



Date: Approved by Board February 4, 2026
To: COSCDA Board and Membership
From: Tess Hembree, COSCDA Executive Director
Subject: Proposed Revisions to COSCDA Bylaws

Summary

In attempt to clarify, streamline, and modernize the COSCDA bylaws, the board recommends the following changes to the COSCDA bylaws. The bylaws were last amended in January 2022.

The board approved these changes on a board call in February and are presenting these changes to membership at the Business Meeting at the 2026 Annual Training Conference.

Proposed Changes

- Article III, Section 1 b
 - The board recommends removing the language on ex-officio membership, which allows the National Governor's Association to designate ex-officio representatives as COSCDA members. COSCDA will continue to seek a relationship with the National Governor's Association, but not as official COSCDA members.
- Article III, Section 2 a
 - The board recommends removing the requirement that a vote cast on behalf of the state director in their absentia must be by another member or individual from the same state. This will allow states to participate in votes even if no one from the state delegation can be present for the vote.
- Article IV, Section 3
 - The board recommends removing references to meeting notices being transmitted via physical mail and removing references to delivery confirmation of email. Meeting notices will be emailed to all members and posted on the COSCDA web site.
- Article IV, Section 4
 - The board recommends clarifying that all meetings of the council are open to the membership, but not the non-member public.
- Article V, Section 2

- The board recommends changing the terms of the officers of COSCDA (Secretary, Treasurer, Vice President) to a two-year term that aligns with the two-year Presidential term. The officer may serve one term. The current language designates officers' terms as up to two consecutive one-year terms.
- Article VI, Section 8
 - The board recommends removing references to special meeting notices being transmitted via physical mail and removing references to delivery confirmation of email. Special meeting notices will be emailed to all members and posted on the COSCDA web site.
- Article VIII, Section 2
 - The board recommends clarifying that COSCDA books and records are open to COSCDA membership, not the general public.
- Article X, Section 2
 - The board recommends removing the nomination process for an office or membership of the Board of Directors that allows submission to the President up to one week prior to the convening of the Annual Meeting. The board feels that the process of self-nomination and vetting of board members and officers by the Nominations and Elections Committee is a more thorough process and is open to the entire membership. COSCDA will work to ensure that the process to apply to the board continues to be well-publicized and transparent.
- Article X, Section 3
 - The board recommends clarifying the requirement that the regional caucuses designate at the Annual Meeting their recommendation for their regional representative on the board. This would allow the regional caucuses to meet to designate their representative prior to the Annual Meeting, if desired. An earlier meeting would align their designation better with the work of the Nominations and Elections Committee and would allow for more thorough consideration of regions on their board representation.
- Article X, Section 4
 - The board recommends removing the reference to representation of the National Governor's Association as a consideration when considering potential board members