

**Michigan Association of Parliamentarians**  
**Bylaws and Rules Committee**

Dear MSAP members:

At the start of the current biennium, the Michigan Association of Parliamentarians discovered that its bylaws, specifically Article V, Section 2 Qualifications, did not comply with NAP Bylaw Article IV, Section 3, Sub-sections D and E2. It was found that the NAP Bylaws allowed associations to limit the rights of provisional members, but subsequently prohibited associations from limiting the rights of primary and affiliate members.

For the sake of housekeeping, in accordance with Article XV of the Bylaws, the MSAP Bylaws and Rules Committee gives notice that it intends to present for adoption the following bylaw amendment at the 2026 MSAP Annual meeting.

On behalf of the Bylaw and Rules committee:

*Steven J. Britton*

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Chairman

2025 – 2027 MSAP Bylaws and Rules Committee

**Amendment: Article V. Section 2.** Substitute the following:

**Section 2. Qualifications.**

A. A candidate for elected office shall have been a member of the association in good standing for one year. Provisional members are not eligible to serve in an elected office.

B. A candidate for the office of president or first vice-president shall have served on the MSAP Board of Directors for at least two years.

Current Wording	Proposed Wording	If adopted reads:
<p><b>Section 2. Qualifications.</b>            A. A candidate for elected office shall have been a member in good standing for one year.            B. A candidate for the office of president or first vice-president shall be a primary member of MSAP and shall have served on the board of directors for at least two years.</p>	<p><b>Section 2. Qualifications.</b>            A. A candidate for elected office shall have been a member <u>of the association</u> in good standing for one year. <u>Provisional members are not eligible to serve in an elected office.</u>            B. A candidate for the office of president or first vice-president shall <del>be a primary member of MSAP and shall have served on the board of directors</del> <u>MSAP Board of Directors</u> for at least two years.</p>	<p><b>Section 2. Qualifications.</b>            A. A candidate for elected office shall have been a member of the association in good standing for one year. Provisional members are not eligible to serve in an elected office.            B. A candidate for the office of president or first vice-president shall have served on the MSAP Board of Directors for at least two years.</p>

**NAP Bylaws: Article IV, Divisions; Section 3, Associations; Sub-section D. Association Members** states: Associations shall accept as a member any NAP member who pays the association dues.

**NAP Bylaws: Article IV, Divisions; Section 3, Associations; Sub-section E2. Bylaws of an Association** states: An association shall provide for primary and affiliate members and may include provisional, honorary, and life members as association members, in accordance with the definitions of these terms in Article IV, Section 8A. The association bylaws may limit the rights of provisionals who are association members.

**Principle of Interpretation # 4, RONR 56:68, states: *If the bylaws authorize certain things specifically, other things of the same class are thereby prohibited.*** The NAP Bylaws specifically permit an association's bylaws to limit the rights of provisionals who are members of the association; subsequently, the NAP Bylaws prohibit an association from limiting the rights of primary and affiliate members.