



**INTERNATIONAL
BROTHERHOOD
OF ELECTRICAL
WORKERS**

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LONNIE R. STEPHENSON
International President

KENNETH W. COOPER
International
Secretary-Treasurer

March 8, 2021

VIA EMAIL

To: All IBEW Local Unions in the United States and Canada

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

In accordance with Article XXVII, Section 1(b) of the *IBEW Constitution*, I have been instructed by the International Executive Council (IEC) to forward proposed amendments to Article XXVII of the *IBEW Constitution* for a vote by the local unions.

This letter will explain the proposed amendments, and tomorrow, you will receive the official ballot from me via email. We are using Survey Monkey technology to conduct the vote, and therefore, the email you will receive tomorrow linking to the official ballot will come from “ist_cooper@ibew.org via Survey Monkey”.

The IEC adopted a resolution on February 16, 2021, deeming certain amendments to Article XXVII of the *IBEW Constitution* necessary. I have attached the IEC’s resolution to this letter.

In adopting the resolution, the IEC recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic has required the IBEW and its local unions to alter the manner in which they conduct business. The IEC also recognized that the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic is rapidly evolving and is such that it is currently difficult to accurately predict the manner and method in which the International Convention may safely be conducted.

The resolution proposes to amend Article XXVII to give the IEC the authority, in consultation with the International President and International Secretary-Treasurer, to make changes to the Constitution on a temporary basis where circumstances that are beyond the control of the IBEW make it impossible, inadvisable, or unsafe to conduct the business of the IBEW.

We have learned that a situation like the COVID-19 pandemic can unexpectedly and dramatically alter the way that we normally conduct business. Currently, the *IBEW Constitution* does not contain a provision allowing the IBEW to adopt temporary changes to adapt to such an emergency situation. The proposed amendments would do that.

Each local union will cast one electronic vote, either for or against the proposed amendments. The vote will be conducted on the basis of one vote per local union. Once the local casts its vote, it will not be able to cast another vote.





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Under the *IBEW Constitution*, a local union may act through action taken at a local union meeting or, pursuant to Article XVII, Section 9, a local union's executive board has the power to take any action that the local union can take between local union meetings. I know and understand that due to local conditions and based primarily on orders or recommendations from local, state and municipal bodies, many local unions have ceased regular meetings of their local unions during the pandemic. If that is the case with your local union, your executive board may determine the local union's vote. In other words, the vote of the local union may be determined by action of the local union's membership at a regular membership meeting, or by action of the local union's executive board.

After you receive the official ballot tomorrow, it would be appreciated if you submit your local union's vote as soon as possible. Regardless, all ballots must be submitted by April 15, 2021. A full report of the results of the vote on the proposed amendments will be sent to the local unions via email and will appear in the June 2021, *Electrical Worker*.

Any questions about these amendments or our voting procedure should be addressed to Senior Executive Assistant to the International Officers Darrin Golden at darrin_golden@ibew.org. For questions or technical assistance regarding electronic voting, please contact our Information Technology Department Director Darren DeMarco at darren_demarco@ibew.org.

With best wishes, I am

Fraternally yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth W. Cooper".

Kenneth W. Cooper
International Secretary-Treasurer

KWC:jls

Enclosure

Copy to Lonnie R. Stephenson, International President

All International Vice Presidents

Darrin Golden, Senior Executive Asst. to the International Officers

Darren DeMarco, Director, Information Technology Department

**IEC RESOLUTION TO ADD PROVISION TO THE IBEW CONSTITUTION
FOR EMERGENCY SITUATIONS**

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 pandemic has required the IBEW and its Local Unions to alter the manner in which they conduct business, and

WHEREAS, the IBEW Constitution is the primary governing document of the IBEW and the IBEW and its Local Unions must act in compliance with the IBEW Constitution, and

WHEREAS, the IBEW Constitution sets forth the requirements for the International Convention, and

WHEREAS, the situation with the COVID-19 pandemic is evolving and is such that it is currently difficult to predict the manner and method in which the International Convention may safely be conducted, and

WHEREAS, although the IBEW Constitution provides that the International President has the authority to decide all questions of law, dispute, or questions in controversy, the IBEW Constitution does not allow for the suspension or amendment of any provision of the Constitution in times of national emergency, and

WHEREAS, Article XXVII of the IBEW Constitution provides for the manner in which the IBEW Constitution may be amended, but does not provide a method for enacting temporary changes quickly in times of a national emergency to ensure that the IBEW and its Local Unions are able to continue to conduct their business, and

WHEREAS, Article XXVII, Sec. 1(b) of the IBEW Constitution empowers the International Executive Council to have the International Secretary-Treasurer submit a proposed amendment to the IBEW Constitution to the Local Unions for vote when the International Executive Council deems such an amendment necessary, and

WHEREAS, the International Executive Council deems it necessary to amend the IBEW Constitution to provide that, in certain circumstances, the International Executive Council shall have the authority, in consultation with the International President and International Secretary-Treasurer, to amend the IBEW Constitution on a temporary basis to enable the business of the IBEW as a whole, including the International Convention, to continue.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, pursuant to its authority under Article XXVII, Section 1(b) of the IBEW Constitution, the International Executive Council deems the following amendments to Article XXVII of the IBEW Constitution necessary, and shall have the International Secretary-Treasurer submit the same to the Local Unions for vote:

1. Article XXVII, Section 1 shall be amended to strike the word “three” and insert the word “four” so that it shall read:

Sec. 1. This Constitution and the rules herein can be amended in four ways:

2. Article XXVII, Section 1 shall be amended by adding a new subsection (d), which shall state:

(d) If circumstances beyond the control of the I.B.E.W. would make it impracticable, impossible, inadvisable, or unsafe to conduct the business of the I.B.E.W. in accordance with this Constitution, including the conduct of the I.C., the I.E.C. shall have the authority to suspend and/or amend provisions of this Constitution on a temporary basis, as necessary in the judgment of the I.E.C. and in consultation with the I.P. and the IST, to enable the business of the I.B.E.W. to continue.

FOR THE INTERNATIONAL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

_____, Secretary

International Executive Council

February, 16 2021