) days of any such vacancy, subject to a confirmation vote by Council.</u></p> | <p><b>Article IV. Officers</b></p> <p><i>Section 3. Elected Officer Vacancies.</i> Upon a vacancy in:</p> <p>A. the office of the president, the president-elect shall assume the office of the president to complete the unexpired term;</p> <p>B. the office of the president-elect, the Executive Board shall fill that office within thirty (30) days of any such vacancy, subject to a confirmation vote by Council; or</p> <p>C. the office of treasurer, the Executive Board shall fill that office within thirty (30) days of any such vacancy, subject to a confirmation vote by Council.</p> |

| CURRENT LANGUAGE   | PROPOSED REVISION  | NEW LANGUAGE  |
|--|--|---|
| <p><b>Article V. Executive Board</b></p> <p><i>Section 3. Executive Board Terms.</i></p> <p>All elected officers and members of the Executive Board shall serve until the adjournment of the annual conference that follows the selection of their successors. The president-elect shall serve the first year after election as president-elect, the second year as president, and the third year as immediate past president.</p> <p>All other members of the Executive Board shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years or until their successors are elected.</p> | <p><b>Article V. Executive Board</b></p> <p><i>Section 3. Executive Board Terms.</i></p> <p>All elected officers and members of the Executive Board shall serve until the adjournment of the annual conference that follows the selection of their successors. The president-elect shall serve the first year after election as president-elect, the second year as president, and the third year as immediate past president, <u>except that:</u></p> <p><u>A. a president-elect who fills a vacancy in the office of president shall complete the unexpired term of their predecessor as president during the first (1<sup>st</sup>) year and shall serve in office as president during the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) year, and shall serve as immediate past president in the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) year; and</u></p> <p><u>B. the person selected to fill the vacancy this creates in the office of the president-elect shall not assume the office of president upon completion of the unexpired president-elect term.</u></p> <p>All other members of the Executive Board shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years or until their successors are elected.</p> | <p><b>Article V. Executive Board</b></p> <p><i>Section 3. Executive Board Terms.</i></p> <p>All elected officers and members of the Executive Board shall serve until the adjournment of the annual conference that follows the selection of their successors. The president-elect shall serve the first year after election as president-elect, the second year as president, and the third year as immediate past president, except that:</p> <p>A. a president-elect who fills a vacancy in the office of president shall complete the unexpired term of their predecessor as president during the first (1<sup>st</sup>) year and shall serve in office as president during the second (2<sup>nd</sup>) year, and shall serve as immediate past president in the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) year; and</p> <p>B. the person selected to fill the vacancy this creates in the office of the president-elect shall not assume the office of president upon completion of the unexpired president-elect term.</p> <p>All other members of the Executive Board shall serve staggered terms of three (3) years or until their successors are elected.</p> |

**Rationale**

The proposed revisions of Articles IV and V do not represent a change in policy but, rather, are intended to make more explicit in the Bylaws current policy occasioned by the fact that, unlike some other institutions, ALA does not elect a president, but a president-elect. As a consequence, what happens when the office of ALA president-elect is vacated depends upon the circumstances under which it is vacated. See Attachment 1 for additional explication.

## **Attachment 1: SUCCESSION SCENARIOS FOR PRESIDENT/PRESIDENT-ELECT**

### The Actors:

PERSON A, President

PERSON B, Elected President-Elect

PERSON C, Appointed President-Elect

PERSON D, Elected President-Elect

### Scenario 1:

PERSON A steps down as President

Then ...

1. PERSON B steps down from their position as the elected President-Elect in order to complete PERSON A's term as President, thereby creating a vacancy in the position of the elected President-Elect.
2. Within 30 days of that vacancy, ALA Executive Board appoints PERSON C *only* to fill and complete the term of the vacant elected President-Elect position. (PERSON C will not subsequently go on to fill the roles of President or Immediate Past President.)
3. While PERSON B is completing PERSON A's term as President, ALA membership elects new President-Elect, PERSON D, in regularly scheduled election.
4. After PERSON B has completed PERSON A's term as President, they take up their own term as President and Person D takes up their term as President-Elect.
5. After PERSON B has completed their own term as President, they become Immediate Past President, and PERSON D becomes President.

