

June 2024-H

Amendment to the Constitution and Bylaws for the Election of Regional Trustees and Trustees-at-Large by MDS Members of the Region

Resolution No. -24

Submitted by: Metropolitan District

Financial Implication: None

Whereas, the Massachusetts Dental Society (MDS) is committed to fostering a democratic and participatory governance structure;

Whereas, it is essential for the MDS members to have a direct role in electing their Regional Trustees and Trustees-at-Large to ensure that their representatives are truly reflective of their interests and concerns;

Whereas, a transparent and fair election process will enhance accountability and strengthen the relationship between the Trustees and the members they serve;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the delegates of the Massachusetts Dental Society hereby adopt the following policy for the election of Regional Trustees and Trustees-at-Large:

- 1. Eligibility for Candidacy:**
 - Any MDS member in good standing within the respective region shall be eligible to run for the position of Regional Trustee or Trustee-at-Large.
 - Candidates must submit their intention to run and any required supporting documents by a specified deadline prior to the election.
- 2. Nomination Process:**
 - A regional nomination committee shall be established to oversee the nomination process, ensuring that it is conducted fairly and transparently.
 - Members may nominate themselves or be nominated by other members within the region.
- 3. Election Procedure:**
 - Elections for Regional Trustees and Trustees-at-Large shall be held on an annual basis during the designated election period.
 - All MDS members within the respective region shall be eligible to vote in the election.
 - Voting shall be conducted by secret ballot, either electronically or by email, ensuring accessibility and confidentiality for all members.
- 4. Campaign Guidelines:**
 - Candidates shall be permitted to campaign within established guidelines to ensure a fair and respectful election process.
 - The MDS shall provide a platform for candidates to present their qualifications and vision to the members, such as through a candidate forum or publication in the MDS newsletter.
- 5. Vote Counting and Results:**
 - An independent regional election committee shall be appointed to oversee the vote counting process and certify the election results.
 - The candidate receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared the winner for the respective position.
 - Election results shall be announced to all MDS members promptly after the votes have been tallied and certified.
- 6. Term of Office:**
 - Elected Regional Trustees and Trustees-at-Large shall serve a term of 2 years, with the possibility of re-election as per the MDS bylaws of an additional term of 2 years..

- Any vacancies that arise during the term shall be filled in accordance with the MDS bylaws and procedures.
- 7. **Amendment to Bylaws:**
 - The MDS bylaws shall be amended to incorporate this election procedure, ensuring that the policy is formally integrated into the governance structure of the Society.

Implementation: This resolution shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the delegates of the Massachusetts Dental Society.

Board Recommendation: The Board has not reviewed this item.