Frequently Asked Questions
Petition for Global Representation on Council

Why is this petition needed?
Nearly one-fifth of our ACS members have no geographic representation on Council. They have representation on the ACS Board of Directors, but not on Council. Several possible models and scenarios were considered, and members of CPC and IAC have been working on this for a number of years. We feel that this petition provides the ideal solution for achieving geographic representation on Council for all ACS members.

Will this change the number of Councilors for my Division or Local Section?
This petition will not result in a decrease in Council representation for any Local Sections or Divisions. Based on feedback we have received from Divisions, we are in favor of amending the petition to ensure the ratio of Division Councilors remains unchanged—this amendment will result in several Divisions having an additional Councilor when the Council Divisor is next calculated in 2027. Based on the current numbers of Councilors, the amendment would increase the number of Division Councilors by eight.

Can my Local Section expand into adjacent territory?
The goal of this petition is to ensure all ACS Members are represented geographically on Council. Local Sections already have the ability to petition to expand into unincorporated areas and are encouraged to do so.

Can members not living in the territory of a Local Section still join one?
Yes. This petition has no impact on the ability of an ACS member, regardless of residence, to become enrolled in a Local Section.

How is the makeup of each Zone determined?
Zones are electoral regions that exist only for the purpose of electing Councilors. The territory of each Zone is determined by the Committee on International Activities. Proposed Zones are reviewed by ACS legal and operations staff to ensure compliance with federal law and exclude countries sanctioned by the Department of Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control. Zones will be reviewed annually by the Committee on International Activities and revised as necessary every four years to ensure geographic continuity and equitable distribution of ACS members.

How much will this increase the size of Council?
The total number of Councilors currently is 487. Council is currently composed of 342 Councilors elected by Local Sections, 86 Councilors elected by Divisions, 39 Ex Officio Councilors, 1 Bylaw Councilor, and 19 nonvoting Councilors. If this petition is adopted, 34 Councilors allocated to Zones will be added over the next four years for a total of 521 councilors. If the amendment is adopted, and nothing else changes, after the additional Division Councilors are elected, the total number of Councilors would be 529. Either way, the number of new Councilors from Zones is limited to 10% of the number of Local Section Councilors.

Will the number of Councilors elected within Zones change?
The Council Policy Committee, in consultation with the Committee on International Activities, will select a global divisor every four years in alignment with reallocation of Councilors as defined in the Standing Rules. This will be next calculated in 2027. The total number of Councilors elected by Zones will be the lesser of 10% of the number of Councilors from Local Sections or 45.
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**How will these Councilors be elected?**
The Committee on Nominations and Elections has a subcommittee that is developing election procedures. Councilors and Alternate Councilors will be elected by members in Zones in three cohorts to provide for rotation, with the first elections occurring in 2025 for Councilors to take office in 2026.

**Will my vote count less with additional Councilors?**
Council is already a large, deliberative assembly with many voices. There may be a larger number of votes cast, but everyone's vote counts as one vote and all Councilors will benefit from the additional perspectives on issues affecting all ACS members.

**Why use Zones instead of International Chemical Sciences Chapters?**
International Chemical Sciences Chapters only represent about 40% of ACS members residing outside the United States. We recognize that they are some of our most active and engaged members within these Zones, and Chapters will be able to submit nominations for Councilor(s) within their Zone. The prior petition to represent ICSCs on Council has been withdrawn by its petitioners, the majority of whom have signed this petition.

**Why are there so many zones?**
The number of Zones was determined by the Committee on International Activities in collaboration with the Council Policy Committee and ACS staff. It was a careful balance between a small enough number to make elections manageable for the Committee on Nominations and Elections and a large enough number to maintain geographic commonality within each zone. They will be reassessed every four years in line with the reallocation of Councilors.

**Why are there so many changes to the duties of the Committee on International Activities?**
Duties were transferred from Standing Rule VII (Units Function) to Standing Rule VIII (Duties of Committees).

**What happened to the Petition for the Representation of International Chapters on Council?**
After working on a unified approach to represent all ACS members on Council, that petition was withdrawn. Several signatories of the withdrawn petition have signed the Petition for Global Representation on Council.

**Will these new Councilors be reimbursed through the Councilor Attendance Incentive Allotment?**
The Councilor Attendance Incentive Allotment Program applies to Local Sections and Divisions. Councilors elected by Zones will be reimbursed in the same manner as Ex Officio and Bylaw Councilors. They will be reimbursed directly by ACS. [Note: The allotment program is a policy of the Council Policy Committee; it is not a Standing Rule.]

**How much will it cost to reimburse all these additional Councilors?**
The Committee on Budget and Finance has reviewed this petition and determined that it will have a minor negative impact on the finances of the Society (estimated at $90,000 to $180,000 per year)