### Scenario 2:

PERSON B steps down as sitting Elected President-Elect

Then ...

1. Within 30 days of that vacancy, ALA Executive Board appoints PERSON C to fill and complete the term of the vacant elected President-Elect position.
2. While PERSON A is completing their term as President and PERSON C is completing their term as the appointed President-Elect, ALA membership elects new President-Elect, PERSON D, in regularly scheduled election.
3. After PERSON A has completed their term as President, PERSON C takes up their term as President, PERSON D takes up their term as President-Elect, and PERSON A becomes Immediate Past President.

### Scenario 3<sup>1</sup>:

PERSON B steps down as not-yet sitting Elected President-Elect

Then ... see Scenario 2 above.

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<sup>1</sup> This scenario represents the specific circumstance—in which Ray Pun, a not-yet-sitting Elected President-Elect, resigned his position—that prompted the Bylaws Committee to discuss this set of issues.

## **ALA Councilor Statements**

Per ALA Policy, amendments to the 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).

### **PRO STATEMENT:**

Greetings fellow voting ALA members, my reasoning for voting to approve these amendments to the ALA Bylaws include the following:

1. These proposed revisions do not represent a change in policy, but rather, clarify the Bylaws current policy
2. This update clarifies and includes more detailed next steps if the position of President, President-Elect or Treasurer has been vacated, providing clearer guidance and transparency to membership, Council, the Executive Board, and ALA staff as to the specific procedures that will be taken to fill the vacancy
3. This update clarifies and provides more details as to how filling the aforementioned vacancy impacts the make-up of the Executive Board and the terms of its members providing clearer guidance and transparency to membership, Council, the Executive Board, and ALA staff

I encourage you to join me and vote to approve this Bylaws language update.

– *Candice Mack California Library Association Chapter Councilor*

### **CON STATEMENT:**

My lingering questions/concerns with *CD 25 Motion 1 Bylaws Committee Report* are as follows:

1. What happens if a vacancy (President/Chair Elect or President/Chair) remains vacant for 30 days? 90 days? 120 days? Is an appointment (not an election) still valid?
2. If a vacancy remains unfilled, is an immediate Special Election called? Why? Why not?
3. If only 'elected' officers of Round Tables and Divisions are eligible to run for ALA Executive Board, what is the status of a 'non-elected' appointee? Is this individual eligible to serve on the Executive Board? Why? Why not?
4. To whom would an appointee owe his or her allegiance?
  - a. ALA members (who **did not** elect this individual); or,
  - b. Those making his/her appointment (i.e., President/Chair; board members; etc.)

(As a reminder, a person serving as President/Chair appoints board members, committee chairs, etc. The potential to 'stack' the executive board with like-minded supporters is a real possibility.)

ALA Policy impacts/influences Bylaws/Rules which govern Round Tables and Divisions. If this action fails to address the various concerns raised during Council, more input from ALA members, not a vote by Council, may provide the clarity we need.

As ALA seeks to increase its membership for another 150 years, why not increase opportunities for ALA members to participate in decision-making processes? *Electing* the next ALA President or President-Elect is a terrific way to excite and engage members.

