

Amendment 5_Constitution

One member, one vote

Constitution, Article VII: Elections

Section 1. AFT-Wisconsin Executive Board members shall be elected every two years, with elections occurring no more than thirty (30) days after the Convention. A call for nomination of officers shall be made six (6) months prior to Convention by notice to all locals and to all members at large. Elections may also take place as needed to fill vacant seats on the Executive Board.

Section 2. ~~Voting for officers of the State Federation shall be by roll call vote, under the rules in force for such votes.~~ Executive Board members of AFT-Wisconsin shall be elected by the members of their constituency, with each member having one vote. The President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by the full membership of AFT-Wisconsin with each member having one vote. The Council Vice Presidents shall be elected by the members of their council. The Regional Vice Presidents shall be elected by the members of their region.

Section 3. The President, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by a majority of all votes cast. The council Vice Presidents shall be elected by a majority of all votes cast by their respective councils. The three (3) Regional Vice Presidents shall be elected by a majority of all votes cast by their respective regions. In the event that no candidate for President, Secretary, Treasurer, or Vice President representing a council or region receives a majority of votes cast on the first ballot, a runoff election shall be held ~~immediately following the count,~~ within thirty (30) days following the count between the two candidates receiving the highest number of votes for that office.

Submitted by: Katherine Charek Briggs, UFAS, Local 223

With legal counsel raising concern, the AFT-Wisconsin Executive Board will wait for further analysis before making a recommendation.

<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopted as Amended
<input type="checkbox"/> Defeated

Rationale

This amendment would change the method of electing AFT-W Executive Board members from delegates electing them at the biennial convention to members electing them directly. This will increase the democratic accountability of our leaders to our members. Serving as a delegate is a significant time commitment and can be intimidating to rank-and-file members. As a result, most locals do not send their full complement of delegates, and many do not send any delegates. The delegates who are present at convention are therefore not necessarily reflective of the full membership of AFT-W. Giving every member of AFT-W the ability to cast a vote for who will represent them on the Executive Board is a more democratic method of selecting organizational leadership.