

PROPOSED CHANGES TO COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURES

The following text reflects recommendations for a new section of the Council Operating Procedure 1. This section would follow “Voting Procedures” and immediately precede “Measures to Improve Meetings”.

1

COUNCIL OPERATING PROCEDURE

General Council Meeting Operations

Approved by Council: 04/06/95

Revised: 03/07/97, 06/25/99, 04/03/00, 12/15/03, 03/11/05, 11/09/07, 09/12/08, 06/13/11, 06/28/16, 04/11/17, 04/16/19, 2/15/23, 5/3/23, 7/27/23, 11/9/2024, XX/XX/2026

...[text above is unchanged]

Guidance and Member Comments

The Council may provide guidance during its deliberations to communicate its collective preferences, expectations, priorities, or observations and to help inform the development of subsequent work. Guidance is appropriate when the Council wishes to provide non-binding direction on work that remains under development or signal areas of interest while allowing flexibility for further analysis or implementation. Guidance reflects the consensus of the Council. Such guidance should be clearly given by a member of the Council or summarized by the Chair. The Chair should acknowledge when consensus regarding any guidance is reached.

Guidance should not be used in place of a motion when the Council intends to make a binding decision, exercise formal Council authority, direct a specific action, authorize or direct the use of resources, or otherwise establish formal Council action. Guidance also should not be used to override or modify a prior Council motion.

Questions and comments by individual Council members are part of the Council's deliberations but do not constitute Council guidance or Council direction. Individual member comments should not be characterized as the position of the Council unless the Council subsequently reaches consensus on the matter.

Council guidance and member comments should be distinguished from formal Council action taken by motion.

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