



Dear IEEE AESS Member,

The annual IEEE election begins on August 15, 2016. In this election, members will be asked to vote on a constitutional amendment that would fundamentally change IEEE. AESS has included information about the vote in our August Systems Magazine Editorial and we encourage you to review it and educate yourself on the amendment's pros and cons.

The following message was provided to AESS and signed by four past IEEE Presidents and other leaders regarding their views and interpretation of the amendment.

I believe the message complies with IEEE Electioneering policies, [IEEE Policy 13.3.A](#), Elections and Electioneering, which states that "Electioneering activities to provide information to the members on candidates and issues are encouraged." Therefore, I am forwarding their message to you for informational purposes.

Dear IEEE Member,

Voting in the annual election will start on 15 August. Members will be asked to vote on a constitutional amendment that would fundamentally change IEEE.

The governing bodies of many societies and sections have expressed opposition to this amendment. The societies that have so voted include the largest ones: Computer, Power and Energy, Communications, Signal

Processing, Circuits and Systems, Electron Devices, Robotics and Automation, Solid-State Circuits...

Why is there such widespread opposition? Because, among other reasons, the amendment could enable:

- a small group to take control of IEEE
- transferring of power from over 300,000 members to a small group of insiders,
- removing regional representation from the Board of Directors thereby making it possible that, e.g., no Asian or European representatives will be on the Board of Directors - thus breaking the link between our sections and the decisions the Board will make,
- removing technical activities representation from the Board of Directors thereby diminishing the voices of technology in steering IEEE's future,
- moving vital parts of the constitution to the bylaws - which could be subject to change by a small group, on short notice.

The possible benefits of the amendment are discussed at the amendment [website](#).

The opponents feel that the purported benefits do not outweigh the risks and detrimental effects. The existing IEEE constitution offers alternative, less complex ways of accomplishing the intended improvements while maintaining members at the core of the decision making process.

Additional reasons for opposing the constitutional amendment and the proposed restructuring may be found at the Washington Section's [website](#) and at the "Loyal Opposition's" [website](#). It is important that IEEE members be informed about the possible consequences if this Amendment were to pass.

Please share this message with other members, and PLEASE VOTE!

Charles K. Alexander
1997 IEEE President

W. Cleon Anderson
2005 IEEE President

Marc T Apter
2013 IEEE-USA President, and 2004-2005 IEEE Vice President, Regional Activities

Anthony C Davies
2003-2004 IEEE Region 8 Director

Jim Isaak
2002/4 IEEE Division Director, and 2010 Computer Society President

Tony Ivanov
2016 IEEE Washington DC Section Chair

H. Troy Nagle
1994 IEEE President

John Vig

2009 IEEE President

I encourage you to vote beginning on August 15. Don't miss out on your opportunity to make a difference in this important election!

Very best regards,



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