

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #1

At (specify where the change will occur in the current bylaws):
Article VII – Nominations and Elections Section 1D(5) Duties
By (specify in detail what to change):
Insert: after filled, “and may not submit the same name for more than one position to be filled.”
The rationale for this change is:
This amendment prevents a person from being slated more than once on the ballot. Slating a person more than once may eliminate a qualified person from serving in a position to be filled. The goal is to fill vacancies with an eligible candidate. In the case where more than one person is attempting to fulfill a position, the goal becomes to fill the position with the best candidate. Allows greater consideration for recruitment and avoids administrative time being spent on another person running from the floor because he or she was not slated.
These other bylaws elements require an update if this proposal is adopted:
Doesn’t impact any additional bylaw amendments.

The current wording in the bylaws is:
5. Shall submit only one name for each position to be filled.
The proposed wording, highlighting all changes, is:
5. may not submit the same name for more than one position to be filled.
If adopted, the bylaws will read:
5. Shall submit only one name for each position to be filled and may not submit the same name for more than one position to be filled.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #2

At (specify where the change will occur in the current bylaws):
Article VI – Officers Section 2 Eligibility
By (specify in detail what to change):
Insert: A new sub-section E
The rationale for this change is:
This amendment effectively eliminates eligibility to serve as an officer on the Free State PTA Board of directors if the person is a president of any council within Free State PTA. A president must resign within 14 days after he or she is elected to office. The role of a president is vast and full attention to it should be provided without the needed attention it takes to serve on the FSPTA BOD. Serving in the role of a president simultaneous with the role of an officer on the FSPTA BOD can pose conflicts of interest and possible unintended advantages. Lastly, this bylaw amendment is in alignment of National PTA’s prohibition of state PTA Presidents from serving on the National PTA Board of Directors. You may review the National PTA Bylaws, Article II: Officers, Section 2B.
These other bylaws elements require an update if this proposal is adopted:
Doesn’t impact any additional bylaw amendments.

The current wording in the bylaws is:
Non-existent
The proposed wording, highlighting all changes, is:
E. A current council president may not serve simultaneously as an officer of Free State PTA but may retain such council presidency until the time at which they are elected as an officer of Free State PTA. Upon being elected, the individual shall resign their council presidency within fourteen (14) days from the close of the convention.
If adopted, the bylaws will read:
E. A current council president may not serve simultaneously as an officer of Free State PTA but may retain such council presidency until the time at which they are elected as an officer of Free State PTA. Upon being elected, the individual shall resign their council presidency within fourteen (14) days from the close of the convention.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #3

At (specify where the change will occur in the current bylaws):
Article VI – Officers, Section 1. Officers
By (specify in detail what to change):
Inserting the words “a Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice” after the words vice President for field services
The rationale for this change is:
<p>Free State PTA is committed to ensuring that every child’s potential becomes a reality by engaging and empowering families and communities to advocate for all children. In alignment with this mission, and in recognition of the rich diversity across our state, it is essential that our leadership structure reflect a sustained, intentional focus on advancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) at every level of our work.</p> <p>The creation of a Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice (VP-DEIJ) as an officer position within the Free State PTA will institutionalize our commitment to these core values. This position will serve as a strategic leader and advisor, ensuring that DEIJ principles are embedded into our policies, programming, outreach, and advocacy. The VP-DEIJ will work collaboratively across all committees, council PTAs and local units to promote inclusive practices, address systemic barriers, and foster a culture where every family feels welcomed, valued, and heard.</p> <p>By elevating this role to the level of an officer, the Free State PTA acknowledges the importance of DEIJ not as a standalone initiative but as a foundational element of organizational excellence and sustainability. This structural change will empower the Free State PTA to better serve and represent the full diversity of our communities and to lead boldly in the ongoing work of building a more equitable and just educational environment for all Maryland students.</p>
These other bylaws elements require an update if this proposal is adopted:
Article VI – Officers, Section 7. Duties of Officers, Article X – Committees Section, 1. Standing Committees

The current wording in the bylaws is:
Section 1. Officers. The officers of Free State PTA shall be a president, a president-elect, a vice president for leadership, a vice president for advocacy, a vice president for membership, a vice president for field service, a secretary, and a treasurer. No individual may serve simultaneously in more than one capacity as an officer.
The proposed wording, highlighting all changes, is:

Section 1. Officers. The officers of Free State PTA shall be a president, a president-elect, a vice president for leadership, a vice president for advocacy, a vice president for membership, a vice president for field service, a vice president for diversity, equity, inclusion and justice, a secretary, and a treasurer. No individual may serve simultaneously in more than one capacity as an officer.

If adopted, the bylaws will read:

Section 1. Officers. The officers of Free State PTA shall be a president, a president-elect, a vice president for leadership, a vice president for advocacy, a vice president for membership, a vice president for field service, a vice president for diversity, equity, inclusion and justice, a secretary, and a treasurer. No individual may serve simultaneously in more than one capacity as an officer.

