

2025 ABC Proposal 9

Yes	78%	114	Proposal 2025-9 Submitted by The Ballot Preparation Committee of ACA World Services	9
No	22%	32		
No Opinion		36		

Issue: We propose that any future changes to the Ballot process must be approved by the Delegates at the ABC. By adopting this proposal, the ABC will be directing the WSO to make sure the changes are reflected in any procedural documentation, such as the ACAWSO Operating Policy and Procedures Manual (OPPM).

Background: The ballot process allows ACA member groups (meetings, Intergroups, and Regions) to bring business items of global importance to the ABC for consideration by the entire fellowship. In its report to the 2024 ABC, the Ballot Prep Committee (BPC) stated as one of its goals that it will “explore recommendations for process changes to the current ballot process.” Currently, decisions about the ballot process are made within the BPC, and resulting changes to the OPPM are implemented by the WSO Board of Trustees. NOTE: The OPPM contains the day to day operating guidelines by which the Board and Annual Business Conference functions.

Implementation of this proposal will ensure that decisions about the future of the ballot process will be made only with approval of the ABC, which represents the “actual voice, the effective conscience” for the whole ACA fellowship (Concept 2). This change may slow down the decision-making process. However, it ensures that decisions about how the fellowship brings agenda items to the ABC are made by the ABC itself, representing the informed group conscience of the ACA fellowship.

This proposal lays the foundation for future changes, which may be presented by the BPC via a ballot proposal or a committee motion, or by other member groups and service bodies of the ACA fellowship in accordance with ACAWSO procedural documentation.

Resources/Implementation: Under this proposal, decisions about the future of the ballot process will reflect the informed group conscience of the ACA fellowship. The ballot process remains unaffected for the 2024-25 and 2025-26 seasons.

The fellowship is encouraged to present ideas for changes to the ballot process as future Ballot Proposals. Suggestions for changes may also come from Town Hall meetings and surveys initiated by any registered group (such as meetings, Intergroups, Regions, or WSO service bodies). The BPC and other committees can also use these forums to gather feedback from the fellowship.

The BPC relies on dedicated volunteers to carry out the ballot process as currently designed and amended in the future. ACA members interested in serving are encouraged to participate as trusted servants on behalf of the fellowship. Please refer to <https://acawso.org/bpc/> for more information about the current ballot process and how to participate in the Ballot Prep Committee.

WSO Analysis:

Factors to consider: As written, the proposal suggests that any significant changes to the Ballot process “must be approved” annually at the ABC. The Ballot Prep. Committee wants to clarify that the proposal does not require the Delegates to approve routine adjustments to the timing of deadlines, “town hall-style” discussions, or other procedural details. The proposal is for the delegates to approve process changes to the ballot proposal process.

If the fellowship votes to add this proposal to the ABC agenda and it is approved, the BPC Committee will need to develop an implementation plan for process changes with delegate participation.

Reference Info/Links:

The WSO Ballot Preparation Committee (BPC), re-established in 2017, is open to all ACA members and is composed of volunteers, including Delegates and Trustees. Its purpose is to oversee the proposal process by:

- Educating the fellowship,
- Calling for and assisting in the development of proposals,
- Encouraging translations,
- Compiling the Ballot,
- Promoting participation in voting, and
- Tallying and announcing results
- [Ballot Prep Committee webpage](#)
- [Location & Authority for Conference Policies/Procedures](#)
- [OPPM](#)

Optional Comments: (Those that were greater than 50 words, per Ballot instructions, were truncated. Comments that only referred to a group’s internal voting percentages were not included.)

- a) This seems common sense to our group.
- b) This is a well thought out proposal.
- c) The selection of incoming items to be placed on the agenda should follow the group conscience in all parts of the process. Not just the Ballot Process Committee or the WSO Board's wishes for changes.
- d) Group thought proposal was unclear
- e) Our group appreciates the BPC's willingness to ask for more input from the entire fellowship
- f) Our group trusts the opinion of the Ballot Preparation Committee.
- g) The WSO Board and its OPPM should not be setting the policy and procedures for proposals being added to the Conference agenda without the approval of the delegates.
- h) Glad to see the exact opposite of hoarding control. Hopeful it will increase trust between the fellowship and its service organization.
- i) Anything that can help diminish the distance between ballots and ABC towards groups and members is good at this point.
- j) Some members are trying to create a conference. This is an excellent process to have a “test” conference to see if it will work.
- k) 60% approve, 20% disapprove, 20% no opinion
- l) But should refer to major changes to the process, not issues of holding town halls or time deadlines.