I vote NO for *CD 25 Motion 1 Bylaws Committee Report*.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Pruitt-Annisette, MLS, Ed.D.  
Councilor-at-Large

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 DATE: February 2026  
 RE: **PROPOSED CHANGES TO ALA BYLAWS**

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**BYLAWS AMENDEMENT 2 - Clarification of the distinction between a Session and a Meeting of Council**

**ACTION ITEM: Adopt ALA Bylaws Amendment to Clarify a Session and a Meeting of Council**

- Yes
- No

| CURRENT LANGUAGE   | PROPOSED REVISION  | NEW LANGUAGE   |
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| <p><b>Article V. Executive Board</b></p> <p><i>Section 2. Roles and Responsibilities.</i> The Executive Board shall act for the Council in the administration of established policies and programs, and shall report on its activities at the scheduled Council meeting following any such activity. The Executive Board has fiduciary responsibility for the Association, manages the affairs of the Association, and delegates management of the day-to-day operations to the executive director. The Executive Board shall make recommendations to the Council with respect to matters of policy.</p> | <p><b>Article V. Executive Board</b></p> <p><i>Section 2. Roles and Responsibilities.</i> The Executive Board shall act for the Council in the administration of established policies and programs, and shall report on its activities at the scheduled Council <del>meeting</del> <u>session</u> following any such activity. The Executive Board has fiduciary responsibility for the Association, manages the affairs of the Association, and delegates management of the day-to-day operations to the executive director. The Executive Board shall make recommendations to the Council with respect to matters of policy.</p> | <p><b>Article V. Executive Board</b></p> <p><i>Section 2. Roles and Responsibilities.</i> The Executive Board shall act for the Council in the administration of established policies and programs, and shall report on its activities at the scheduled Council session following any such activity. The Executive Board has fiduciary responsibility for the Association, manages the affairs of the Association, and delegates management of the day-to-day operations to the executive director. The Executive Board shall make recommendations to the Council with respect to matters of policy.</p> |

| CURRENT LANGUAGE   | PROPOSED REVISION   | NEW LANGUAGE   |
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| <p><b>Article VI. Council</b></p> <p><i>Section 5. Council Meetings.</i><br/>The Council shall hold at least two (2) meetings each year, of which one shall be held during the annual conference of the Association and any other(s) shall be designated by the Executive Board or at the call of the president. A majority of the fixed membership of the Council shall constitute a quorum for all meetings.</p> | <p><b>Article VI. Council</b></p> <p><i>Section 5. Council <del>Meetings</del> Sessions.</i> The Council shall <del>hold meet in Session</del> at least two (2) <del>meetings times</del> <u>times</u> each year, of which one <u>Session</u> shall be held during the annual conference of the Association and any other(s) shall be designated by the Executive Board or at the call of the president. <u>A single Council Session shall consist of at least one (1) meeting and all other connected meetings.</u> A majority of the fixed membership of the Council shall constitute a quorum for all such meetings.</p> | <p><b>Article VI. Council</b></p> <p><i>Section 5. Council Sessions.</i> The Council shall meet in Session at least two (2) times each year, of which one Session shall be held during the annual conference of the Association and any other(s) shall be designated by the Executive Board or at the call of the president. A single Council Session shall consist of at least one (1) meeting and all other connected meetings. A majority of the fixed membership of the Council shall constitute a quorum for all such meetings.</p> |

