



**American Legion Auxiliary
Department of California, Elections
August 2023 Bulletin**

Hello all! Welcome to the 2023-2024 year under the leadership of Madame President Glenda. I am honored to grow and learn more about the elections process. Election occurs once a year at Convention, but there are many things we can do to be more knowledgeable and prepared for it. Over the course of this year, be on the lookout for “gold nuggets” of information that will be shared in bulletins. Together we can become more informed delegates for our respective Units and Districts.

 **GOLD NUGGETS** 

 **What happens when an elected office becomes vacant in the Unit/District?**

We look to our Constitution and Bylaws for guidance. Specifically see Article IV Officers, Section 2:

2e. Any vacancy in an elective office, except those otherwise provided for in these bylaws, shall be filled by an election at a regular meeting without unreasonable delay. Advanced notice of election shall be provided to the membership.

Note: Article IV, sections 6 provides direction when the President’s position becomes vacant.

 **How many votes does it take to elect an officer?**

Constitution and Bylaws Article IV Officers, Section 2 provides us with the answer:

2c. Election shall be by ballot. A majority vote shall elect. When there is but one candidate for office the ballot may be dispensed with and the nominee elected viva voce.

 **What is the difference between majority vote and plurality vote?**

In terms of voting and elections, *majority* is defined as “a number of votes, or others in agreement, constituting more than half of the total number.” On the other hand, *plurality* refers to “the excess of votes received by the leading candidate, in an election in which there are three or more candidates, over those received by the next candidate.” This means that someone who wins the *plurality* of votes received more than any of the other candidates but not necessarily the *majority*.

Majority means for a candidate to win they have to receive more than 50% of the votes cast. Where this comes into play is when you have three or more candidates. Here is an example where a total of 150 votes were cast:

Candidates	Votes received
Person A	68
Person B	66
Person C	16

To win majority, take the total votes of 150 and divide by 2.

$$150 \div 2 = 75$$

75 is exactly 50%, but for majority we need more than half, so we add 1.

$$75 + 1 = 76 \quad 76 \text{ votes are need to win by majority}$$

Using the vote results from above, we see that Person A won the *plurality vote* because the received the most votes. But they did not win the *majority vote*, because 76 votes are needed for majority. When this happens, Person C is automatically eliminated from the election and a second ballot is conducted to figure out the winner between person A and B.

Remember, our Constitution and Bylaws, Standing Rules, and Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, are our go to sources. That being said, if you are questioning something the chances are someone else is too. Please share your elections questions with this chair, so that we can learn together.

For God and Country

The Golden State – United as One

Rebecca Glenny, Elections Commissioner

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