

Democrats Abroad Japan 2025 Bylaws Committee Report

DAJ 2025 Nominations and Election Committee (the “Committee”) members:

Sarajeen Rossitto, Chair

Jacob Kidd, Vice Chair

Patrick Shumaker, Vice Chair

4 parts to this report

- 1) Key dates, overview of the process and actions taken
- 2) Important links
- 3) Ballot count, process, notes and results
- 4) official announcements

1) Key dates overview of the process and actions taken

Mid May	Approval of final bylaws
April 25 - May 17	Election period
May 18th from 10 AM	Bylaws ballot count
	Ballot sent via email on Friday April 25, 5/12 and 5/16
After AGM	Final version of bylaws circulated again to the membership for voting
	DAJ website includes Bylaws process updates, proposed changes, instructions for elections and the ballot
April 19 at AGM	Feedback on suggested edits - final version, final ballot ready
March 28	Doc sent to members - showing suggested changes and discussion items
End March	Advisory board - review questions
Thru March	Make revisions Review & discuss bylaws
	Newsletter informs members about the Bylaws
	proposed changes, upcoming elections
	DAJ website includes updates on the process
March 24	Bylaws committee open meeting for final feedback
March 15	Townhall for review bylaws
	Two open meetings for feedback, questions & comments members
Feb 22	Advisory board – overview and questions 10min only
Feb	Set process and what is needed, discuss possible revisions, revise bylaws
	come up with focus areas
	Review bylaws committee requirements - timelines voting etc
Feb 11	First meeting

2) Important links

- DAJ 2025 Bylaws Final version including all changes [CLEAN final](#)
- DAJ 2025 Bylaws Final version including suggested changes [MARK UP](#)
- DAJ 2025 Bylaws Final Ballot [LINK](#)
- DAJ 2025 Bylaws proposed changes [DOC HERE](#)
- Bylaws AGM report [SLIDES](#)

3) Ballot Count Report - process, results and notes

1. People present – meeting called to order at 10:17

Committee members: Sarajeon Rossitto, Patrick Shumaker, Jacob Kidd
Neutral Observers: Sofia Pardue, Thomas Lyons

2. Confirmation of ballots

Total ballots cast: 38

Total ballots that were on time and for which membership could be confirmed: **38 responses, all submitted digitally.**

Confirmed that there were no Ballots submitted by Email, Fax or Postal mail

Number by fax, Email & postal mail : 0

Ballots submitted digitally: 38

Double ballots: 0

Ballots were deemed invalid: 0

3. Vote counting method

- Chair called out questions and outcomes, other committee members took notes

4. Outcomes – total votes 38

Specific outcomes for each question

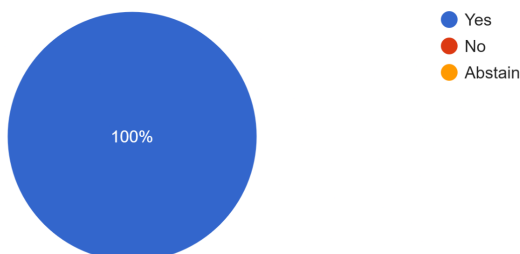
VOTING SECTION #1 Routine Revisions and Edits

RESULTS: 38 YES (100%) PASSED

Section One - there are many small changes. Please review the sections highlighted in Yellow in the ON THE PDF BALLOT document available [HERE](#) and on the DAJ Bylaws NEWS [PAGE HERE](#).

TYPES OF CHANGES: Clarifications of language, corrections of typos, spelling out acronyms, punctuation, and numbering adjustments (some of which depend on the changes in other sections.)Numbering/lettering dependent on approval of other questions below will be null and void should these not be approved.

VOTING SECTION #1 Routine Revisions and Edits Section One - there are many small changes.
Please review the sections highlighted in Yellow...rouped revision. YOUR VOTE FOR THESE CHANGES:
38 responses



Section 2 Clarification

QUESTION 2.1 Clarify DAJ regions and specify prefectures

RESULTS: 38 YES (100%) PASSED

ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP Section 7

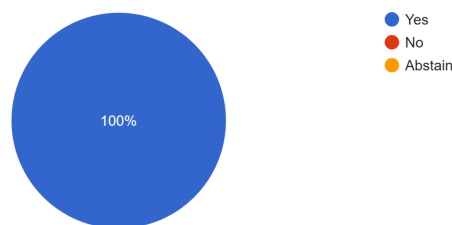
BEFORE

No specific information about regions under membership.