| CURRENT LANGUAGE  | PROPOSED REVISION   | NEW LANGUAGE  |
|---|---|---|
| <p><b>Article IX. Divisions</b></p> <p><i>Section 2. Establishment.</i> The Council may establish a division with a minimum of five hundred (500) members of the Association who are interested in the same field of librarianship upon petition of such a group. Under exceptional circumstances, the Council may admit as divisions groups having fewer than five hundred (500) members. If, in the opinion of the Council, the usefulness of a division has ceased, the Council may dissolve a division by a majority vote at two (2) consecutive Council meetings. A division that is going through the process of discontinuance is entitled to Council representation until it is officially dissolved.</p> | <p><b>Article IX. Divisions</b></p> <p><i>Section 2. Establishment.</i> The Council may establish a division with a minimum of five hundred (500) members of the Association who are interested in the same field of librarianship upon petition of such a group. Under exceptional circumstances, the Council may admit as divisions groups having fewer than five hundred (500) members.</p> <p><u><i>Section 3. Merger.</i> If, in the opinion of the Council, the Association and its members would be better served by merging two or more of its divisions into a new division, the Council may approve such a merger by a majority vote during two (2) consecutive Council sessions at least thirty (30) days apart. Divisions that are going through the process of a merger are entitled to Council representation until the merger is complete.</u></p> <p><u><i>Section 4. Dissolution.</i> If, in the opinion of the Council, the usefulness of a division has ceased, the Council may dissolve a division by a majority vote at two (2) consecutive Council meetings sessions at least thirty (30) days apart.</u> A division that is going through the process of discontinuance is entitled to Council representation until it is officially dissolved.</p> <p><b>Renumber erstwhile Sections 3-5 accordingly.</b></p> | <p><b>Article IX. Divisions</b></p> <p><i>Section 2. Establishment.</i> The Council may establish a division with a minimum of five hundred (500) members of the Association who are interested in the same field of librarianship upon petition of such a group. Under exceptional circumstances, the Council may admit as divisions groups having fewer than five hundred (500) members.</p> <p><i>Section 3. Merger.</i> If, in the opinion of the Council, the Association and its members would be better served by merging two or more of its divisions into a new division, the Council may approve such a merger by a majority vote during two (2) consecutive Council sessions at least thirty (30) days apart. Divisions that are going through the process of a merger are entitled to Council representation until the merger is complete.</p> <p><i>Section 4. Dissolution.</i> If, in the opinion of the Council, the usefulness of a division has ceased, the Council may dissolve a division by a majority vote during two (2) consecutive Council sessions at least thirty (30) days apart. A division that is going through the process of dissolution is entitled to Council representation until it is officially dissolved.</p> <p><b>Renumber erstwhile Sections 3-5 accordingly.</b></p> |

| CURRENT LANGUAGE  | PROPOSED REVISION   | NEW LANGUAGE   |
|---|---|--|
| <p><b>Article X. Round Tables</b></p> <p><i>Section 2. Establishment.</i> The Council may authorize a round table of any group with a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) members of the Association who are interested in a specific area of library interest or field of librarianship not within the scope of any division, upon petition of such group, which shall include a statement of purpose. Each round table shall maintain at least one hundred fifty (150) round table members, which is calculated at the end of the Association fiscal year. Should a round table's membership count fall below one hundred fifty (150), the Committee on Organization shall present that round table with options to convert into or merge with another unit of the Association, or be dissolved. Based on the affected round table's determined action, the Committee on Organization shall bring the action to the Council for a vote. The Council may dissolve a round table by a majority vote at two (2) consecutive meetings. A round table that is entitled to a councilor and is going through the process of dissolution is entitled to Council representation until it is officially dissolved.</p> | <p><b>Article X. Round Tables</b></p> <p><i>Section 2. Establishment.</i> The Council may authorize a round table of any group with a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) members of the Association who are interested in a specific area of library interest or field of librarianship not within the scope of any division, upon petition of such group, which shall include a statement of purpose. Each round table shall maintain at least one hundred fifty (150) round table members, which is calculated at the end of the Association fiscal year. Should a round table's membership count fall below one hundred fifty (150), the Committee on Organization shall present that round table with options to convert into or merge with another unit of the Association, or be dissolved. Based on the affected round table's determined action, the Committee on Organization shall bring the action to the Council for a vote.</p> <p><u><i>Section 3. Merger.</i> If, in the opinion of the Council, the Association and its members would be better served by merging two or more of its round tables into a new round table, the Council may approve such a merger by a majority vote during two (2) consecutive Council sessions at least thirty (30) days apart. Round tables that are entitled to councilors and are going through the process of a merger are entitled to Council representation until the merger is complete.</u></p> | <p><b>Article X. Round Tables</b></p> <p><i>Section 2. Establishment.</i> The Council may authorize a round table of any group with a minimum of one hundred fifty (150) members of the Association who are interested in a specific area of library interest or field of librarianship not within the scope of any division, upon petition of such group, which shall include a statement of purpose. Each round table shall maintain at least one hundred fifty (150) round table members, which is calculated at the end of the Association fiscal year. Should a round table's membership count fall below one hundred fifty (150), the Committee on Organization shall present that round table with options to convert into or merge with another unit of the Association, or be dissolved. Based on the affected round table's determined action, the Committee on Organization shall bring the action to the Council for a vote.</p> <p><i>Section 3. Merger.</i> If, in the opinion of the Council, the Association and its members would be better served by merging two or more of its round tables into a new round table, the Council may approve such a merger by a majority vote during two (2) consecutive Council sessions at least thirty (30) days apart. Round tables that are entitled to councilors and are going through the process of a merger are entitled to Council representation until the merger is complete.</p> |

