



## 2024 Bylaw Amendment and Purposes Revision Frequently Asked Questions

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### **What is the voting process going to be?**

A clear and structured process will be followed to vote on the proposed changes in the FCCLA business meeting. FCCLA has engaged a registered parliamentarian to assist the National Officers in developing the standing rules and process. As this process is finalized, we will update the State Advisers and State Officers. Currently, FCCLA plans to discuss/debate and vote on the proposals by Article. If the Article fails, FCCLA will drill down into the sections of that Article for discussion/debate and vote on each section. Based on the standard parliamentary procedures and the specifics of the FCCLA bylaws, the process typically involves the following steps:

1. **Presentation of Amendments:** The proposed amendments are presented to the members. This includes a detailed explanation of the changes and the rationale behind them.
2. **Discussion and Debate:** Members are given the opportunity to discuss and debate the proposed amendments. This is an essential part of the process, allowing for a thorough examination of the proposals. It is important to note that the current bylaws do not allow for motions to be presented from the voting delegates as the motions presented to the members are approved by the Board of Directors and National Officers in advance of the Business Session to meet the required advance notice to states of all business presented to the voting delegates.
3. **Motion to Vote:** A motion to vote on the amendments is made once the discussion is complete.
4. **Voting Procedure:** The voting can be conducted in various ways, such as by a show of hands, voice vote, or ballot, depending on the FCCLA's specific rules and the nature of the meeting. Currently, FCCLA is working with the parliamentarian to finalize this process and is planning to use a voice vote and then a voice roll call vote if a division is called or if the President is unclear of the results.
5. **Counting and Announcing the Results:** Votes are counted, and the results are announced to the members. The amendments are adopted if they receive the required majority.
6. **Recording the Decision:** The vote results and any bylaws changes are recorded officially in the meeting minutes.

This process ensures that all members have a fair opportunity to understand, discuss, and vote on the proposed changes, maintaining the democratic and transparent nature of the organization's decision-making process. For further details and specific procedures related to your amendments, please refer to the FCCLA Bylaws.

### **What are you to do if you are not able to be in the business session?**

In FCCLA, the number of voting delegates for each state is determined by the number of members in that state. These voting delegates are designated by their state to represent and cast votes on behalf of their state at the business meeting. It is crucial for these voting delegates to be physically present at the business meeting to exercise their voting rights. Absent delegates cannot vote, as there are no provisions for proxy or remote voting in this scenario. The presence of delegates ensures direct representation and decision-making aligned with the interests of their respective states.

### **Do these changes reduce the voice of the youth?**

The bylaw changes in FCCLA do not limit the voice of youth; rather, they maintain and enhance it. The number of youth members on the board remains unchanged, ensuring consistent youth representation. Furthermore, these revisions empower the National Executive Council, elected by the youth, to have a more substantial influence in decisions impacting individual members. This approach upholds FCCLA's commitment to youth leadership and ensures that young members have a direct and influential role in shaping the organization's policies and direction.

### **What is the reason for revising the purposes?**

The reason for revising the purposes of FCCLA, as per the 2023 Bylaw Revisions document, is to align them with the current needs and goals of the organization. The revisions aim to modernize the language, ensure clarity, and reflect contemporary educational and societal values. These changes are part of a broader effort to keep the organization's guiding principles relevant and effective for its members and the communities they serve.

### **Does Article II Section 3, page 5, and Article X 1C, page 24, limit who can be advisers and members?**

The bylaw changes in Article II, Section 3, and Article X, Section 1C, do not change the membership criteria or advisers' roles in FCCLA. The organization remains a dedicated Career and Technical Student Organization (CTSO) integrally linked with Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS) courses. These amendments are designed to provide greater flexibility at the state level, acknowledging the varying structures of FCS leadership across states. Recognizing that in many states, FCS leadership operates outside of the state's department of education, the changes allow each state's FCS leadership to define what constitutes an FCS course. This adaptability ensures that FCCLA continues to meet the evolving needs of its members and the diverse educational landscapes they navigate.

### **Policy and Procedures Manual:**

As recommended by FCCLA's legal counsel and parliamentarian, some sections of the current bylaws are proposed to be moved to the organization's policy and procedures manual. This shift is part of an effort to streamline the bylaws and place more detailed procedural content in a more appropriate document and keep the bylaws refined to the governance of the organization. The Policy and Procedures Manual can be updated by the Board of Directors to more readily reflect current practices and needs, providing a dynamic platform for managing the organization's operations. This approach aligns with best practices in organizational management, allowing for more precise, more focused bylaws while maintaining detailed procedures and guidelines in a separate, adaptable document. The questions below relate to that process:

**When will the updated Policy and Procedures Manual be available to review?**

The proposed sections of the bylaws to be transferred to the Policy and Procedures Manual are being prepared for this move, pending approval. These particular sections will be drafted and released in a preliminary form by the Board prior to the National Leadership Conference. This approach ensures that the organization is ready for the transition and provides members with an opportunity to review these changes in advance.

**Will changes to the Policy and Procedures Manual require delegation voting and/or Board of Directors voting to provide a checks-and-balance when changes are made?**

Changes to the Policy and Procedures Manual are approved by the Board of Directors. If a policy involves oversight or requires input from specific constituent groups, the Board adheres to those requirements. The Board of Directors' voting process provides a checks-and-balances system, ensuring that changes to the manual are made thoughtfully and with appropriate oversight, reflecting the organization's commitment to maintaining effective governance and operational standards.

**Will State Association and Chapters be notified of any changes to the Policy and Procedures Manual in an effort to provide transparency?**

Yes, State Associations and Chapters will be notified of changes to the Policy and Procedures Manual. The manual is a public document available on the FCCLA website. When changes are made that impact constituents, these are summarized in the Board Meeting Summaries. Furthermore, FCCLA State Advisers, Chapter Advisers, and Members receive notifications about relevant changes through summaries, newsletters, and other pertinent communications. This process ensures transparency and keeps all levels of the organization informed about updates and modifications to the Policy and Procedures Manual.