AFTER

Section 7: Members will be categorized by regions in the database, as follows: 1) Hokkaido; 2) Eastern/Northern Honshu (which includes Aomori, Iwate, Akita, Miyagi, Yamagata, Fukushima prefectures); 3) Kanto (which includes Ibaraki, Tochigi, Gunma, Saitama, Chiba, Tokyo, Kanagawa prefectures); 4) Tokai / Chubu (which includes Niigata, Toyama, Ishikawa, Fukui, Yamanashi, Nagano, Gifu, Shizuoka, Aichi prefectures) 5) Kansai (which includes Mie, Shiga, Kyoto, Osaka, Hyogo, Nara, Wakayama prefectures); 6) Western/Southern Honshu (which includes Tottori, Shimane, Okayama, Hiroshima and Yamaguchi prefectures); 7) Kyushu (which includes Fukuoka, Saga, Nagasaki, Kumamoto, Ōita, Miyazaki, Kagoshima prefectures) and Shikoku (which includes Tokushima, Kagawa, Ehime, and Kochi prefectures); and 8) Okinawa prefecture.

VOTING SECTION 2 Clarification Amendments QUESTION 2.1 Clarify DAJ regions and specify prefectures ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP Section 7 ...kinawa prefecture. YOUR VOTE FOR THIS CHANGE
38 responses



QUESTION 2.2 adjustment made based on question

RESULTS: 37 YES (97.4%) 1 ABSTAIN (2.6%) PASSED

ARTICLE V: NATIONAL OFFICERS 5 Section 3.b. (Dependent on approval of ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP Section 7, see above. If ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP Section 7, does not pass this amendment is null and void.)

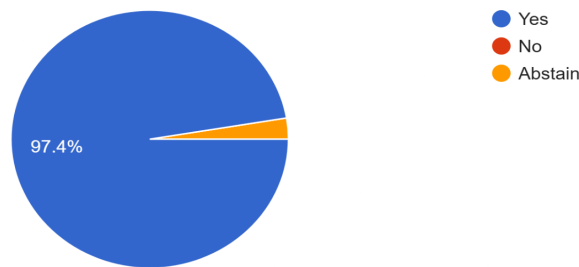
BEFORE

b) Members-at-Large: Members-at-Large are elected representatives from defined areas within Japan that do not have sufficient membership to have an active Chapter. The current areas are Eastern/Northern Honshu, Western/Southern Honshu, Hokkaido, and Shikoku, and Kyushu/ Okinawa. These areas may be redefined by the NEC prior to each national election up to a maximum of five such areas.

AFTER

b) Members-at-Large: Members-at-Large are elected representatives from the regions as defined in Article III section 7 that do not have a chapter, active or in formation.

VOTING SECTION 2 Clarification Amendments QUESTION 2.2 adjustment made based on question 2.1 ARTICLE V: NATIONAL OFFICERS 5 Section 3....e or in formation. YOUR VOTE FOR THIS CHANGE
38 responses



QUESTION 2.3 adjustment made based on question 2.1

RESULTS: 36 YES (94.7%) 2 ABSTAIN (5.3%) PASSED

ARTICLE VII: THE ADVISORY BOARD Section 2 (dependent on approval of ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP Section 7, see above. If ARTICLE III: MEMBERSHIP Section 7, does not pass this amendment is null and void.)

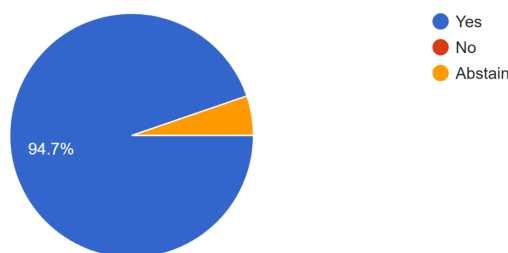
BEFORE

Section 2: The DAJ Advisory Board shall be composed of the Executive Committee (Chair, Vice Chair Secretary, Treasurer, Counsel to the Executive Committee), and up to five (5) Members-at Large elected by region from among the eligible members of the organization. The five (5) Members-at-Large shall each represent a specific region: currently Hokkaido, Eastern/Northern Honshu, Western/Southern Honshu, Shikoku, and Kyushu/Okinawa.