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|  | <p><u>Section 4. Dissolution. If, in the opinion of the Council, the usefulness of a round table has ceased, the Council may dissolve a round table by a majority vote during <del>at</del> two (2) consecutive <del>meetings</del> Council sessions at least thirty (30) days apart.</u> A round table that is entitled to a councilor and is going through the process of dissolution is entitled to Council representation until it is officially dissolved.</p> <p><b>Renumber erstwhile Section 3 accordingly.</b></p> | <p><i>Section 4. Dissolution.</i> If, in the opinion of the Council, the usefulness of a round table has ceased, the Council may dissolve a round table by a majority vote during two (2) consecutive Council sessions at least thirty (30) days apart. A round table that is entitled to a councilor and that is going through the process of dissolution is entitled to Council representation until it is officially dissolved.</p> <p><b>Renumber erstwhile Section 3 accordingly.</b></p> |
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| CURRENT LANGUAGE   | PROPOSED REVISION  | NEW LANGUAGE  |
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| <p><b>Article XVII. Amendments</b></p> <p>Section 1. Amendments. All proposals for amending the Bylaws shall originate in the Council. An adopted amendment shall become effective when it has been approved by a majority of the members of the Council present and voting at a meeting of the Council of which a quorum is present, followed by ratification by the members of the Association. The Council, on approving a proposed amendment, shall direct the executive director to place the amendment on the annual ballot, for ratification by the membership.</p> | <p><b>Article XVII. Amendments</b></p> <p><i>Section 1. Amendments.</i> All proposals for amending the Bylaws shall originate in the Council. An adopted amendment shall become effective when it has been approved by a majority of the members of the Council present and voting at a <u>meeting session</u> of the Council of which a quorum is present, followed by ratification by the members of the Association. The Council, on approving a proposed amendment, shall direct the executive director to place the amendment on the annual ballot, for ratification by the membership.</p> | <p><b>Article XVII. Amendments</b></p> <p><i>Section 1. Amendments.</i> All proposals for amending the Bylaws shall originate in the Council. An adopted amendment shall become effective when it has been approved by a majority of the members of the Council present and voting at a session of the Council of which a quorum is present, followed by ratification by the members of the Association. The Council, on approving a proposed amendment, shall direct the executive director to place the amendment on the annual ballot, for ratification by the membership.</p> |

**Rationale**

There has been confusion for some time now as to what constitutes a Council Session as opposed to a Council Meeting, and which is superordinate to the other. This confusion has substantive consequences when substantive Council actions are being contemplated, like mergers or dissolutions of Divisions or Round Tables. The proposed revisions are intended to codify in the Bylaws what constitutes a Council Session as opposed to a Council Meeting, which is superordinate to the other, and when “Session” is the preferable term.

### **ALA Councilor Statements**

Per ALA Policy, amendments to the 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). **However, the motion passed with no dissenting votes from Council – no statements to be provided.**

TO: THE ALA MEMBERSHIP  
 FROM: Dan Montgomery, ALA Executive Director & Secretary of the Council  
 DATE: February 2026  
 RE: **PROPOSED CHANGES TO ALA BYLAWS**

The following amendment to the ALA Bylaws has been approved by ALA Council on January 28, 2026 for referral to the ALA Membership for ratification in accordance with the ALA Bylaws, Articles XVII.

