

## Elections Bylaws Work Group Presentation

This document serves as the basis for discussion at the Working Assembly on Elections Bylaws changes to be held on June 15, 2020. All of the work group's minutes are available on [www.oregoncountryfair.net](http://www.oregoncountryfair.net).

### Our directives and purpose

A motion was made at the December 3, 2018 board meeting, directing "the Elections and Bylaws Committees to meet to review procedures and bylaws provisions relating to membership and elections" and to make recommendations for the Board's consideration. A second motion asks us to draft best practices for OCF elections, which has not been specifically addressed but is related to the work in the first motion. We were also directed to provide a means for member input. in particular to consider the following:

1. Advisory measures from the 2018 annual meeting.
2. Issues that arose in relation to the recall measure at the 2018 annual meeting.
3. Review of the procedures around advisory measures and recall measures.
4. Provide a means for member input.
5. Draft OCF elections best practices

We developed a survey for membership with the help of Wyetta Bontempo from the survey crew. Survey crew administered the survey in face to face interviews at fair time and the survey was also available online after the fair through December. Rather than go into the survey results as a whole, we will show results as they relate to our discussion. A total of 1,820 responses to the 2019 OCF Bylaws Surveys were collected. during the 2019 Oregon Country Fair and online during fall 2019.

We discussed the advisory measures on the 2018 ballot and agreed that we would not recommend any bylaw changes related to them. A summary of our discussion and other recommendations are included in our meeting notes on the .net site.

We have organized tonight's Elections Bylaws discussion to consider specific recommendations from the work group: # of signatures required for an advisory ballot measure and to recall a director as well as minimum voting age. We hope to have changes approved in time for the 2020 election cycle. We are also seeking input and direction on Board composition and term length. We are working to implement this for the 2021 election cycle as we believe it will take more time to implement the transition.

## # of Signatures Required for an Advisory Ballot Measure and to Recall a Director

### Summary of discussion points and suggestions

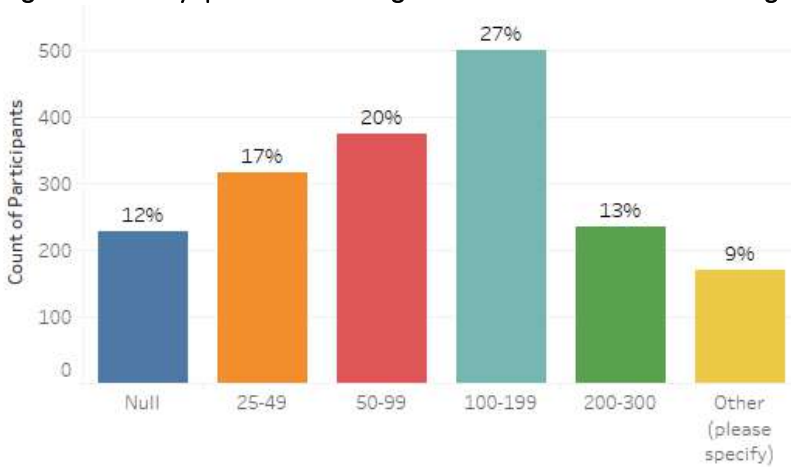
- We agree that putting an item on the agenda and an “advisory measure” need clarification
- We agree that a petition for a recall needs better defined instructions
- We agree that 25 signatures on a petition for an advisory measure and for board recall are too low given how Fair voting membership has increased since the Bylaws were drafted.
- We agree the number of signatures required for a Board member recall should be higher than the number to place an advisory measure on the ballot given the gravity of the item.
  - In 1991, 25 signatures were approximately 5% of 469, the total number of members who voted.
  - In 2018, 25 signatures were approximately between 1% and 2% of 1579, the total number of members who voted
  - The number of eligible voting members is much higher.
  - We discussed tying it to a percentage of voters at the last election but that changes every year.
  - A definite number required will be less confusing.
- Any number should be reviewed periodically as we grow and change.

### Recommendation

- After much discussion, we think 100 signatures to put an advisory measure on the agenda/ballot at the annual meeting is a reasonable suggestion.
- After much discussion, we suggest that 200 signatures on a petition to recall a director would be appropriate given the gravity of that scenario.
- We also agreed there is little time for voters to consider petition items and get information before the ballots are sent out.
  - A deadline set at the end of July would allow for publication in the August issue of the *Fair Family News*
  - Pros/cons opinions could be published in the voters’ pamphlet and in the September issue of the *Fair Family News*

**Survey results support these recommendations**

Figure 30. Responses to the question: “How many petition signatures should be required to get an advisory question on the agenda for the OCF Annual Meeting?” N=1593



