

**Operations Steering Committee Recommended Revisions to Proxy Voting Procedures
Submitted to GNSO Council
14 June 2011**

3.8 Absences and Vacancies

3.8.1 Absence

i. GNSO Council members are expected to attend all regularly scheduled Council meetings and be present at the time such sessions are called to order. Absences may be **planned** (due to a conflicting personal or professional obligation that cannot be reasonably altered) or **unplanned** (eg sudden illness, accident, injury, or other unanticipated event). In either case (including being late) the Councilor is expected to notify the GNSO Secretariat by e-mail or telephone as soon as practicable before the meeting begins.

ii. Whenever possible, a Councilor is expected to vote on such motions as may come before the GNSO Council using the means provided in Section 4.4 (Absentee Voting). If the vote is outside of the scope of 4.4.1 then the Councilor may opt for Section 4.6 (Proxy Voting).

.....
4.4 Absentee Voting

4.4.1 Applicability

Absentee voting is permitted for the following limited number of Council motions or measures.

- a. Initiate a Policy Development Process (PDP);
- b. Approve a PDP recommendation;
- c. Recommend amendments to the GNSO Operating Procedures (GOP) or ICANN Bylaws;
- d. Fill a Council position open for election.

4.4.2 Absentee ballots, when permitted, must be submitted within the announced time limit, which shall be 72 hours from the meeting's adjournment. In exceptional circumstances, announced at the time of the vote, the Chair may reduce this time to 24 hours or extend the time to 7 calendar days, provided such amendment is verbally confirmed by all Vice-Chairs present.

4.4.3 The GNSO Secretariat will administer, record, and tabulate absentee votes according to these procedures and will provide reasonable means for transmitting and authenticating absentee ballots, which could include voting by telephone, e-mail, web-based interface, or other technologies as may become available.

4.4.4 Absentee balloting does not affect quorum requirements.

4.5 Abstentions

.....
4.5.3 Remedy to avoid abstaining on a vote

According to existing rules, any abstention would not contribute to the passing of a motion; therefore, by default, an abstention functions as a "No" vote. The purpose of the remedial procedures in this section is to minimize this effect.

Voting Direction

The preferred remedy, if applicable for the appointing organization, is to request a "Yes" or "No" voting instruction from the Councilor's appointing organization (if applicable). The Councilor is obligated to follow the instruction.

If a Voting Direction is not obtained then the Councilor may opt for Section 4.6 (Proxy Voting).

4.6 Proxy Voting

An abstaining or absent Councilor as defined above (the Proxy Giver) may transfer their vote to any other Councilor (the Proxy Holder).

The Proxy Holder must vote in order of precedence according to one of three types:

- a) an instruction from the Proxy Giver's appointing organization (if applicable), or if none,
- b) an instruction from the Proxy Giver, or in the absence of either,
- c) the Proxy Holder's own conscience.

Multiple proxies. A GNSO Councilor is not permitted to be a Proxy Holder for more than one Proxy Giver.

Quorum. An absent Councilor does not count toward quorum even if a proxy has been established. A temporary replacement, if present, would count toward quorum.

Proxy Notification

A proxy notification must be sent to the GNSO secretariat and should indicate which type it is. The notification should, where applicable, be sent by the Proxy Giver's appointing organization. Ordinarily a proxy notification must be received by the GNSO secretariat before the start of the relevant meeting.

Exceptionally, a proxy notification may be given during a meeting by a Councilor who is present but needs to leave before a vote.

In all cases the most recent notification takes precedence.