AFTER

Section 2: The DAJ Advisory Board shall be composed of the Executive Committee (Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Counsel to the Executive Committee), the ex-officio members and up to eight (8) Members-at-Large elected by region from among the eligible members of the organization in the regions that do not have a chapter, active or in formation, as defined in Article III section 7.

VOTING SECTION 2 Clarification Amendments QUESTION 2.3 adjustment made based on question 2.1 ARTICLE VII: THE ADVISORY BOARD Section 2 (...ticle III section 7. YOUR VOTE ON THIS CHANGE
38 responses



QUESTION 2.4 - times and means of meetings

RESULTS: 37 YES (94.7%) 1 ABSTAIN (2.6%) PASSED

ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Section 3

BEFORE

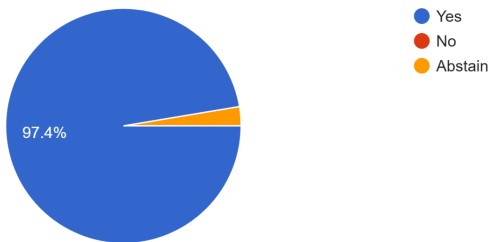
Section 3: Reasonable efforts shall be made to hold all Executive Committee meetings on weekends that promote maximum opportunity for attendance by people residing anywhere in Japan. The Executive Committee may act in meeting by telephone, video conference, in person, or other electronic or written means.

AFTER

Section 3: Reasonable efforts shall be made to hold all Executive Committee meetings at days, times and via modes that promote maximum opportunity for attendance by people residing anywhere in Japan. The Executive Committee may act in

meeting by telephone, video conference, in person, or other electronic or written means.

VOTING SECTION 2 Clarification Amendments QUESTION 2.4 -- times and means of meetings ARTICLE VI: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Se...or written means. YOUR VOTE ON THIS CHANGE
38 responses



QUESTION 2.5 - times and means of meetings

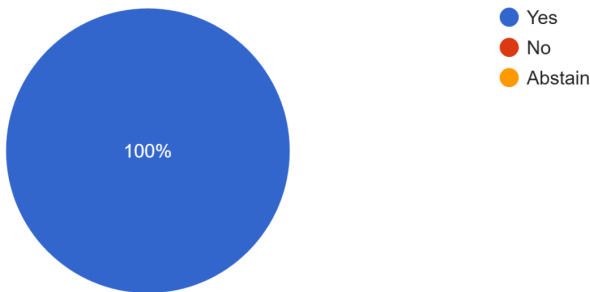
RESULTS: 38 YES (100%) PASSED

ARTICLE VII: THE ADVISORY BOARD Section 4

BEFORE
Reasonable efforts shall be made to hold all Advisory Board meetings on weekends in order to promote maximum opportunity for attendance by people residing anywhere in Japan.

AFTER
Reasonable efforts shall be made to hold all Advisory Board meetings at days, times and via modes that promote maximum opportunity for attendance by people residing anywhere in Japan.

VOTING SECTION 2 Clarification Amendments QUESTION 2.5 - times and means of meetings ARTICLE VII: THE ADVISORY BOARD Se...anywhere in Japan. YOUR VOTE ON THIS CHANGE
38 responses



QUESTION 2.6 Role of Counsel confirmed

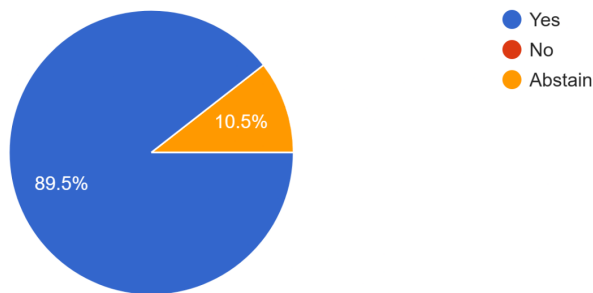
RESULTS: 34 YES (89.5%) 4 Abstain (10.5%) PASSED

ARTICLE VII: THE ADVISORY BOARD Section 3

BEFORE
Section 3: Only members of the Executive Committee and the Chairs of Active Chapters are entitled to vote at Advisory Board Meetings, provided, however, the Counsel shall be entitled to vote in the event of a deadlock amongst the voting Advisory Board members.

AFTER
Section 3: Only members of the Executive Committee and the Chairs of Active Chapters are entitled to vote at Advisory Board Meetings. The Counsel as an Executive Committee member shall vote if needed to break a tie.

