

**FCCLA 2024 National Board of Directors Bylaw and Purposes Revisions
Town Hall Meetings
Frequently Asked Questions Summary with Response**

Q: What is the new mission statement or is it just being moved to a different document?

A: The FCCLA Mission Statement is not changing. It is being moved to the Policies and Procedures Manual as it is a foundational statement, not a Bylaw. The Policies and Procedures Manual states that the Mission Statement cannot be changed without approval by the members.

Q: What will be used to guide the processes and procedures for meetings if Roberts Rules of Order are not invoked?

A: The Policies and Procedures Manual states that the Annual Business Meeting will use Roberts Rules of Order for the member Business Session. The Board and National Officers will agree on the processes and procedures for their meetings and may invoke Roberts Rules of Order, providing flexibility for various meetings.

Q: What type of voting process will be used for the Business Meeting?

A: Simple majority votes will be voice votes, and votes requiring a 2/3 majority for approval will be standing votes.

Q: Are there many changes to the jobs of the National Executive Council or Board of Directors?

A: No, the roles are moved into Policies and Procedures Manual but remain as they are in the current Bylaws. The one change is that the National First Vice President will serve on the Board instead of the Vice President of Finance to provide a better succession role plan. The youth positions on the Board remain a total of four.

Q: On the Bylaw change that changes the National Officer vote to one, how will they decide how to vote?

A: This change is recommended to avoid confusion. Currently, National Officers get one collective vote on the election of new National Officers but have ten votes in the Business Session. This will align to one vote from their team in both the business session and the election of National Officers. National Officers maintain one vote per officer during Board and Committee meetings.

Q: How long after the Business Session will it take for these Bylaw amendments to take effect?

A: They go into effect as soon as they are passed unless a provision in the motion specifies otherwise. For example, the change to move the First Vice President as the second National Officer position on the Board instead of the Vice President of Finance will not go into effect until the next year.

Q: In Standing Rules 3.1, it says “No motions originating from the floor as a new motion or motions to amend previously announced motions are permissible.” What is the rationale for this?

A: Per FCCLA Bylaws Article XVI “Bylaws amendments will be considered only as presented in the official notification to the states.” and Article XIII “The council and the board shall meet jointly to discuss matters of common interest. Official business to be presented to delegates at the National Leadership Conference shall be discussed jointly by the council and the board prior to board approval.” Motions originating from the floor as new motions or motions to amend previously announced motions would not comply to the process for business to be presented to voting delegates.

Q: If a state allows for middle school representation on their State Executive Council, would the state associations need to limit state officers to high school students only if the revised Article V. National Executive Council amendment passes?

A: No, states decide who can run and be elected to represent their state as state officers based on their State Bylaws.

Q: What is the rationale for the parliamentarian and lawyer’s recommendation for these bylaw amendments?

A: The FCCLA strategic plan and program of work included reviewing the organization’s infrastructure, including foundational documents. A registered parliamentarian and a non-profit-focused lawyer recommended amendments to align with current best practices for bylaws and organizational leadership. The Board approved these recommendations after feedback from state advisers and national officers.

Q: What would the fiscal year look like, and why is it important for the National FCCLA?

A: The fiscal year defines the financial reporting period, essential for budget planning, financial assessments, and ensuring compliance with financial regulations.

Q: Which amendments are proposed specifically to comply with D.C. law?

A: The rationale included in the proposed amendment documents highlights all of the amendments proposed to comply with D.C. laws and regulations for non-profits incorporated in Washington, DC, including the specific DC code that FCCLA must comply with as FCCLA is incorporated in Washington, DC.

Q: Where is it stated that post-secondary programs will not be offered if Article III, Section 5 does not pass?

A: This program has been a pilot for over ten years and does not align with the current Bylaws. Because membership can approve or disapprove an amendment to permit membership post-grade 12, if the proposed amendment to remove the limitation of up to 12th grade fails, FCCLA will no longer be able to continue to offer post-secondary. If the motion fails, FCCLA must abide by its Bylaws and only allow members through grade 12.

Q: What does "FCCLA Officers" refer to in Revised Article VI, Section 5?

A: The FCCLA Officers referred to in Article VI, Section 5. are the elected officers of the Board, including the Chair, Vice Chair, Past Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary.

Q: Why are National Officers' positions being changed to ten high school members with no stated positions?

A: The specifics about the National Officer positions are being moved into the Policies and Procedures Manual as they are the details of the roles of the National Officers. The Bylaw would be the "law" that FCCLA has ten high school National Officers. The National Officers will be able to work with the Board to align their responsibilities and titles to reflect best the work that the officers agree should be a priority to meet the needs of the members whom they serve.

Q: Why are candidates no longer based on regions?

A: This is to allow the ten best officers chosen by their peers to represent the organization. Instead of the current requirement to remove a representative who received more votes from their peers not to be elected to be able to move a regional representative to that position to meet that regional requirement, therefore not providing a true representation of the voice of the voting delegates. Because the organization does not function or use regions for any other purpose for youth leadership or engagement, it was recommended that the students' votes be supported by the peers they want to represent them. If the youth want to be sure officers are elected from a particular part of the country, they can still do that with their voting powers at the election.

Q: Will the National Executive Council election this year not include regions if these bylaws pass?

A: Yes, regional considerations may be excluded from the new election process.

Q: If Roberts Rules are not used, what will the parliamentarian use?

A: The rules adopted by the body of the delegates at the meeting.

Q: Will the standing rules be voted on by the entire body, and what if they don't pass?

A: Yes, the standing rules will be voted on by the Voting Delegates, and failing to pass them would mean that the meeting would continue based on Robert's Rules of Order.

Q: Does signing the Voting Delegate Agreement automatically pass the standing rules?

A: Signing does not automatically pass the standing rules; it means you will agree to abide by the rules that are passed and maintain decorum as defined.

Q: If a bylaw article fails, will voting delegates go section by section to approve or disapprove sections within that bylaw article?

A: If the standing rules pass, that is the process that will be used.

Q: Why does the Board of Directors have sole voting rights on policies and procedures instead of membership votes?

A: Policies and Procedures are the details on how the Bylaws will be enforced. Members vote on the Bylaws and how the governing body will be represented and the governing body's duty is to ensure the Bylaws are adhered to via the policies.

Q: What is the purpose of possibly allowing virtual voting?

A: Virtual voting increases accessibility in cases where the meeting cannot be held in person, such as the impact the pandemic had on the organization.

Q: Can the Voting Delegate Handbook be previewed ahead of time?

A: Yes, it is posted on the FCCLA website.

Q: What are the differences between policies and procedures?

A: Policies are overarching rules approved by the Board, while procedures are specific actions or methods, often managed by the executive director.

Q: Why is the voice of youth being reduced?

A: No bylaw amendment or move of policy details to the Policies and Procedures Manual reduces the voice of youth. FCCLA maintains the value of the youth leader's voice in every aspect and moves further to ensure the youth voice in detail and practice. Votes on the Board, Board Committees, and Voting Delegates as well as open debate are fully maintained. The misconception of a reduced youth voice is not based on the facts of the amendments. All National Executive Council members serve on Board Committees and are elected to be the voice of the youth they represent and all four youth positions on the Board are maintained on the Board with full voting powers.

A resource video created by the Parliamentarian who will be advising this session can be viewed at:

<https://youtu.be/l-grfDhQeKs>