By-Law Amendment 2

Proposed By-Law Amendment: Voting Method

Member Board/Committee Proposing Amendment: Oregon Board of Massage Therapists

Article V. Meetings

Section 4. Voting and Elections.

A. A Member Board is entitled to be represented by a single vote on each issue put to a vote before the Delegate Assembly. Member Boards shall vest the right to vote in their Delegate or Delegate Pro Tempore.

B. There shall be no proxy or absentee voting at the Annual Meeting or any special meeting of the Delegate Assembly.

C. Elections shall be conducted by ballot at the Annual Meeting:

1. Directors ~~and Nominating Committee members~~ shall be elected by ~~a majority vote~~ of the Delegate Assembly using a single round of range voting.

a. Each vote consists of a numerical score within a range of 0 to 9 for each candidate. All candidates must be rated. A selection left blank shall be counted as a 0.

b. Candidates shall then be ranked according to their arithmetic mean scores.

c. If there is a tie exceeding the number of equal positions, the candidates for those positions shall be ranked via a "Votes Exceeding Arithmetic Mean" (VEAM) method.

1. Each tied candidate receives one point for each vote above the arithmetic mean score for the tied candidates. Ratings at or below the arithmetic mean receive zero points.

2. The tied candidates shall be ranked based on the VEAM scores.

d. If there is still a tie after VEAM ranking, the final ranking shall be decided via a random ordering of the still tied candidates.

e. Positions with the longest term length shall be assigned first in order according to the highest ranked candidates.

2. Nominating Committee Members shall be elected by the same method as Directors.

3. Officers shall be elected by the Board of Directors immediately after the Annual Meeting.

~~3. If a candidate does not receive a majority vote on the first ballot, reballoting shall be limited to the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes for that position.~~

Article VIII. Committees

Section 2. Nominating Committee.

There shall be three (3) members on the Nominating Committee. All members shall be elected at the Annual Delegate Assembly of the Association ~~by a plurality of votes~~, either from nominations submitted by the Nominating Committee or by nominations from the floor. A candidate for the Nominating Committee must be a Delegate or Alternate Delegate, a current member of a Member Board or the chief administrative officer of a member board.

The elected members of the Nominating Committee shall have attended at least one (1) Delegate Assembly meeting prior to nomination. All members shall serve a one year term.

Rationale:

Elections for FSMTB Director and Nominating Committee positions have been done using standard majority/ plurality voting method (also called "First Past the Post"). This style of voting, while simple, has many drawbacks to it – including issues such as strategic voting – rather than feeling able to vote for the candidates one would like to support.

Another issue has been that the voting at the Annual Meeting has also often required multiple rounds to determine the winners. This has the unfortunate side effect of taking a lot of time which the Delegate Assembly could use more meaningfully. Therefore, switching to a range voting method can solve many of these problems as well as allowing multiple winners to be selected from a single round of voting, including ways to decide ties.

While range voting may seem more complex than standard plurality voting, it creates an opportunity for more sound elections. Delegates can vote to express their individual preferences for each and every candidate, as well as how much more they prefer one candidate over another. The method also helps make the highest number of voters the happiest. The calculations are actually simple and easy to understand, and could be accomplished with a simple spreadsheet.

However, since there is math involved rather than just a vote count, the possibility of ties does exist. This is why the VEAM method is applied in that case. This tie-breaking method follows many of the same principles as the range voting method, and it uses the same voting data from the original round of voting, saving precious meeting time. There is still a mathematical chance for a tie to happen after these two rounds of calculations. However, for this to happen, the overall preferences for those doubly-tied candidates would have to be very similar, and a random ordering would provide a definitive ranking. A random ordering might at first seem less democratic than having another round of voting, but if the candidates have equal ranking after two rounds of mathematical sorting, it could be surmised that the Assembly's preferences for them are essentially equal.

Also, the current By-Laws do not the cover the situation of a tie once the voting is reduced down to two candidates.

Additional information about the voting method can be found at: http://www.rangevoting.org/

Proposed Range Voting Election

Sample Range Voting Election with 5 Candidates for 3 Positions (two 3 year terms and one 1 year term)

Votes	Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C	Candidate D	Candidate E	Spreadsheet Function
	9	8	1	5	3	
	5	7	4	2	6	
	1	8	4	5	8	
	5	6	8	2	8	
	9	9	4	7	2	
	5	7	2	6	2	
	4	5	7	5	6	
	3	5	7	3	6	
	4	4	6	2	2	
	9	0	9	5	8	
	2	4	2	4	6	
	8	7	9	6	9	
	7	6	4	7	5	
	6	7	3	2	3	
	3	6	8	3	4	
	3	6	7	4	7	
	4	7	3	7	6	
	6	5	6	9	3	
Mean	5.055555556	6.222222222	5.055555556	4.611111111	5.055555556	=AVERAGE(B2:B19)
Mean Rank	2	1	2	5	2	=RANK(B21,$B$21:$D$21)

Candidate B has the highest mean rank so they win one of the 3 year terms. Candidates A, C, and E tied, so they have to go the VEAM method.

	Candidate A	Candidate B	Candidate C	Candidate D	Candidate E	Spreadsheet Function
VEAM	7		9		9	=COUNTIF(B2:B19,">"&B21)
VEAM Rank	3		1		1	=RANK(B28,$B$28:$F$28)

Candidates C and E have a tied VEAM rank, so they win the last two terms. A had the lowest rank and does not win a term. To decide which one of C and E get the 3 year versus the 1 year term, a random event would be used (coin toss, multi-sided die, random number generator, etc.). We'll say E won the coin toss, so they get the second 3 year term, and C gets the 1 year term.