VOTING SECTION 2 Clarification Amendments QUESTION 2.6 Role of Counsel confirmed ARTICLE VII: THE ADVISORY BOARD Section 3 BEFORE Sec...ded to break a tie. YOUR VOTE ON THIS CHANGE
38 responses



QUESTION 2.7 - Clarify procedure in the event of Chapter vacancies
RESULTS: 36 YES (94.7%), 1 NO (2.6%), 1 ABSTAIN (2.6%) PASSED

ARTICLE IX: CHAPTERS Section 5

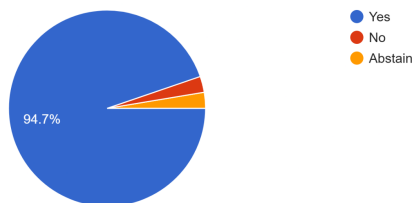
BEFORE

Each Chapter shall be headed by a Chapter Chair elected from amongst the membership of the Chapter at a meeting of the Chapter held in accordance with Chapter Guidelines in the first half of odd numbered years. The Chapter Chair shall use all reasonable efforts to appoint or form an election committee to fill the vacancy for Vice-Chair, Chapter Secretary, and a Chapter Treasurer from the Chapter membership.

AFTER

Each Chapter shall be headed by a Chapter Chair elected from amongst the membership of the Chapter at a meeting of the Chapter held in accordance with Chapter Guidelines in the first half of odd numbered years. The Chapter Chair **shall appoint people to fill the vacancy** or form an election committee to fill the vacancy for Chapter Vice-Chair, Chapter Secretary, and a Chapter Treasurer from the Chapter membership.

VOTING SECTION 2 Clarification Amendments QUESTION 2.7 - clarify procedure in the event of Chapter vacancies ARTICLE IX: CHAPTERS Section 5 Chapter membership. YOUR VOTE ON THIS CHANGE
38 responses



Section 3 New Information

QUESTION 3.1 Clarify each of the standing committees.
RESULTS: 37 YES (94.7%) 1 NO (2.6%) PASSED

ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES Section 1

BEFORE

DAJ shall have the following Standing Committees: GOTV, Membership/Outreach, Events, Fundraising, and Communications/Social Media.

AFTER

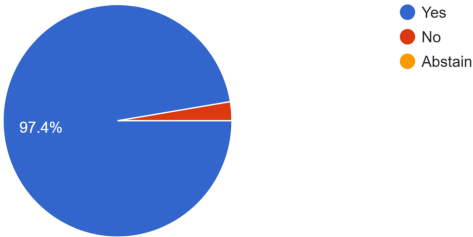
DAJ shall have the following Standing Committees: GOTV, Membership/Outreach, Events, Fundraising, and Communications.

- The Get Out the Vote (GOTV) committee is responsible for identifying U.S. voters and registering them to vote; this may include voter assistance, phone banking and canvassing.

- The Membership Development and Outreach committee is responsible for outreach in order to attract new members.
- The Events committee is responsible for organizing social and/or issue-oriented events.
- The Fundraising committee is responsible for raising funds for GOTV efforts.
- The Communication committee is responsible for maintaining the DAJ external presence in traditional, alternative and social media.

VOTING SECTION 3 NEW INFORMATION added QUESTION 3.1 to clarify each of the standing committees. ARTICLE VIII: COMMITTEES Section... and social media. YOUR VOTE ON THIS CHANGE

38 responses



QUESTION 3.2 - Add electronic means for voting, in compliance with DPCA
RESULTS: 37 YES (94.7%) 1 ABSTAIN (2.6%) PASSED

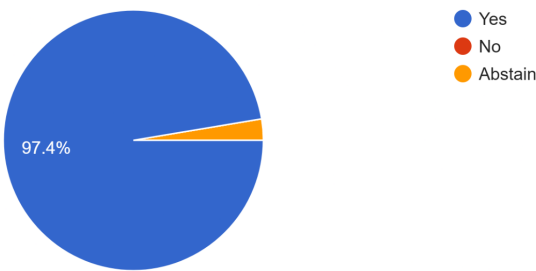
ARTICLE XVI AMENDMENTS Section 2

BEFORE
 The election date shall be set no sooner than two (2) weeks and no longer than four (4) weeks after the amendments and ballots are distributed to the membership. Ballots may be submitted by mail, fax, or email in addition to being voted on at the general meeting called for that purpose.

