



## **REFERENDUM PROCESS REVIEW WORK GROUP**

Adopted by the WSBA Board of Governors on May 19, 2017

### **CHARTER**

#### **Background**

The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) Bylaws contain provisions permitting the membership to file petitions to have a vote of the membership on certain actions taken by the Board of Governors (BOG). Over the course of 2016, a Bylaws Review Work Group drafted amendments to many of the WSBA Bylaws, the last of which were adopted at the BOG meeting in January of 2017. The Bylaws Review Work Group, however, did not review the WSBA Bylaw provisions regarding membership referenda due to concern that the topic may have been outside the scope of the directions from the BOG to the Bylaws Review Work Group. Members of the BOG, however, requested that a separate work group be established to undertake this review, including the receipt of member input, and to suggest any amendments to the WSBA Bylaw provisions determined to be appropriate.

#### **Task Force Purpose**

1. Identify all WSBA Bylaws provisions regarding member referenda to determine the purpose of those provisions and whether the provisions continue to be appropriate for the WSBA.
2. Review materials from other mandatory/unified Bar Associations to determine whether other organizations similar to the WSBA have referendum provisions, and review the topics subject to member referenda and the processes used for member referenda in those Bar Associations that do provide for member referenda.
3. Review relevant materials from other sources regarding appropriate topics, uses and processes for referenda, and consider whether and how that information is relevant to the WSBA and its functions.
4. Consider oral presentations or written materials regarding good governance for organizations and agencies, and budgeting for organizations and agencies with similar-sized budgets and funding sources.
5. Draft suggested amendments to WSBA Bylaws regarding the WSBA referendum provisions, if considered appropriate.
6. Solicit and collect input from WSBA members and others regarding the use of member referenda, including appropriate topics and processes for referenda, both before and after drafts of any suggested amendments are prepared, and regarding any suggested amendments.

7. After considering relevant materials and input, draft and submit to the BOG any final recommendations for amendments to WSBA Bylaws regarding member referenda.

### **Timeline**

The workgroup shall begin meeting no more than six weeks after appointments are completed, and shall complete its review and submit its report not later than the January 2018 BOG meeting, unless the BOG agrees to extend this timeline.

### **Workgroup Membership**

The workgroup shall consist of the following voting membership:

- Four current BOG members, one of whom shall be appointed to serve as Chair;
- Three former members or officers of the BOG;
- Four at-large members of the WSBA;
- If available and willing to serve, one member of the Washington Supreme Court;
- The Executive Director or General Counsel of the WSBA, or a designee from WSBA staff.

In accordance with WSBA Bylaws Art. IX.B.2.a. and b., the members and the Chair of the workgroup will be appointed by the WSBA President subject to being accepted or rejected by the BOG. Such appointment and approval shall be completed by no later than the BOG's July 2017 meeting.