

Section on Government Statistics

Charter (Revised 1992)

Article I. NAME

The name of this organization is the Section on Government Statistics of the American Statistical Association (hereafter called the Association)

Article II. SCOPE AND FUNCTIONS

The special interests of the Section on Government Statistics are in the production and use of statistics by the governmental bodies at all levels of government -- federal, state, and local -- and in the practice of statistics in the public sector. These interests include concern with statistical policy issues, quality and usefulness of governmental data products, special problems of state and local data, and the role of professional statisticians in public programs.

To support these special interests, the Section on Government Statistics shall carry out any or all of the following functions, together with such others as are appropriate:

1. Assist in the development and advancement of knowledge in techniques and practices that will contribute to excellence in the production and use of government statistics.
2. Promote a wider understanding of the attained levels of quality, continuity, comparability, appropriateness, accessibility, and timeliness of release of governmental statistical activities for large and small geographic areas.
3. Encourage professional statistical review of statistical activities carried out by governmental units.
4. Disseminate information and provide training opportunities for individuals involved in the production and use of government data and statistics.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Membership shall include all full members of the Association who are current in the payment of Section dues.

The membership for each member of the Section shall coincide with that member's membership year in the Association.

Article IV. OFFICERS

The officers of the Section shall consist of the Chair, the Chair-Elect, the Program Chair, the Program Chair-Elect, the Secretary/Treasurer, and the Publications Officer. The Section shall have one or more Representatives on the Association's Council of Sections, according to the number of paid Section members, and two Representatives to the Council of Professional Associations on Federal Statistics (COPAFS).

The term of office of the Secretary/Treasurer and the Publications Officer shall be two years. The terms of all other officers shall be one year. The term of the Representative(s) to the Association's Council of Sections shall be as prescribed in the Charter of the Council of Sections. A Representative to the Council is eligible for immediate re-election only if he or she was not previously elected for a full term. The two Representatives to the COPAFS shall have a tenure of two years, with overlapping terms.

No officer shall be eligible for immediate re-election to the same office except the Secretary/Treasurer and the Publications Officer.

The Chair-Elect and Program Chair-Elect shall automatically succeed the Chair and Program Chair, respectively, at the annual change of officers, which shall occur on January 1.

Article V. VACANCIES IN OFFICE

If the office of Chair becomes vacant, the Chair-Elect shall become the Chair, the term extending through the following year. The same principle of succession shall apply if the office of Program Chair becomes vacant. Vacancies in other offices shall be filled by appointment by the Chair with the approval of the Executive Committee.

Article VI. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers and Representative(s) of the Section to the Council of Sections and to COPAFS, and the immediate Past Chair.

The Executive Committee shall manage the affairs of the Section. Actions taken by the Committee during the past year, and plans for future activities, shall be presented at the annual business meeting of the Section for discussion.

The Chair, with the approval of the Executive Committee, may designate committees or individuals to carry out the functions of the Section.

Article VII. NOMINATION AND ELECTION

The Section's Committee on Nominations shall consist of three members appointed by the Chair. It shall also include the immediate Past Chair who shall serve as the committee chair. No other member of the Executive Committee may be a member of this committee.

The Section's Committee on Nominations shall submit, to the Secretary of the Association and the Section Chair, at least two candidates for each position to be filled, in accordance with the schedule established by the Association. In addition, any Section member nominated by petition of 25 or more members of the Section shall also appear on the annual ballot, provided that the petition is presented to the Secretary of the Association in accordance with the nomination schedule.

Balloting shall be carried out as part of the Association's annual mail ballot for electing Association and Section officers.

Article VIII MEETINGS

The annual meeting of the Section shall be held in connection with the annual meeting of the Association and shall be announced in advance, preferably in the printed program for that meeting. Business may also be conducted with Section members by mail, and with members of the Executive Committee by mail, telephone, facsimile transmission, or other electronic means.

Article IX. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to this charter may be proposed by the Executive Committee of the Section or by petitions signed by at least 25 members of the Section and presented to the Executive Committee. The proposed amendment shall be submitted to the members of the Section for mail vote at the time of the annual election of officers. If approved by a majority of the members of the Section voting, the amendment is subject to the approval of the Association's Council of Sections. If approved by the Council, the amendment shall be effective immediately unless provided by the amendment itself.

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