AFTER
 The election date shall be set no sooner than two (2) weeks and no longer than four (4) weeks after the amendments and ballots are distributed to the membership. Ballots may be submitted by mail, fax, email or electronic means in addition to being voted on at the general meeting called for that purpose.

VOTING SECTION 3 NEW INFORMATION QUESTION 3.2 - add electronic means for voting, in compliance with DPCA ARTICLE XVI AMENDMENT... for that purpose. YOUR VOTE ON THIS CHANGE

38 responses

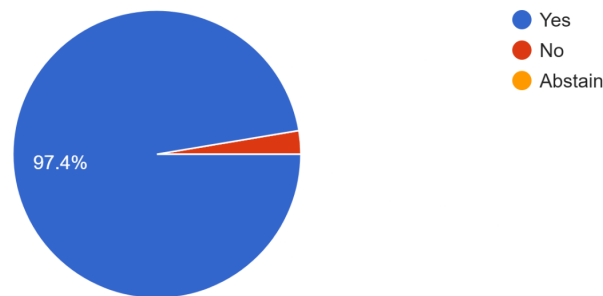


Section 4 New sections required or recommended by the global organization

QUESTION 4.1 - add code of conduct
RESULTS: 37 YES (97.4%) 1 NO (2.6%) PASSED

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP Section 8 Code of Conduct
 All members are expected to adhere to the DPCA Code of Conduct and other procedures and policies defined by the DPCA.

VOTING SECTION 4 - DPCA 2025 Model Bylaws suggestions - Add a new ARTICLE QUESTION 4.1 - add code of conduct ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP S...efined by the DPCA. YOUR VOTE ON THIS CHANGE
38 responses



QUESTION 4.2 Clarify DAJ contract commitment

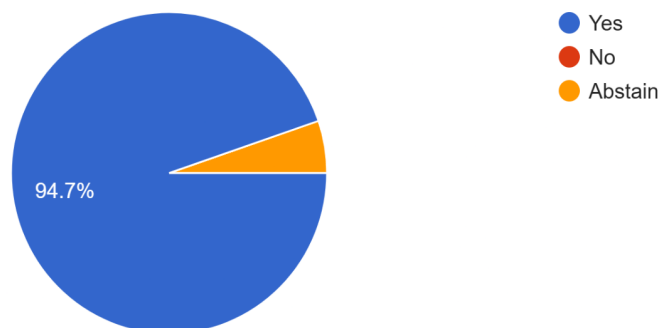
RESULTS: 36 YES (94.7%) 2 ABSTAIN (5.3%) PASSED

ARTICLE VI EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE Section 5

Section 5: Contractual Arrangements.

Executive Committee approval is required for any member to enter into, modify, or cancel any contract on behalf of DAJ, or for the management of DAJ's assets.

VOTING SECTION 4 DPCA 2025 Model Bylaws suggestions - Add a new ARTICLE QUESTION 4.2 clarify DAJ contract commitment ARTICLE VI EX...ent of DAJ's assets. YOUR VOTE ON THIS CHANGE
38 responses



QUESTION 4.3 - no limits in the DPCA charter

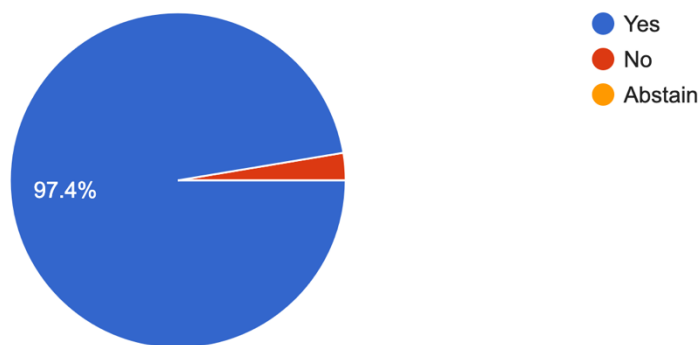
RESULTS: 36 YES (94.7%) 1 NO (2.6%) 1 ABSTAIN (2.6%) PASSED

(Removal of the underlined section)

ARTICLE XII VACANCIES Section 2

Section 2: The election to fill a vacancy for the National Vice Chair, National Secretary, or National Treasurer shall be no earlier than two months and no later than four months following the date that the vacancy first arises. After a vacancy arises, the National Executive Committee may appoint a DPCA Representative on a purely interim basis until an election can be held as described above; provided, however, that the nominated individual so appointed must have previously been elected by the entire membership of Democrats Abroad Japan within the last three two-year election cycles of Democrats Abroad Japan.

