Petition Process – to amend ACS’s Constitution and Bylaws

1. Guidelines for preparing petitions are in the ACS Governing Documents (Bulletin 5): www.acs.org/bulletin5. These sections are in the guidelines: Preliminary Work, Preparing the Petition, Obtaining Signatures (no fewer than 10 voting Councilors or not fewer than 25 members of the Society), and Submitting the petition.

2. You will need to write an Explanation for the petition. For examples of other petitions that were submitted, go to the above link and click on PETITIONS.

3. Search Bulletin 5 to see all Constitution Articles, Bylaws, Regulations, or Supplementary Information that might be affected by the area for which you would like to amend the ACS Governing Documents.

4. The PETITION DEADLINES are 16 weeks before each Council meeting. Petition deadlines are available at the above link; click on PETITIONS. See the opening paragraph or scroll to the bottom of the page.

5. Amendments to the Constitution are in Article XVIII.

6. Amendments to the Bylaws are in Bylaw XIV. NOTE that Sec. 1 refers to the same procedure that is specified in Article XVIII, Secs. 1-2, a-e.

7. Amendments to the Board Regulations need to be approved by the Board of Directors.

8. BEFORE you get signatures, send your draft petition to bylaws@acs.org for a preliminary review. The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) urges petitioners to send the draft petition to C&B for a preliminary review, preferably one or two months before the petition deadline. In the guidelines section on Preliminary Work, the petitioners or committee that is proposing changes should consult with appropriate committees or staff to ensure that other areas of the Society or the Constitution or Bylaws are not affected by your proposed changes.

9. Contact C&B if you would like a blank signatures page for getting signatures on the petition, or you can access this page at www.acs.org/bulletin5; then click on PETITIONS.

10. Questions? Contact C&B at bylaws@acs.org or call 202-872-4071 to reach Barbara Polansky, Staff Liaison to C&B.

NOTE: the Petition to Streamline the ACS Governing Documents is up for ACTION by Council at the spring 2019 meeting in Orlando. If this petition is approved by Council, ratified by ACS members (for the Constitution changes), and confirmed by the Board of Directors, the petition process will not change for the Constitution and Bylaws, although the citations above will change, and there will be an additional process for the Standing Rules. You can access the petition at www.acs.org/bulletin5; click on PETITIONS or contact C&B at bylaws@acs.org.