Board of Governors Awards Voting Procedures

Conflict of Interest: IEEE defines a conflict of interest as a situation, transaction, or relationship in which a member's, volunteer's or staff person's decisions, actions, or votes could materially affect that individual's professional, personal, financial, or business concerns. For this particular ballot, a conflict of interest is defined as any situation where the BoG member or his/her employer is personally benefiting.

Single Candidates for an Award: The award policies state that each award should have at least two valid nominations brought to the Board of Governors, per award in any given year. If there are not sufficient nominations, the award will not be given.

Voting Method: An affirmative vote of a majority of all the voting members of the Board of Governors is required for each award to select a recipient. (Bylaw 203.7.c.)

Voting Options: The Board of Governors award ballot will use the approval voting format in the initial rounds of voting, thus including as options the names of the candidates (the exact number depends on the recommendations made by the Awards Board) and an additional voting option stating "None of the candidates; do not present this award in 201X". This format allows the voters to select as many candidates as they want (if they see multiple deserving candidates) OR the "None of the candidates; do not present this award in 201X" option. Naturally, if the "None of the candidates; do not present this award in 201X" option is selected by a voter, none of the candidates may be selected by that voter. The award ballot will not include an abstain option. If the "None of the candidates; do not present this award in 201X" option receives the majority of the votes, no recipient for that particular award will be selected for that year.

Rounds of Balloting: When there are several award candidates, it might be difficult to achieve a majority vote in the initial round of voting, so multiple rounds of voting may be needed to achieve a majority vote. If a majority vote is not received for a particular award after the first round of voting, a second round of voting will be conducted. The second round of voting will only include the top two voting options who received the highest number of votes in the first round of voting (one of them may be the "None of the candidates; do not present this award in 201X" option). In the second round of voting, the same approval voting format applies and the Board of Governors should achieve a majority vote for one of the final voting options. If there was a tie in the top voting options in the first round of voting, then more than two voting options may appear in the second round of voting. If this type of ballot is required, a third round of voting may be necessary to reduce the voting options pool down to two. If a majority vote is still not achieved in the final round of voting, notably because of a short number of non-voters, then no award will be given for that particular award for that year.

Ties: If at the last round more candidates receive a majority vote than the number of awardees to be selected, the candidate(s) with the highest number of votes will be selected. If there is a tie between the candidates with a majority vote and selecting them all as awardees would mean giving more awards than established, another round of balloting will be conducted to break the tie without the "None of the candidates; do not present this award in 201X" option (and still without abstain option). If the tie still exists in the tie-breaker round of balloting, the Board of Governors will be sent a ballot to determine if they want to make an exception to the policies and allow more award recipients than established for that particular award that particular year. The motion will require a 2/3 vote in favor of the motion, not a majority vote.

If a 2/3 majority vote is not received for the policy exception to allow more recipients for that particular award that particular year, then another round of balloting will be conducted to select

only the required number of the candidates again with no other voting options. If this final round of voting does not result in a majority vote and/or there is a tied vote, then the Society President will select the award recipient(s) from the final candidates.

Voting for Multiple Candidates for an Award: The Society has three major awards that allow for the potential selection of up to two recipients. The award names are: the Meritorious Service Award, the Meritorious Regional/Chapter Service Award and the Technical Achievement Award.   If two awards can be given for an award, it does not mean that two candidates will automatically be selected as recipients for the award. The outcome of the award recipient selection is dependent on each candidate receiving a majority vote. If only one candidate receives a majority vote, then only one award recipient is selected. If two candidates receive a majority vote, then two are selected as award recipients.

Breakdown of the Voting Process:

The steps of the voting process are:

1) In the first round, the BoG members vote for as many candidates as they want OR for the "None of the candidates; do not present this award in 201X" option. If there are candidates with majority voting, those with more votes will take the award or awards.

2) If there are no candidates with majority, another voting round will take place. The second round of voting will only include the top two voting options who received the highest number of votes in the first round of voting. One of the voting options may be the "None of the candidates; do not present this award in 201X" option as candidate. The voting rounds would continue until a winner with majority vote is found (it may be the "None of the candidates; do not present this award in 201X" option) OR no majority happens at all and the award is not given. See Rounds of Balloting Section above for more details.

3) If there is a tie between the candidates with a majority vote and selecting them all as awardees would mean giving more awards than established, another round of balloting will be conducted to break the tie without including the "None of the candidates; do not present this award in 201X" option (and still without abstain option).

4) If the tie still exists in the previous tie-breaker round of balloting, the Board of Governors will be sent a ballot to determine if they wanted to make an exception to the policies and allow more award recipients than established for that particular award that particular year. The motion will require a 2/3 vote in favor of the motion, not a majority vote (this 2/3 condition is imposed by IEEE as an exception to the bylaws is decided).

5) If a 2/3 majority vote is not received for the policy exception to allow more recipients for that particular award that particular year, then another round of balloting will be conducted to select only the required number of the candidates again with no other voting options.

6) If this final round of voting does not result in a majority vote and/or there is a tied vote, then the Society President will select the award recipient(s) from the final candidates.