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October 1, 2024

Dear TABSE Member,

During the September 15, 2024, TABSE Executive Board meeting, the board voted to accept two (2) proposed recommendations by the Nominations/Elections Committee Chair. The recommendations are:

1. To reduce the number of days for voting from the current 31+ days to a maximum of 14 days for voting.
2. To approve the deadline date of December 31<sup>st</sup> for members to be paid and financial with TABSE, to take part in voting which will begin in January.

Upon acceptance of the Executive Board, the proposed changes are then submitted to membership for approval (if desired). If approved, the recommendations will impact the sections below in our constitution. Thus, please review and be prepared to vote when we send the electronic referendum after the 30-day review period. Thanks!

Many blessings,  
Dr. Christopher Pichon Sr.  
*14<sup>th</sup> TABSE President*

**Texas Alliance of Black School Educators**

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## Addendum

TABSE Constitution change recommendations

Black print = current language

Blue print = proposed new language

### **Current language:**

Article 8, SECTION 4

Voting

All members who are financial with the state organization shall be eligible to vote in statewide general elections. Voting shall be conducted by electronic mail or at the Delegate Assembly at the Annual State Conference. The timeline for voting will be January 1st through February via electronic ballot, and at the Delegate Assembly at the Annual State Conference. Election shall be by a simple majority of the voting membership. The results of the election shall be announced at the Annual Conference and printed in the next edition of the TABSE Newsletter. All ballots will be forwarded to the Secretary to be held for twelve months following the election.

### **Proposed language:**

All members who are financial with the state organization no later than December 31, shall be eligible to vote in statewide general elections. Voting shall be conducted by electronic mail or mail-in. The timeline for voting will be the 1<sup>st</sup> weekday in January (non-holiday) through two weeks (non-holiday) by electronic ballot, or mail-in. Election shall be by a simple majority of the voting membership. The results of the election shall be announced at the Annual Conference and printed in the next edition of the TABSE Newsletter. All ballots will be forwarded to the Secretary to be held for twelve months following the election.

### **Rationale:**

Members must be financial with TABSE by December 31 to be properly included in the financial membership roster used for voting. Once elections have begun, new members as of January 1 cannot enter the election pool of eligible voters. Elections should be conducted in a short reasonable time period (14 days maximum). Longer election times encourage voters to wait and/or put off voting, sometimes forgetting to complete the election ballot. Past Election Buddy election results indicated that most voters cast their ballots within the first three days of elections beginning. Election results should be finalized and reported to the membership prior to the annual TABSE State Conference beginning. In 2024, elections ended during the Delegate Assembly meeting. A run-off election in the case of a tie would have been difficult to conduct during the meeting and informing conference attendees of a run-off election would have been virtually impossible.

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Article 8, SECTION 1  
Time of Elections

**Current language:**

General officers of the organization shall be elected for a 2-year term during the time period of January 1st through February via electronic ballot. Beginning September 2020, for the positions nearing the end of the 2-year tenure, nominations will occur from September 1st – November 1st. The defined constitutional vetting process will occur during the month of November. The voting ballot will be finalized during the month of December. At the conclusion of the voting process at the Delegate Assembly, newly elected officers who meet the requirements of a simple majority shall be installed at the end of the conference. In the event of no simple majority, a run-off, electronic vote will take place during the 30-day period beginning the day after the Delegate Assembly. This elected officer(s) involved in the run-off election will be installed within 10 days of being elected.

**Proposed language:**

General officers of the organization shall be elected for a 2-year term during the time period of two weeks in January beginning the first weekday (non-holiday) through 14 days (non-holiday) via electronic ballot or U.S. mail-in. Beginning September 2025, for the positions nearing the end of the 2-year tenure, nominations will occur from September 1 – November 1st. The defined constitutional vetting process will occur during the month of November. The voting ballot will be finalized during the month of December. At the conclusion of the January voting process, newly elected officers who meet the requirements of a simple majority shall be installed at the end of the Annual TABSE State Conference.

**Rationale:**

Elections should be conducted in a short reasonable time period, (14 days maximum). Longer election times encourage voters to wait and/or put off voting, sometimes forgetting to complete the election ballot. Past Election Buddy election results indicated that most voters did so within the first three days of elections beginning. In the event of no simple majority, a run-off, electronic vote will take place following elections ending and before the start of the Annual State Conference. The elected officer(s) involved in the run-off election will be installed along with other newly elected officers at the end of the Annual State Conference