Balloting

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What is an administrative ballot?

- Majority rules
- Typically meeting ballots
Balloting: Administrative ballot

What is an administrative ballot used for?

• Changing title, goal, or mission statement
• Selecting day and time of next meeting
• Approval of technical committee meetings
• Requesting joint committee status
• Cosponsoring documents with other ACI committees
• Sponsoring a session or SP
Balloting: Technical Ballot

What is a technical ballot?

- Full consensus required
- All technical ballots start as letter ballots
Balloting: Technical Ballot

What is a technical ballot used for?

- CI articles
- Reports
- Guides
- Standards
Balloting: Letter Ballot

What is a letter ballot?

- Written action
- Web ballot recommended
Balloting: Letter Ballot

What are the possible votes on a letter ballot?

- Affirmative
- Affirmative with Comment
- Negative
- Abstain
Balloting: Letter Ballot

When must a committee use a letter ballot?

- New technical documents
- Revising existing technical documents
Balloting: Letter Results

How does the committee interpret letter ballot results?

- 1/2 Rule – 50% of eligible voters are aff
- 2/3 Rule – twice as many affs as negs
- If the ballot meets these two rules, it passes
- If the ballot does not meet these rules, it fails
Balloting: Letter Ballot Results

Passing ballots:

- Allow the committee to continue working
- Negatives must be resolved
Balloting: Letter Ballot Results

Failing ballots:

- Committee should re-write based on comments received
- Committee should then re-ballot
- Letter ballot items supersede all previous ballots on the same item
Balloting: Letter ballot results

Analyzing Letter Ballot Results (3.2.1) and Passing of Ballot Item

1. Develop and Letter Ballot Document
2. Prepare Initial Ballot Summary
3. Pass 1/2 Rule
   - NO: Resolve Negative Votes or Reballot
     - Attempt to Resolve Negative Votes
     - Rewrite and Reballot
   - YES: Pass 2/3 Rule
     - NO: Resolve Negative Votes or Reballot
       - Rewrite and Reballot
       - Attempt to Resolve Negative Votes
     - YES: Are Negative Votes Resolved?
       - NO: Rewrite and Reballot
       - YES: Ballot Passes
Balloting: Meeting Ballot

What is a meeting ballot?

- Motion created in meeting
- Minutes reflect results of ballot
Balloting: Meeting Ballot

What does a committee use a meeting ballot for?

- Resolving negatives on letter ballots
- Responding to TAC comments
- Responding to public discussion comments
- Revision or withdrawal of existing documents
- Administrative ballots
Balloting: Meeting Ballot Results

How to interpret meeting ballot results?

- 40% Rule – 40% of eligible voters are aff (round down on less than 0.5, round up otherwise)
- 2/3 Rule – twice as many affs as negs
- If the ballot meets these two rules, it passes
- If the ballot does not meet these rules, it fails
Balloting: Resolution of Negatives

What are the basic methods?

- Withdrawal
- Unrelated
- Persuasive
- Nonpersuasive
Balloting: Resolution of Negatives

Withdrawal

- Editorial or no change allowed
- When the negative vote is withdrawn, the vote becomes affirmative, affirmative with comment, or abstain – voter’s choice
Balloting: Resolution of Negatives

Unrelated

- No change to document
- Committee ballot (meeting or letter) required
- Normal ballot result interpretation (i.e. ½, 40%, and 2/3 rule apply)
- Negatives to unrelated ballots are not resolved (up/down ballot)
- Negative is changed to “abstain” on orig. ballot
Balloting: Resolution of Negatives

Persuasive

- Technical change to document
- Committee ballot (meeting or letter) required
- Normal ballot result interpretation (i.e. ½, 40%, and 2/3 rule apply)
- Negatives to persuasive ballots must be resolved
- Negative is changed to aff. on original ballot
Balloting: Resolution of Negatives

Nonpersuasive

- No change to document
- Committee ballot (meeting or letter) required
- Normal ballot result interpretation (i.e. ½, 40%, and 2/3 rule apply)
- Negatives to nonpersuasive ballots are not resolved (up/down ballot)
- Negative is recorded as nonpersuasive negative on orig. ballot
Balloting: Resolution of Negatives

Suggested uses of the different methods:

- Withdrawal – pass $\frac{1}{2}$ or $\frac{2}{3}$ rule
- Unrelated – negatives on parts of a document not on the ballot
- Persuasive – to make technical changes to the document
- Nonpersuasive – to resolve negatives to persuasive ballots
Balloting: Letter Ballot Initiation

Some general suggestions for new documents:

• Split the document into logical pieces for balloting
  • Document is ballot; chapters are ballot items
  • Chapter is ballot; sections are ballot items
• Ask the right questions, get better answers
Balloting: Letter Ballot Initiation

Some general suggestions for revisions of existing doc:

• Be clear about what the ballot covers
• Split ballots into logical pieces
  • Keep contentious items as separate ballot items
  • Avoid opening up more of the document than you are prepared to deal with at one time
Balloting: Letter Ballot Initiation

General suggestions resolving TAC/public discussion comments:

- Work with your authors to determine contentious items
- Have your authors develop responses to all items as a starting point
- Ballot “easy” items as a large group – minor editorial items fit into this group
- Ballot contentious items as separate items
Module 5 – Website Resources

ACI Website

- Initiate ballot
- Ballot comment form
- How to videos
Thank you

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