



DC 37 Retirees Association Constitutional Changes and Amendments

SUMMARY

Below, please find a summary of changes and amendments to the DC 37 Retirees Association constitution as proposed by the Association's Policy and Governance Committee.

- These changes were read and discussed at a special membership meeting on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.
- There will be an additional special membership meeting on **Wednesday, May 27, 2026 at 10:00am ET for members to vote on the amended constitution.** The meeting will be held by phone ONLY. **To join, dial: 1-855-269-4484**
- The entire document can be found at www.dc37retirees.org/amend. On that website, you will find:
 - The Association's current constitution
 - An amended version of the constitution that shows every change
 - The new constitution, in full, as proposed
- If you do not have access to a computer or internet to review the full documents, please call the Association office at 212-815-1781 for assistance.

Article I - Name

- No Changes

Article II - Purpose and Methods

- No Changes

Article III - Membership

- No Changes

Article IV - Dues and Assessments

- **Section 1.** No change to the amount of the \$3.00 monthly or \$36 annual dues.
- **Section 2.** Language updated to include that dues can now be paid via credit card.
- **Section 3.** New language: dues cannot be paid in arrears.

Article V - Meetings of the Membership

- **Section 1.** Reinforces that membership meetings are the highest governing body of the Association.
- **Section 2.** Changed required number of membership meetings from 9 times a year to at least 6 times a year. At least one meeting will be held in each calendar quarter. Special meeting language to say that they can be called by the president, executive board or by a petition of 15 percent of the membership.

- **Section 3.** Added language that virtual participation options for membership meetings be offered when possible and updated quorum from 50 members to 80 members. Added additional language that minutes and financial reports from meetings are posted on the Association website.
- *Moved Section 6 from original constitution referring to policies for virtual meetings to Article X, Section 5 so it now pertains to all meetings of the Association, not just membership meetings.*
- **Section 4.** Updated Roberts Rules section to be consistent with AFSCME standards, removed special rules for membership meetings, added authority to the executive board to recommend rules for meetings for membership approval.

Article VI - Discipline *(from original constitution)*

- This entire article, which spelled out an internal discipline process for members, was removed. It was replaced with Article X, Section 6, which states that members may instead avail themselves of the International Union Judicial Panel process.

Article VI - Nominations and Elections

- **Section 1.** The Officers of the Association were changed: president, executive vice president, secretary-treasurer and recording secretary, associate secretary-treasurer and associate recording secretary remain the same. The 7 vice presidents and 7 associate vice presidents based on issue areas were eliminated. They were replaced by 10+ vice presidents based on geographic representation.
- **Section 2.** Spells out the geographic regions that the vice presidents will represent and be elected from - one from each of the five boroughs, one from Long Island, one from New York state outside of the 5 boroughs and Long Island, one from any other state with more than 1,000 members (currently New Jersey and Florida) and one from outside the areas already represented. Members elected to these positions must reside and have an address on file with the Association in that geographic area. It requires the secretary-treasurer to publish the membership counts for qualifying geographic regions at least 30 days prior to the nominations meeting. States that if a vice president moves out of their region and more than half of their term remains that the seat will be declared vacant and will be filled according to Section 6 of this Article - by vote of the executive board.
- **Section 3.** Terms remain for 3 years.
- **Section 4.** Changed nominations timeline in election years from April to March. Creates an exception for the election to be held in 2026 where nominations will be held in June. Eliminates nomination language around subchapters. Clarifies that the president appoints an election committee 30 days prior to the nominations meeting and clarifies that the election committee members cannot run for office or participate in campaign activities.
 - a. Clarifies that the election committee shall post the election rules to the Association website.
 - c. Adds language stating that nominations will be accepted by the election committee at the nominations meeting as well as via email or hand-delivered to the office up to one hour before the announced start of the meeting.
 - e. Clarifies existing language about not being able to run for office if you are an officer or employee of a competing union or retiree organization.
 - f. Section added to state that employees may not run for office.
 - h. Clarifies, consistent with the Retiree Election Code, that any challenges to eligibility must be decided by the election committee and voted on by the membership at the nominations meeting.
 - i. Updates timing of an election (if necessary) to be consistent with Article VI,

Section 4 - ballots should be mailed in April not less than 3 weeks after the nominations meeting to members in good standing as of the end of March of an election year. Except in the election (if necessary) to be held in 2026, ballots will be mailed in July to members in good standing as of the end of May.

