

Proposed VID Constitutional Waiver Amendment

Purpose: This amendment creates a narrowly tailored process that allows VID, in exceptional cases, to grant a waiver permitting a non-civil-service government employee—whose duties are non-political—to run for or continue serving as President or Co-President, with safeguards for review, transparency, changed circumstances, and required recusals.

Waiver of Eligibility Restriction. VID may, in limited and exceptional circumstances, grant a waiver to allow a member with paid non-civil-service government employment to run for or continue serving as President or Co-President. A waiver may be considered only in cases where the President, Co-President, or candidate therefore is a non-civil service government employee not engaged in political activity on behalf of or at the behest of their employer.

1. Procedure. To request a waiver, a candidate for President or Co-President, or sitting President or Co-President, must submit to the Executive Committee a brief written description of their government job duties or proposed government job duties. The Executive Committee may grant the waiver by majority vote if it determines that the position does not present a risk of inappropriate influence over VID. If a waiver is granted, the written description and notice of the waiver shall be shared with the General Membership at least one week prior to the next General Membership meeting. The General Membership shall then vote whether to accept or deny the waiver. If the waiver is accepted by the General Membership then the candidate shall be eligible to run or the sitting President or Co-President shall be entitled to keep their position.

2. Loss of eligibility or changed circumstances. A waiver applies only to the specific presidential or co-presidential term for which it is granted and remains valid only while the member continues to meet the conditions under which it was approved. If the non-civil service position substantially changes, the President or Co-President shall notify the Executive Committee. If such change occurs, the Executive Committee shall, at least seven days prior to the next General Membership meeting, issue a recommendation to the General Membership as to whether to revoke the waiver. The Executive Committee shall notify the General Membership about the changed circumstances, the recommendation, the relevant facts, that a special election will occur if the waiver is revoked, and the disinterested Co-President or Vice President who shall preside over the revocation discussion and any special election. The General Membership shall then vote as to whether to revoke the waiver. If the waiver is revoked, a special election shall occur on the same day pursuant to the “Interim Election” provision of this Article.

3. Recusal. A President or Co-President serving pursuant to a waiver under this provision shall recuse from any vote concerning their employer and shall refrain from moderating any discussion concerning their employer.