VOTING SECTION 4 Change based on the DPCA CHARTER QUESTION 4.3 - no limits in the DPCA charter (Removal of the underlined section) BE...ocrats Abroad Japan. YOUR VOTE ON THIS CHANGE
38 responses

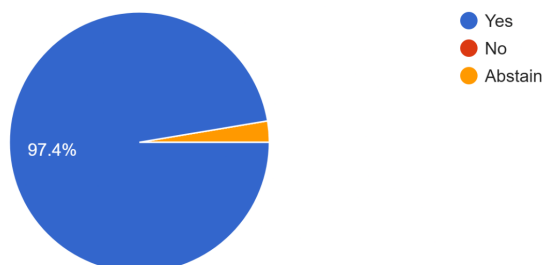


QUESTION 4.4 - What happens to funds due to DAJ inactivity, standard wording for civic orgs
RESULTS: 37 YES (94.7%) 1 ABSTAIN (2.6%) PASSED

ARTICLE XV Disposition of Assets

Upon the voluntary dissolution of DAJ or after a suspension of four (4) years as stipulated in the DA Charter Section 5.10, DAJ assets shall be distributed to the DPCA Treasury.

VOTING SECTION 4 DPCA 2025 Model Bylaws suggestions - Add a new ARTICLE QUESTION 4.4 - what happens to funds due to DAJ inactivity, st...to the DPCA Treasury. YOUR VOTE ON THIS CHANGE
38 responses



All proposed edits and amendments passed by the required two-thirds margin.

5. Irregularities found: None

May 18, 2025 10:43 Meeting Concluded
To Anna Castello, DA Japan Chair

Sarajeen Rossitto, Chair
Jacob Kidd, Patrick Schumaker, Co-Vice Chairs
DAJ 2025 Bylaws Committee

4) Official announcements

Re: OFFICIAL Announcement of the 2025 DAJ BYLAWS Election Results

Dear DAJ members,

The 2025 DAJ Bylaws Committee is pleased to announce the results of the 2025 proposed bylaws changes.

Votes were counted on 5/18 and recorded by the DAJ Bylaws Committee as follows:

- Total ballots cast: 38 ballots
- All submitted via digital means
- All ballots were complete and membership could be confirmed.

SECTION 1 - Edits - RESULTS: 38 YES (100%) PASSED

SECTION 2 - Amendments

- QUESTION 2.1 - RESULTS: 38 YES (100%) PASSED
- QUESTION 2.2 - RESULTS: 37 YES (97.4%) 1 ABSTAIN (2.6%) PASSED
- QUESTION 2.3 - RESULTS: 36 YES (94.7%) 2 ABSTAIN (5.3%) PASSED
- QUESTION 2.4 - RESULTS: 37 YES (94.7%) 1 ABSTAIN (2.6%) PASSED
- QUESTION 2.5 - RESULTS: 38 YES (100%) PASSED
- QUESTION 2.6 - RESULTS: 34 YES (89.5%) 4 ABSTAIN (10.5%) PASSED
- QUESTION 2.7 - RESULTS: 36 YES (94.7%), 1 NO (2.6%), 1 ABSTAIN (2.6%) PASSED

SECTION 3 - Amendments

- QUESTION 3.1 - RESULTS: 37 YES (94.7%) 1 NO (2.6%) PASSED
- QUESTION 3.2 - RESULTS: 37 YES (94.7%) 1 ABSTAIN (2.6%) PASSED

SECTION 4 - - Amendments

- QUESTION 4.1 - RESULTS: 37 YES (97.4%) 1 NO (2.6%) PASSED
- QUESTION 4.2 - RESULTS: 36 YES (94.7%) 2 ABSTAIN (5.3%) PASSED
- QUESTION 4.3 - RESULTS: 36 YES (94.7%), 1 NO (2.6%), 1 ABSTAIN (2.6%) PASSED
- QUESTION 4.4 - RESULTS: 37 YES (94.7%) 1 ABSTAIN (2.6%) PASSED

All proposed edits and amendments passed by the required two-thirds margin. These changes will be effective immediately upon confirmation of receipt by the DPCA.

The full report and many documents with accessible links can be found here on the DAJ website [HERE](#)

Thank you for your support
Sarajeon Rossitto, Jacob Kidd, Patrick Schumaker
The 2025 Bylaws Committee

Sns message