

IAVM Bylaws 2026 Update

IAVM & Bylaws

Bylaws are at the core of how our association operates. They explain how decisions are made, how leaders are selected, how members participate, and how the organization stays accountable. In simple terms, bylaws are the rules that guide how we work and how we serve you as a member.

Even if most members do not interact with the bylaws often, they play an important role behind the scenes. ***Bylaws help create consistency, fairness, and transparency in how the association is governed.*** They also protect the voice of the membership by defining voting rights and decision-making processes. Strong, current bylaws are one of the best ways to maintain trust and operate effectively as a professional association. Members can always review the current bylaws document on the IAVM website at www.iavm.org.

In the past, our association has typically updated the bylaws every five to ten years. That approach has served the organization well over time and has provided stability and continuity.

As IAVM continues to grow and evolve, we see an opportunity to take a more proactive approach. Rather than waiting many years for large-scale revisions, we believe it is better to review our bylaws on a regular schedule and make updates when needed.

Under this new approach, administrative changes may be made each year when necessary. These changes may be requested by the Executive Committee and referred to the Governance Committee for review. Administrative changes include items such as formatting, grammar, numbering, cross-references, updated titles or names, and other housekeeping edits that do not change member rights or the structure of the association.

After review by the Governance Committee, proposed administrative changes would still be presented to the Board of Directors for approval. Once approved, those changes would be shared publicly with the membership so members remain informed.

Material changes would be reviewed at least every two years. These are changes that affect powers, structure, voting, authority, duties, membership rights, quorum requirements, finances, or decision-making.

Material changes may be requested by the Executive Committee and referred to the Governance Committee for review and recommendation. The Governance Committee would then present any proposed changes to the Board of Directors for approval. After Board approval, those recommended changes would be presented to the membership for a vote.

This process helps keep the bylaws accurate, clear, and aligned with how the association operates today. It also allows smaller issues to be corrected early before they become larger problems. Regular reviews help the organization respond to changes in the industry while continuing to meet the needs of members.

Just as importantly, smaller and more regular updates are easier for members to review and understand than large, complex revisions made only once every several years.

This change is not about changing rules for the sake of change. It is about keeping the Association's structure strong, clear, and ready for the future while respecting the important role members play in governance.

Proposed Material Changes for Member Vote

This year, **ten material bylaws changes** are being presented to the membership for consideration. Many of these are general language cleanup but others are potentially more impactful.

All of these proposed changes were reviewed through the governance process and approved for presentation to the membership for a vote.

1. Statement of Mission

Location in Document: Article II – Mission, Purpose, and Restrictions

Proposed Changes:

- **Section 1:** Add mission statement “To educate, advocate for, and inspire public assembly venue professionals, worldwide”
- **Section 2:** Remove the statement “to cultivate acquaintance and communication among managers of such facilities”

Why This Change Is Being Proposed: To confirm the mission statement for the Association and update the supporting language

What This Means: No change to our current operations

2. Qualifications for Officers of the Board

Location in Document: Article IV – Officers

Proposed Change:

- **Section 3:** Changes succession language for First Vice Chair from “at the conclusion of the Annual Conference & Trade Show” to “as outlined in the terms section:
- **Section 4:** Changes succession language for Second Vice Chair from “at the conclusion of the Annual Conference & Trade Show” to “as outlined in the terms section:

Why This Change Is Being Proposed: The terms are already outlined in Section 7 of the same section of the bylaws with more detail.

What This Means: Removing this section helps to clarify succession and term lengths should there not be an annual conference or if an Officer serves a partial term.

3. Qualifications for Officers of the Board

Location in Document: Article IV – Officers

Proposed Change:

- **Section 6:** Replace the current requirement for the CFE (Certified Facility Executive) designation with either the CVE (Certified Venue Executive) or CVP (Certified Venue Professional) designation.

Why This Change Is Being Proposed: The CFE designation has been replaced by the CVE certification. In addition, IAVM has introduced the CVP certification as another recognized professional credential. This update modernizes the bylaws to reflect the association’s current certification programs. It also expands the pool of qualified candidates while continuing to maintain professional standards for those seeking Officer positions.

What This Means: Candidates for Officer positions would still need to meet certification requirements, but the bylaws would recognize the current credentials offered by IAVM.

