

Association of Bay Area Governments

General Assembly

June 20, 2025

Agenda Item 8.a.

Consideration of Proposed Amendments to ABAG Bylaws

Subject:

Consideration of Proposed Amendments to ABAG Bylaws

Background:

ABAG's Bylaws were last amended in 2020. Certain procedural updates to the Bylaws would create greater efficiency and transparency for ABAG functions. The attached proposed amendments were considered by the Executive Board at its May 15, 2025 meeting. The amended language presented reflects the input from the Executive Board. The proposed amendments were sent to the General Assembly delegates for your review on May 21, 2025.

The key proposed changes to the existing Bylaws are as follows:

1. A provision has been added to address the situation, as we are now in, where ABAG does not have a currently sitting Immediate Past President. The definition of that role has been expanded to include the most recent past president if the immediate past president is no longer a serving on ABAG.
2. The date for consideration of the budget by the Executive Board has been moved to 20 days prior to the General Assembly rather than 45. This change is made to align with the Executive Board's standing meetings schedule and the preparation of related budgets at MTC.
3. A provision has been added requiring that if a jurisdiction has a representative on the Executive Board, that person shall also serve as the delegate to the General Assembly. Alternates may still be appointed. The purpose of this change is to ensure continuity of knowledge between the Executive Board and the General Assembly.
4. A new method for electing the ABAG President and Vice President has been proposed. Currently, those officers are elected by secret ballot outside of a public meeting by every elected official in the region. Under the proposed change, the officers would be elected by the Executive Board from among its members and that vote would then be ratified by the General Assembly. The purpose of this change is to address concerns regarding the transparency and administrability of the current mechanism and to ensure that officers are directly familiar with the ongoing work of ABAG.

Issues:

The current method of electing the President and Vice President by secret ballot of all Bay Area elected officials is administratively burdensome and not transparent to the public. It should be updated to ensure that the election happens in a public forum in an efficient manner. Similarly, the time period for budget consideration should be adjusted as proposed. The new proposal

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still allows substantial time for review by the General Assembly, while permitting more efficiency at the Executive Board level and allowing closer coordination with the MTC budget cycle. There is a current need to address the definitional gap in the “Immediate Past President” role and the proposed amendment is consistent with the purposes behind the existing structure. Finally, the Executive Board has identified a need for continuity between that Board and the General Assembly that would be best served by ensuring overlap between the two bodies.

The General Assembly should consider the proposed amendments to the ABAG Bylaws and determine whether to adopt them by motion.

Recommended Action:

The ABAG General Assembly is requested to approve the proposed amendments to the ABAG Bylaws, as attached in redline form to this summary.

Attachment:

- A. Proposed Amendments to ABAG Bylaws

Reviewed:



Andrew Fremier