Free State PTA Recommendation:

The Free State PTA Board of Directors recommends this amendment.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #4

At (specify where the change will occur in the current bylaws):
Article VI – Officers, Section 7. Duties of Officers
By (specify in detail what to change):
Inserting G. Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice and renumbering the remaining sections accordingly.
The rationale for this change is:
Inserting the Duties for the Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice officer position.
These other bylaws elements require an update if this proposal is adopted:
Article X Committees Section 1. Standing Committees, Article X Committees Section 1 Standing Committees E. Duties

The current wording in the bylaws is:
N/A
The proposed wording, highlighting all changes, is:
<p>G. Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice. The vice president for diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. serve as a member of the board of directors; 2. chair the diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice committee 3. perform such other duties as may be provided for by these bylaws, prescribed by the parliamentary authority, or directed by the board of directors or the association
If adopted, the bylaws will read:
<p>G. Vice President for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice. The vice president for diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. serve as a member of the board of directors. 2. chair the diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice committee 3. perform such other duties as may be provided for by these bylaws, prescribed by the parliamentary authority, or directed by the board of directors or the association

Free State PTA Board Recommendation:
The Free State PTA Board of Directors recommends this amendment.

Proposed Bylaw Amendment #5

At (specify where the change will occur in the current bylaws):
Article X – Committees Section 1 E. Duties
By (specify in detail what to change):
<p>Insert the words:</p> <p>3. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee. This committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consist of the vice president for diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, who shall serve as chair, president-elect, and at least three (3) additional members b. develop and promote diversity, equity, inclusion and justice strategies, resources, and programs. c. Develop and Submit the Free State PTA Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach plan to the Free State PTA Board of Directors for approval.
The rationale for this change is:
To outline the Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Justice committee duties as other standing committees listed in the FSPTA Bylaws.
These other bylaws elements require an update if this proposal is adopted:
N/A

The current wording in the bylaws is:
N/A
The proposed wording, highlighting all changes, is:
<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee. This committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consist of the vice president for diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, who shall serve as chair, president-elect, and at least three (3) additional members b. Develop and promote diversity, equity, inclusion and justice strategies, resources, and programs. c. Develop and Submit the Free State PTA Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach plan to the Free State PTA Board of Directors for approval.
If adopted, the bylaws will read:
<p>Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Committee. This committee shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Consist of the vice president for diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice, who shall serve as chair, president-elect, and at least three (3) additional members b. Develop and promote diversity, equity, inclusion and justice strategies, resources, and programs.

- c. Develop and Submit the Free State PTA Diversity, Inclusion, and Outreach plan to the Free State PTA Board of Directors for approval.

Free State PTA Board Recommendation:

The Free State PTA Board of Directors recommends this amendment.

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT #6

Article: XVII – Amendment of Bylaws

Section: 1.B.

I move to...

Strike the existing Section 1.B. and insert “Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Free State PTA President Elect and Secretary on or before the following deadlines. The deadline to submit proposed amendments to be considered at an annual meeting is February 1 preceding the annual meeting at which they will be considered. The deadline to submit proposed amendments to be considered at a special meeting of the members shall be sixty (60) days preceding the special meeting at which they will be considered.”

Current wording:

Amendments to be considered at an annual meeting shall be submitted to Free State PTA on or before the stated deadline, with the exception of the Free State PTA Board of Directors, who may propose amendments at any time provided that the requirement for notice has been met.

1. The deadline for amendments to be considered at an annual meeting is January 1 preceding the annual meeting at which they will be considered.

2. Amendments to be considered at a special meeting of the members shall be submitted to Free State PTA at least sixty (60) days preceding the special meeting at which they will be considered, with the exception of the Free State PTA Board of Directors, who may propose amendments at any time provided that the requirement for notice has been met.

Highlight the wording to show the proposed change:

Proposed amendments ~~to be considered at an annual meeting~~ shall be submitted to the Free State PTA ~~on or before the stated~~ President Elect and Secretary by the following deadlines, ~~with the exception of the Free State PTA Board of Directors, who may propose amendments at any time provided that the requirement for notice has been met.~~

1. ~~The deadline for to submit proposed~~ amendments to be considered at an annual meeting is ~~January~~ February 1 preceding the annual meeting at which they will be considered.

2. ~~The deadline to submit proposed~~ amendments to be considered at a special meeting of the members shall be ~~submitted to Free State PTA at least~~ sixty (60) days preceding the special meeting at which they will be considered, ~~with the exception of the Free State PTA Board of Directors, who may propose amendments at any time provided that the requirement for notice has been met.~~

If adopted will read:

Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Free State PTA President Elect and Secretary by the following deadlines. The deadline to submit proposed amendments to be considered at an annual meeting is February 1 preceding the annual meeting at which they will be considered. The deadline to submit proposed amendments to be considered at a special meeting of the members shall be sixty (60) days preceding the special meeting at which they will be considered.

Maker rationale:

Requiring the FSPTA Board of Directors to adhere to the same deadlines as others ensures there is sufficient time to properly analyze and prepare proposed amendments for membership to consider. Submissions should be directed to the President Elect with a copy to the Secretary

since the President Elect chairs the Governance committee. With a uniform deadline, moving the deadline to February 1 gives everyone a chance to recover from the holidays before submitting proposed amendments

PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT 7

Article: XVII – Amendment of Bylaws

Section: 1.A.

I move to...
Insert “Proposed” before “Amendments” and change “division” to “association”.
Current wording:
Amendments to the bylaws may be submitted by the Free State PTA Board of Directors, a standing or special committee of Free State PTA, or a constituent division or its board of directors.
Highlight the wording to show the proposed change:
Proposed amendments to the bylaws may be submitted by the Free State PTA Board of Directors, a standing or special committee of Free State PTA, or a constituent division association or its board of directors.
If adopted will read:
Proposed amendments to the bylaws may be submitted by the Free State PTA Board of Directors, a standing or special committee of Free State PTA, or a constituent association or its board of directors.
Maker rationale:
At this point suggestions are just proposals, they do not become amendments until ratified by the membership, and the proper term is “constituent association”.