4. Qualifications for Officers of the Board

Location in Document: Article IV – Officers

Proposed Change:

- **Section 8:** Remove sections a, b, c and replace with “The Leadership Development Committee shall nominate a Second Vice Chair and other Sector Directors for election by the voting membership via electronic ballot or mail in ballot. Applications are required for any member seeking a sector director position on the Board of Directors. The Leadership Development Committee will present final recommendations to the Executive Committee and Board of Directors for their approval. An active member in good standing from each region shall be elected the Regional Director by the voting members in each region.”

Why This Change Is Being Proposed: This change aligns this section with current practices. It removes in-person and fax voting, folds Allied Sector Director into the same process as other sector directors, and validates the Regional Director process. It also removes the IAVM Foundation references as the Foundation now sits under a separate governance process.

What This Means: No changes to our existing processes or pathways to leadership for our members

5. Board of Directors Working Process

Location in Document: Article V – Board of Directors

Proposed Change:

- **Section 1:** Add sub-section (b) which reads “The Board of Directors represents, leads, and serves the organization’s members and holds itself accountable to them by committing to act in members’ best interests by ensuring that all Board and organizational action is consistent with law and the Board’s policies.”
- **Section 1:** Remove existing sub-section (b) and replace with “The Board’s purpose is to assure that the organization achieves the results described in the Board’s Results policies and that it operates according to the values expressed in the Board’s Operational Expectations policies.”
- **Section 1:** Change existing sub-section (c) to (d) and remove references to IAVM Foundation Sector Director

Why This Change Is Being Proposed: This addition clearly defines the Board’s role and ties all outcomes to our Governance process. Removal of the IAVM Foundation is due to the separate IAVM Foundation governance process.

What This Means: No change to our existing processes

6. Composition of the Board

Location in Document: Article V – Board of Directors

Proposed Change:

- **Section 2:** In sub-section (c) and (d), remove the specific counts for sector directors (7) and region directors (9)

Why This Change Is Being Proposed: Removing the specific numbers allows for expansion of sector types or regions as our membership grows and changes. The section provides additional members of the Board of Directors as additional sectors or regions are added.

What This Means: Our association can continue to grow with our changing definitions of public assembly venues and regional membership distribution

7. Composition of the Board

Location in Document: Article V – Board of Directors

Proposed Change:

- **Section 2:** In sub-section (e), remove the ex-officio (non-voting) Board seats currently held by the Board of Governors (Senior Executive Symposium) and Board of Regents (Venue Management School).

Why This Change Is Being Proposed: Our volunteers are seated onto two types of committees - Board committees and Management committees. Board committees are governed by the Chair of the Board and include the Leadership Development, Governance, and Audit committees. All other committees are Management committees which are selected and overseen by the CEO. The Board of Governors and the Board of Regents are management committees.

Given that these groups are management committees, as a governance best practice, the proposal seeks to create a clearer separation between management (operational) committees and the Board of Directors. Because the CEO reports to the Board, this change helps avoid any appearance of overlap or influence in board composition and strengthens the independence of the Board's governance role.

What This Means: These positions are already non-voting seats, so this proposal does not remove voting power from any member group. Instead, it updates the governance structure to provide clearer lines between Board oversight and IAVM staff-managed committees.

8. Board Meetings

Location in Document: Article V – Board of Directors

Proposed Change:

- **Section 3:** Change voting sentence to read "Voting may occur by postal or by electronic means; provided that votes taken by electronic means must be unanimous to carry a matter"

Why This Change Is Being Proposed: This is removing the requirement for votes to occur exclusively by written (physical letter) means

What This Means: No change to our existing processes

9. Meetings

Location in Document: Article VI – Meetings

Proposed Change:

- **Section 1:** Remove reference to “Annual Conference & Trade Show”
- **Section 2:** Remove reference to “postal or other delivery”
- **Section 3:** Changed to read “Voting may be conducted in-person or by an approved third-party entity allowing members to vote in elections or on any matter presented by the Board of Directors without a meeting, where the votes are submitted in writing or by electronic means. The number of votes cast in writing (electronic means) shall constitute a quorum.”

Why This Change Is Being Proposed: This change aligns the bylaws with our current practices including the allowance for electronic voting

What This Means: No change to our existing processes

10. Amendments

Location in Document: Article X – Amendments

Proposed Change: Change last sentence to read “A sixty (60) day advance notice of the amendments will be provided to the voting members via available official IAVM communication channels.”

Why This Change Is Being Proposed: The current language of “any/all IAVM communication channels” is not accurate

What This Means: No change to our existing processes
