

NACCHO Bylaws Changes FAQ

1. Q – When was the last revision done?

A – The last revision was March, 2009

2. Q – Why were these revisions considered?

A – Because the last revisions were done 8 years ago, the current Board of Directors (BOD) requested that the Bylaws Committee be re-established to consider updating the bylaws.

3. Q – What was the process?

A – Claude Jacob (Cambridge Public Health Department), then President of the BOD, appointed members to the Bylaws Committee. Members included:

- Joseph Iser, chair (Southern Nevada Health District)
- Claudia Blackburn (Florida Department of Health, Leon County)
- Andre Fresco (Yakima Health District)
- Denisha Porter (Cincinnati Health Department) was recently appointed in July 2017

Over a period of several months, the Committee met and discussed the current bylaws and compared them to several other organizations' bylaws to consider any updates. Many suggestions were considered over that period through both an individual and a collaborative group process. Changes to the bylaws were reviewed and adopted at the March 2017 Board meeting, the April Executive Committee call, the May 2017 Board call, and the September Board call.

Per the bylaws, these proposed changes are required to be distributed to the active membership. Active members have 45 days from receipt of the proposal changes to provide comments on these changes. These comments will be considered for the final version of the bylaws, which will then be reviewed and approved by the Board of Directors. Then the bylaws will be sent to active members for a vote. The bylaws read:

“The committee shall annually review these Bylaws and may propose such amendments as they deem necessary, shall draft amendments as may be proposed by the Board of Directors, and shall review all proposed amendments submitted by any member for proper language and consistency with the remainder of these Bylaws. The committee shall report a recommendation on all proposed amendments to the Board of Directors and active members prior to a vote on the proposed amendment.”

4. Q – How many changes take effect over the next few years?

A – 2017 – Changes to the bylaws referencing elections are effective at the next election following approval. All other changes become effective immediately following approval. In 2017, most changes related to the bylaws would take effect except for those related to BOD members. BOD at-large members elected under the current By-Laws take office without changes.

2018 – Changes related to regional Board members take place, primarily changing the term of office from two to three years and reducing the number of terms from three to two.

2019 – Changes related to the at-large Board members take place, reducing the number from 10 to 5 and increasing the terms to three years. In addition, requesting nominations from a defined population size is maintained and assures that health departments of small size are represented.

5. Q – What Board level membership changes are being made?
A – Maximum number of members reduced from 27 to 22
10 at-large members reduced to 5 active members in 2019
3 year terms for Board of Directors effective in 2018 and 2019
No more than 2 consecutive terms after approval and implementation period of said changes
5 at-large positions from jurisdictions based on size effective in 2018
If the Vice-President role is unexpectedly vacated, a special election will be held.
6. Q – Why were these changes made?
A – The Board and the Executive Committee wanted to make the Board more nimble and responsive to changes as they occur at the national level. Decreasing the Board members from 20 to 15 while leaving the Executive Committee unchanged, allows for this change and saves logistics and money for Board meetings. Including a population size for at-large members assures that all sizes of local health authorities are represented.
7. Q – Are any positions eliminated in these changes?
A – The parliamentarian is removed. Instead, a board or staff member will be assigned to advise the board on bylaws and Robert’s Rules of Order.
8. Q – How is technology incorporated into these changes?
A – These changes allow voting by email ballots or teleconference presence for quorum purposes.
9. Q – What budget changes are made?
A – No obligations outside the approved budget will be made by the NACCHO Executive Director. The Executive Director may not authorize any loans to subordinate staff.