

# **Constitution of the American Statistical Association**

**(Effective January 1, 1999)**

## **Article I. NAME**

The name of this organization is the American Statistical Association.

## **Article II. OBJECTIVES**

The objectives of the American Statistical Association are to foster statistics and its applications, to promote unity and effectiveness of effort among all concerned with statistical problems, and to increase the contribution of statistics to human welfare. The American Statistical Association is a nonprofit organization and achieves these objectives by conducting meetings, producing publications devoted to statistical methodology and its applications, and making available information concerning the science of statistics and its contributions. It also cooperates with other organizations in the advancement of statistics, stimulates research, promotes high professional standards and integrity in the application of statistics, fosters education in statistics, and, in general, makes statistics of service to society.

These objectives are pursued without prejudice toward any person or group.

## **Article III. MEMBERSHIP**

The Association may have one or more categories of members, as defined in Article I of the By-Laws.

Except as otherwise provided by this Constitution and By-Laws, the right to vote, to sign referendum petitions, to hold office, and to sign nominating petitions shall be reserved to full members, as defined in Article I of the By-Laws.

## **Article IV. CHAPTERS**

Members within a specific geographic area may form a chapter to develop and explore ways of pursuing the objectives of the Association. Responsibility for chartering and overseeing chapters rests with the Council of Chapters.

The Council of Chapters functions under a charter approved by the Board of Directors to serve the needs of the chapters. As part of this function, it channels information between the Association and the chapters and promotes cooperation among the chapters. It also provides oversight for chapter activities, including formation and dissolution of chapters, and ensures that chapter activities, including fiscal management, are consistent with the goals of the Association.

The Council shall consist of Chapter representatives and ex officio members as described in the charter of the Council of Chapters and elsewhere in the Constitution and By-Laws.

## **Article V. SECTIONS**

Members may form a section in order to further the objectives of the Association in a field of statistical methods, theory, or applications. The scope of a section shall be sufficiently broad to represent active professional interests of a substantial segment of the Association. Responsibility for chartering and overseeing sections rests with the Council of Sections.

The Council of Sections functions under a charter approved by the Board of Directors to serve the needs of the sections. As part of this function, it channels information between the Association and the sections and promotes cooperation among the sections. It also provides oversight for section activities, including formation and dissolution of sections, and ensures that section activities, including fiscal management, are consistent with the goals of the Association. The Council shall consist of section representatives and ex officio members as described in the charter of the Council of Sections and elsewhere in the Constitution and By-Laws.

## **Article VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

The Board of Directors is the policy-making and legislative body of the Association. It shall consist of sixteen members, which are President, President-Elect, Past President, three Vice Presidents, three representatives of the Council of Chapters, three representatives of the Council of Sections, International Representative, Secretary, Treasurer, and Publication Representative. The Secretary and Treasurer are ex officio members without vote. All voting members of the Board of Directors and the Treasurer must be full members of the Association for the five years preceding the start of their term of office. No employee of the Association, with the exception of the Secretary, may serve as a member of the Board of Directors

The President, President-Elect, Past President, Vice Presidents, representatives of the Council of Chapters, representatives of the Council of Sections, International Representative, and Publication Representative shall collectively be known as the at-large Board members.

## **Article VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

The Executive Committee shall consist of the President, President-Elect, Past President, senior Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Secretary and Treasurer are ex officio members without vote.

## **Article VIII. OFFICERS**

The officers of the Association shall be the President, President-Elect, Past President, three Vice Presidents, Secretary, and Treasurer.

## **Article IX. METHOD OF SELECTION**

All full members shall be eligible to vote for the positions of President-Elect and Vice President.

The Council of Chapters shall nominate candidates for its representatives to the Board of Directors to be elected by a vote of all full members. Each of the three geographic regions, as established by the charter of the Council of Chapters, shall have one representative to the Board of Directors.

The Council of Sections shall nominate candidates for its representatives to the Board of Directors to be elected by a vote of all full members.

The Board-appointed editors shall nominate candidates for the Publication Representative to the Board of Directors to be elected by a vote of all full members.

The International Representative shall be elected by a vote of all full members. Candidates for International Representative shall be nominated as specified in Article V, Section 1 of the By-Laws.

The Secretary and Treasurer shall be selected according to Article V, Section 2 of the By-Laws.

## **Article X. TERMS OF OFFICE**

Once elected to the position of President-Elect, the incumbent shall normally serve a three-year term. The first year shall be as President-Elect, the second year as President, and the third year as Past President.

The Vice Presidents shall be elected for three-year terms, one Vice President being elected each year. No Vice President shall be eligible for immediate re-election to the same office.

The representatives of the Council of Chapters shall serve a three-year term, one representative being elected each year.

The representatives of the Council of Sections shall serve a three-year term, one representative being elected each year.

No Chapter or Section Representative completing a full term shall be eligible for immediate re-election to the same office.

The International Representative shall be elected for a three-year term and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election to the same office.

The Board of Directors shall fix terms of office of five years or less for the Secretary and the Treasurer. The Secretary and the Treasurer may be re-appointed to the same office.

The Publication Representative shall serve a three-year term and shall not be eligible for immediate re-election to the same office.

The Board of Directors may provide shorter terms during periods of organizational transition.

Terms of office shall end, and new terms shall begin, on January 1, but each office holder shall serve until a successor takes office.

No elected individual may serve simultaneously in two capacities on the Board of Directors.

## **Article XI. COMMITTEES**

The committees of the Association shall consist of the Executive Committee and other committees of the Board of Directors, which are named in the By-Laws; Standing Committees, which are named in the By-Laws; and such Continuing and Ad hoc Committees as the President or the Board of Directors may establish.

## **Article XII. PUBLICATIONS**

Publication of journals may be authorized by the Board of Directors. Other periodicals, reports, proceedings, or publications may be authorized in the By-Laws, by vote of the Board of Directors, or by the Council of Chapters or the Council of Sections.

## **Article XIII. MEETINGS**

The Association shall hold an annual meeting of the membership, at a time and place designated by the Board of Directors based upon recommendation from the Committee on Meetings.

## **Article XIV. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments to the Constitution may be proposed by the Board of Directors or by a petition signed by at least 100 full members.

An amendment originating by petition shall be referred to the Board of Directors, which shall vote on its recommendation regarding ratification. The Board of Directors may also decide upon the final wording of the proposed revision, as long as such wording is consistent with the original intent of the petition. Periodic revisions, as provided for in Article IX, Section 5h of the By-Laws, shall be referred to the Board of Directors, which may recommend ratification as a whole or in parts.

As soon as feasible following action by the Board of Directors, the Secretary shall publish a copy of the proposed amendment in a news bulletin. The published copy shall include revisions by and recommendations of the Board of Directors and shall invite comment. Comments received shall be summarized or published in full in subsequent issues of a news bulletin. At least 30 days shall elapse between the mailing date of the news bulletin containing these comments and the vote on an amendment or revision. Regardless of the recommendation of the Board of Directors, an

amendment proposed by petition must be submitted for vote. However, the Executive Committee may delay the vote to coincide with the next annual election. Ratification shall require an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the membership. If a portion of the membership chooses not to cast ballots, that portion of the membership shall be counted as voting in the same proportion as that portion of the membership casting ballots.