- k. States that the geographic vice presidents are to be elected by members from the geographic area they represent.
- m. Clarifies, consistent with the Retiree Election Code, that if a ballot election is held, a membership meeting be held within 7 days of the certification of results so the members can vote on the election report.
- n. Clarifies that if an election protest is filed, a membership meeting shall be held within 30 days of its filing for the membership to vote on the election committee's recommendation.
- o. Section added to clarify a member's right to appeal a protest decision to the International Judicial Panel consistent with the Retiree Election Code.
- r. and s. Original sections that called for appeals to election protest decisions to be handled by the Association executive board were removed as was stipulation that further appeals be sent to the International Executive Board for which no such process exists.
- **Section 5.** Clarifies that no funds of the Association be used for officer election campaign purposes.
- **Section 6.** Simplifies language around filling vacancies by majority vote of the executive board.

Article VII - Duties of Executive Board and Officers

- **Section 2.** Language added to stipulate that a majority of the members constitutes a quorum for the executive board as well as that a summary of executive board minutes will be posted to the Association website.
 - d. Addition of language to state that the executive board sets stipend amounts for the executive board.
 - f. Addition of language to state that the executive board will respond to member information and record requests and the requesting member bear any significant cost involved.
- **Section 3. President.** Addition of parliamentary presidential appointments. Removes automatic delegate language, which is now covered in Article VIII, Section 2.
- **Section 4. Executive Vice President.** Removes automatic delegate language, which is now covered in Article VIII, Section 2.
- **Section 5. Secretary-Treasurer.** Duties revised to include making reports to every executive board and membership meeting and overseeing staff and processes for receipt and deposit of all monies, preparation of checks and electronic payment, preparation of membership reports and per capita tax payments, preparation and submission of required International Union and IRS reporting and submission of accounts for audit. Removes automatic delegate language, which is now covered in Article VIII, Section 2.
- **Section 6. Recording Secretary.** Adds language that records be maintained in accordance with the AFSCME Financial Standards Code and that minutes and financial reports from membership meetings be posted to the Association website. Removes automatic delegate language, which is now covered in Article VIII, Section 2.
- *Removes original Sections 6 and 7 regarding Vice Presidents chairing committees and designating subchapter chairs as executive board members.*
- **Sections 7 and 8.** Additional sections added for Associate Secretary-Treasurer and Associate Recording Secretary stating they will act as their respective position if the elected officer is unable.

- **Section 9. Vice-Presidents.** States duties of geographic vice presidents as serving as a representative of the Association for the area they are elected from. They will assist with organizing and mobilization activities in their area and report back to the executive on activities from their area.
- **Section 11.** Simplifies language for executive board unexcused absences from executive board meeting – after 3 the board can deem the seat vacant.

Article VIII - Designation of Representatives to AFSCME Conventions and Council

(Article VIII is the former Article XII – moved up and amended)

- **Section 1.** Executive board ranking changed to reflect the new executive board structure.
- **Section 5.** Added language regarding the DC 37 Delegates Council retiree delegate appointments. All executive board members will be automatic delegates, and any additional delegates will be appointed by the president with the approval of the executive board.

Article IX - Finances

- *Entire Article was replaced with new language.*
- **Section 1.** States that the Secretary-Treasurers ensure prompt submission of accounts for audit and that the audit report be published on the website. Also states that the fiscal year is the calendar year.
- **Section 2.** Clarifies that check signers are the president, executive vice president, secretary-treasurer and associate treasurer.
- **Section 3.** States that the president and secretary-treasurer shall prepare and the executive board shall approve a budget each year. The budget will serve as a tool for approval of routine expenses; officers are authorized to spend up to the budgeted amount for each line item. Additional executive board approval is required if expenses go beyond the budget, if line items are reallocated, for large purchases, and for conferences and conventions and contributions.

Article X - Subchapters *(from original constitution)*

- *This article was eliminated entirely, and geographic representation is now covered by the geographic vice presidents. Nothing in the constitution prohibits the executive board, at its discretion, to hold meetings in any geographic area.*

Article X - Amendments and Miscellaneous Provisions

- **Section 2.** International Constitution. Added standard language that the Association is always subject to the International Constitution.
- **Section 3. Authorization Necessary to Represent the Association**
Added standard language that members cannot act on behalf of the Association without authorization of the president and/or executive board.
- **Section 4.** Rules of Order. Updated with standard Roberts Rules of Order language.
- **Section 5.** Policy for Conducting Virtual Meetings. This section was moved here from Article V to ensure it is applied to all meetings of the Association.
- **Section 6. Discipline.** This section was added to replace the Discipline article in the original constitution and states that members can avail themselves of the AFSCME Judicial Panel process when necessary.
- *Section 3 Severability and Section 4 Definitions in the original constitution were removed as they were deemed unnecessary.*

