

Resolution 205.7
On Voting in Vestry Elections at Parish Annual Meetings

The 205th Annual Convention enacts:

Canon 22, Section 1 is amended by rewriting subsection (e) and adding subsection (f) as follows:

“(e) *Voting.* Motions, resolutions, elections, and all other matters presented to a parish meeting for vote shall be decided by a majority of the qualified members present and voting; provided however the voting in vestry elections shall include any votes cast pursuant to a parish bylaw adopted pursuant to Canon 22, Section 2(g)(4).

(f) *Initial Adoption.* Until the earlier to occur of December 31, 2022 and the eliminations of restrictions on the permissible size of any parish meeting a bylaw provision described in Section 2(g)(4) of this Canon as well as by bylaw to implement the provisions of Canon 33, Section 1 may, by action of the vestry be submitted by mail ballot to qualified members of the parish pursuant to guidelines promulgated by the Diocesan Chancellor and adopted by the affirmative vote of a majority of the mail ballots completed by persons qualified to vote and returned to the parish by the deadline stated therein. Any such bylaws approved by the mail ballot shall be submitted to the Ecclesiastical Authority for approval as provided in Section 1(d) of this Canon.”

Submitted by the Commission on Constitution and Canons

Comment: Canon 22, Section 1(e) currently allows only those votes of qualified members who are present and voting at the Annual meeting to be counted in vestry elections. However, Canon 22.2(g)(4) allows parishes to adopt a bylaw permitting absentee ballots and other forms of “remote voting” which allows qualified members who are not actually present at the Annual Meeting to vote in the vestry election. The proposed change to Canon 22.1(e) reconciles the current version of that subparagraph with Canon 22.2(g)(4) are actually counted.