**BYLAWS AMENDMENT 3 - Election of At-Large Members to the ALA Executive Board.**

**ACTION ITEM: Adopt ALA Bylaws Amendment to Elect At-Large Members to the ALA Executive Board**

- Yes
- No

| CURRENT LANGUAGE   | PROPOSED REVISION   | NEW LANGUAGE   |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Article V. Executive Board</b></p> <p><i>Section 1. Composition.</i> The Executive Board of the American Library Association shall consist of thirteen (13) members including: the four (4) officers of the Association, the immediate past president, and eight (8) councilors elected by Council to three-year (3-year).</p> <p>All Executive Board members must be active members of the American Library Association. Executive Board members elected by Council must be current Councilors and, as appropriate, current members of the division, round table, chapter, or association from which they are elected or appointed.</p> | <p><b>Article V. Executive Board</b></p> <p><i>Section 1. Composition.</i> The Executive Board of the American Library Association shall consist of thirteen (13) members including: the four (4) officers of the Association, the immediate past president, and eight (8) <del>councilors</del> <u>Association personal members</u> elected by Council to three-year (3-year) <u>terms</u>.</p> <p>All Executive Board members must be active members of the American Library Association. Executive Board members elected by Council <u>shall be limited to</u> <del>must be current Councilors</del> <u>members who are serving on or who have served on Council, or in an elected leadership position of either an Association Division or an Association Round Table, or as a chair of a Standing Committee of the Association within the past five (5) years of their nomination.</u> <del>and, as appropriate, current members of the division, round table, chapter, or association from which they are elected or appointed.</del></p> | <p><b>Article V. Executive Board</b></p> <p><i>Section 1. Composition.</i> The Executive Board of the American Library Association shall consist of thirteen (13) members including: the four (4) officers of the Association, the immediate past president, and eight (8) Association personal members elected by Council to three-year (3-year) terms.</p> <p>All Executive Board members must be active members of the American Library Association. Executive Board members elected by Council shall be limited to members who are serving on or who have served on Council, or in an elected leadership position of either an Association Division or an Association Round Table, or as a chair of a Standing Committee of the Association within five (5) years of their nomination.</p> |

| CURRENT LANGUAGE  | PROPOSED REVISION   | NEW LANGUAGE   |
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| <p><b>Article XIV. Elections</b></p> <p><i>Section 1. Nominating Committee.</i> Prior to each annual conference of the Association, the Executive Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for elective positions. The Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates from among the personal membership for the position of president-elect; for the position of treasurer; and for members at-large of the Council including any vacant member at-large positions. No member of the Executive Board shall serve on the Nominating Committee.</p> | <p><b>Article XIV. Elections</b></p> <p><i>Section 1. Nominating Committee.</i> Prior to each annual conference of the Association, the Executive Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for elective positions. The Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates from among the personal membership for the position of president-elect; for the position of treasurer; and for members at-large of the Council including any vacant member at-large positions. <u>The Nominating Committee shall also nominate candidates for at-large positions on the Executive Board of the Association from among the personal membership who serve on or who have served on Council, or in an elected leadership position of either an Association Division or an Association Round Table, or as a chair of a Standing Committee of the Association within five (5) years of their nomination.</u></p> <p>No member of the Executive Board shall serve on the Nominating Committee.</p> | <p><b>Article XIV. Elections</b></p> <p><i>Section 1. Nominating Committee.</i> Prior to each annual conference of the Association, the Executive Board shall appoint a Nominating Committee to nominate candidates for elective positions. The Nominating Committee shall nominate candidates from among the personal membership for the position of president-elect; for the position of treasurer; and for members at-large of the Council including any vacant member at-large positions. The Nominating Committee shall also nominate candidates for at-large positions on the Executive Board of the Association from among the personal membership who serve on or who have served on Council, or in an elected leadership position of either an Association Division or an Association Round Table, or as a chair of a Standing Committee of the Association within five (5) years of their nomination.</p> <p>No member of the Executive Board shall serve on the Nominating Committee.</p> |

