

AGMA

AMERICAN GUILD *of* MUSICAL ARTISTS

AGMA's Constitutional Referendum

Timeline and Process

Fall 2019: A Constitutional Working Group (CWG) made up of Board of Governors members began work on changes to the Constitution. Every member of the Administration and Policy Committee was offered the opportunity to participate. The CWG consisted of those members who volunteered along with AGMA's President. The Administrative and Policy Committee reported this work to the Board in December 2019, March 2020, and June 2020.

- The group included AGMA members who have worked as soloists, choristers, stage managers, and stage directors, representing several different geographic areas.
- As part of that process, the group asked themselves and their fellow members: *what works about our Constitution? What doesn't work? What can work better?*

Winter 2019: The CWG asked the National Executive Director and staff to do a legal review of the Constitution, to spot any potential issues that should be fixed as part of this process.

Spring 2020: The CWG reviewed staff comments and created its proposed list of changes.

June 2020: The CWG sent its list of proposed changes to staff and AGMA's outside counsel for legal review and drafting assistance.

July 2020: AGMA received a set of proposed Amendments to the current Constitution, signed by approximately 60 AGMA members.

Knowing that the CWG was working on a revision to the Constitution, and not wanting to incur the expense and risk

substantial confusion by conducting two constitutional referenda in the same year, the Board of Governors referred the “Petition Amendments” to a Joint Committee of the Executive Council and the Administration and Policy Committee (the “Joint Committee”) to consider the best way for AGMA’s members to consider both sets of proposed changes to the AGMA Constitution. Note: The Joint Committee is comprised of nearly 1/3 of the Board of Governors, representing every Employment Category and most geographic Areas.

- August 2020:** The CWG met regularly with staff and outside legal counsel to finalize a proposed Revision to AGMA’s Constitution, to be considered by the Joint Committee.
- September 2020:** The Revision was sent to the Joint Committee for its consideration.
- The Joint Committee spent hours debating each Article and Section of the Revision, and offering changes where appropriate. On September 29, the Joint Committee approved the Revision and recommended it to the full Board of Governors.
- October 2020:** During the week of October 19, every Standing Committee of the Board of Governors reviewed the proposed Revision and recommended that it be adopted and recommended by the Board of Governors.
- On October 26 and 28, the Board of Governors met to debate the Revision. Throughout this process, the Board discussed every Article—for nearly nine hours in total—and made several important amendments to the Revision, which greatly improved the final document.
- After debate, on October 28, the Board of Governors approved the Revision and voted overwhelmingly to recommend it to AGMA’s membership for approval. At the same time, the Board determined to send both the Revision and the Petition Amendments out for consideration by AGMA’s membership as part of a single Constitutional Referendum.
- The Board also approved the use of an outside vendor, Global Election Services, to conduct the Referendum.
- November 16:** AGMA’s Constitutional Referendum begins.

Every AGMA member in good standing—including anyone who is current on a payment plan to pay their initiation fee will receive a ballot. Members for whom AGMA has a valid email address will receive an electronic ballot; everyone else will receive a paper ballot through the mail. AGMA members who would prefer a paper ballot will be able to request one from our vendor.

On this ballot, members will have a choice to vote for the “Board of Governors Revision”, the “Petition Amendments,” or for neither set of changes. If either the Board Revisions or the Petition Amendments receive a majority of the vote, they will go into effect.

Members will have 31 days to return their ballots from November 16.

December 17: The deadline for receipt of all electronic or paper ballots.

December 18: The votes will be counted and the result will be announced to AGMA’s membership.