**Recommended Bylaw Change**

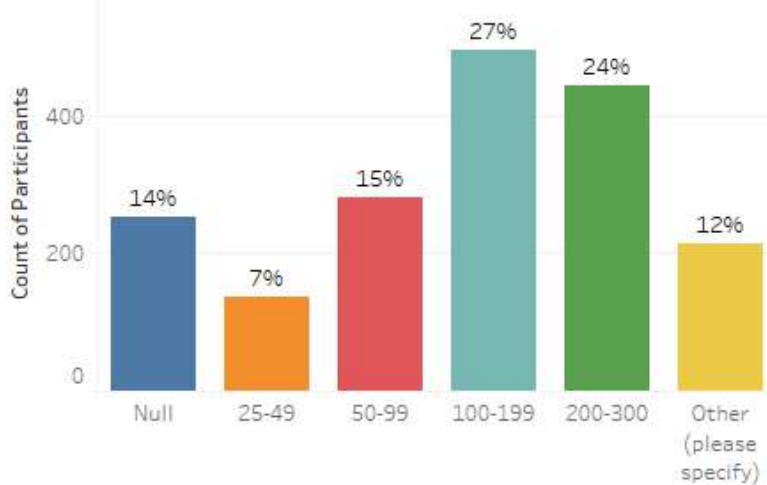
*Text in italics is original text*  
**Bold text is to be added**  
~~Strikethrough text is to be deleted~~

*Article VI. MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS*

- Annual Meetings.* *An annual meeting of the members shall be called by the Board of Directors at a date to be fixed by the Board, but in no case later than October 30. The purpose of the annual meeting shall be to elect the Board of Directors, to present the members with a financial statement for the fiscal year then ending, and to consider any other business that the Directors may determine to be appropriate. Agendas for the annual meeting shall be set 55 days prior to the meeting. ~~Items,~~ **Advisory measures** may be placed on the agenda for the annual meeting upon the petition of ~~25~~ **100** or more of the members, by presenting the petition to the Secretary ~~at least 55 days before the annual meeting~~ **by July 31,** or at such earlier time as the Board of Directors may designate.*

Commented [JH1]:

Figure 31. Responses to the question: “How many signatures should be required on a petition to initiate the board member recall process?” N=1568



**Recommended Bylaw Change**

*Article VII. THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS*

3. Removal of Directors. A director may be removed from office with or without cause, only by a vote of the membership at the annual and/or special meeting called pursuant to the requirements of notice as set forth in Article VI-3. The Board may suspend a director with or without cause (requiring 2/3 of the Board’s votes) for a maximum of 60 days or until voted on as provided in this article or cleared of any charges. The director in question shall be excluded from such a vote. If a Board member or alternate misses three meetings in a row, the Board may declare that seat vacant.

Members who wish to remove a director by a vote at the annual meeting must turn in a petition with at least 200 signatures of registered members, to the secretary by July 31. A recall at a special meeting requires a petition for a special meeting (see Article VI-2) and a petition for a recall. Petitions must include member signatures with the name also legibly printed and the member’s fair affiliation.

The outcome of a recall election will be decided by majority of votes cast on that issue.

## Minimum Voting Age

*During the 2019 election cycle it became apparent that the Bylaws currently do not address a minimum voting age. To date it has not been an issue. In 2019, the Secretary used her discretion and did not approve membership for an eight-year-old who only signed her name on the membership form. While the Elections-Bylaws work group agreed it would be wise to set a minimum age, we could not consense what that age should be. We know we need more input. We created another survey which is posted on the .net site. The deadline to submit your response is May 31. The results will be posted as soon as possible. We will use the results of the survey to recommend a bylaw change.*

### Minimum Voting Age

- No Minimum Voting Age
- Age 14
- Age 16
- Age 18
- Undecided
- Other Age \_\_\_\_\_

## Recommended Bylaw Change

### Article V. MEMBERS

#### 2. Eligibility and Admission. ~~Eligibility and Admission:~~

(a) Any individual, **age XXX or older**, who subscribes to the purposes and basic policies of the Fair, **including the Guidelines and the Code of Conduct**, abides by the terms and conditions of these Bylaws, the Articles of Incorporation and any amendments thereto, and acts in accordance with the decisions made by the Board of directors, is eligible for membership if the individual is registered with the Fair and (1) has either received a **(Fair issued)** wristband, or other Fair camping pass or verifiable worker day pass in one of ~~two~~ **three** previous years, or (2) is a verifiable elder. To remain a member, an individual **also** must vote in at least one annual membership meeting every three years.

### Other Recommended Bylaws changes to Article V. Members

- ❖ *...including the Guidelines and the Code of Conduct....*
  - *Clarifies OCF basic policies*
  
- ❖ *...received a **Fair issued camping**...*
  - *Eliminates the option for someone to argue that a neighboring campground's wristband or a 3-day ticket wristband qualifies one for voting membership as well as serving on the Board of Directors*
  
- ❖ *...in one of ~~two~~ **three** previous years...*
  - *provides equity for artisans and food booths who are allowed to take two years off and then return to Fair*

### Board Composition and Term Length

If time remains after discussing the above issues we may begin discussing board composition and term length. The Elections-Bylaws Committees do not have a recommendation change at this time. More work is needed.

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## Board Composition and Term Length

### Summary of discussion points and suggestions

- ❖ Change to 12 board members; there would no longer be alternates.
  - Our legal counsel agrees it is best practice for all board members to be voting members.
  - We agree and recognize this recommendation needs member input and support.
  
- ❖ Each year 4 board members would be elected to a 3-year term.
  - We recognize more time is needed to develop a plan to effectively implement this change.
  - Recommended Bylaw change will be presented later for implementation in 2021.

The majority of survey respondents support this change.

**Figure 32. Responses to the question: “What do you think of changing the OCF bylaws so that the Board of Directors has 12 members, each of which serves a staggered 3-year term?” N=1627**