| CURRENT LANGUAGE  | PROPOSED REVISION  | NEW LANGUAGE   |
|---|--|--|
| <p><b>Article XIV. Elections</b></p> <p><i>Section 5. Committee on Committees.</i> There shall be a Committee on Committees composed of four (4) councilors elected for one-year terms by the Council. The president-elect shall be the fifth member of this committee and its chair. The four (4) elected members of the Committee on Committees shall be elected by ballot of the councilors present and voting at the annual conference. Additional nominations for the Committee on Committees may be made by councilors from the floor. The Committee on Committees shall nominate annually from among the current members of the Council candidates for nomination to the Executive Board to serve three-year terms. Upon election to the Executive Board, members shall continue to serve as councilors for the duration of their terms.</p> | <p><b>Article XIV. Elections</b></p> <p><del><i>Section 5. Committee on Committees.</i> There shall be a Committee on Committees composed of four (4) councilors elected for one-year terms by the Council. The president-elect shall be the fifth member of this committee and its chair. The four (4) elected members of the Committee on Committees shall be elected by ballot of the councilors present and voting at the annual conference. Additional nominations for the Committee on Committees may be made by councilors from the floor. The Committee on Committees shall nominate annually from among the current members of the Council candidates for nomination to the Executive Board to serve three-year terms. Upon election to the Executive Board, members shall continue to serve as councilors for the duration of their terms.</del></p> | <p><b>Article XIV. Elections</b></p> <p><del>Section 5.</del> <i>Committee on Committees.</i></p> <p><b>RENUMBER</b> <i>Section 6</i> accordingly.</p> |

**Rationale**

The proposed revisions reflect the changes approved by Council in CD34, Motion 1 amended as amended and Motion 2 (see below) at its meeting on January 21, 2026.

**CD #34 Motion 1 amended as amended**

Recommends that the ALA Council direct the ALA Bylaws Committee, the ALA Committee on Organization, and the ALA Policy Monitoring Committee to take the necessary actions to develop and present this board eligibility\* change for Council approval no later than June 2026.

*\*Eligibility: ALA Executive Board Eligibility shall be limited to members who served on ALA Council, or in an elected ALA Division or ALA Round Table leadership positions, or as a chair of a Standing Committee of the Association within the past five (5) years of nomination.*

**CD #34 Motion 2**

Recommends to the ALA Council to direct the ALA Bylaws Committee, the ALA Committee on Organization, and the ALA Policy Monitoring Committee to advance the Committee Recommendations [as outlined in EBD 10.4](#).

## **ALA Councilor Statements**

Per ALA Policy, amendments to the 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).

### **PRO STATEMENT:**

A strong ALA Executive Board requires dedicated member-volunteers who understand the scope of opportunity and risk for the association, demonstrate commitment to the field's core values, and who represent the rich diversity of the communities we serve. The proposed bylaws change expands eligibility for a board seat to include leaders from divisions, roundtables, and member-led committees. This change will allow the ALA Council, the democratically-elected representative policymaking body of ALA, to select the best candidates for the Executive Board from both the Council and the expanded rosters of leaders from across ALA. By moving the nominations process to the Nominating Committee, this bylaws revision ensures that ALA leaders are broadly considered for candidacy by the same group of people engaged with selecting candidates for all other association-wide elected positions including President-Elect Treasurer, and the Council itself. This revision will increase access to decision-making roles within ALA while ensuring that members can select from a robust field of candidates from a range of experiences for Executive Board positions.

*- Emily Drabinski, ALA Councilor at Large*

### **CON STATEMENT:**

No statement was submitted by the Councilors who voted in the negative.