

189—12.3(533) Election procedures for the board of directors.

12.3(1) *Vote by board of directors.* The board of directors shall, by majority vote, select the method of voting for the membership vote for the election of directors, in accordance with Iowa Code section 533.203. Each credit union member shall have a meaningful opportunity to vote in a membership vote. The board of directors shall vote to conduct the vote in whole by electronic voting only if all members have access to an electronic voting device. If the number of members who have opted to receive notices electronically is less than all members, the board may provide access to an electronic device in each credit union office for the members to vote electronically in order to satisfy the access requirement. Otherwise, the board shall also conduct the vote in part by mail-in ballot or in person at the annual meeting, pursuant to the requirements of this rule.

12.3(2) *Election committee.* The board of directors shall appoint an election committee of not fewer than five members, none of whom may be a current director or nominee for office or an immediate family member of any director or nominee for office.

a. It is the duty of the election committee to oversee balloting, to tabulate votes, and to ensure that each member shall only be allowed to vote once and that multiple ballots submitted by the same member are disqualified.

b. The election committee shall elect a chairperson from among the committee members. The chairperson of the election committee shall announce the results of the election at the annual meeting.

c. No member or agent of the election committee shall reveal the manner in which any member voted.

d. If the board of directors, by majority vote, has elected to utilize electronic voting, the election committee shall test the integrity of the electronic voting system at regular intervals during the election period. In the event of a malfunction of the electronic voting system, the board may in its discretion order the election to be held in another form, consistent with Iowa Code section 533.203.

e. For electronic ballots, it is the duty of the election committee to verify, or cause to be verified, the name and credit union account number of the voter as registered in the electronic voting system.

f. For mail-in ballots, including absentee ballots, it is the duty of the election committee to verify, or cause to be verified, the name and credit union account number of the voter as they appear on the identification form, to place the verified identification form and the sealed ballot envelope in a place of safekeeping pending the count of the vote, and, in the case of a questionable or challenged identification form, to retain the identification form and sealed ballot envelope together until the verification or challenge has been resolved.

12.3(3) *Notice of balloting.* At least 20 days but not more than 30 days prior to the close of balloting, the secretary shall produce a notice of balloting.

a. The notice of balloting shall state the names of the candidates for the board of directors. The name of each candidate shall be followed by a brief statement of the candidate's qualifications and biographical data in a form approved by the board of directors.

b. If the board of directors elected to accept additional nominations by petition, then the notice of balloting shall state that additional nominations shall not be taken from the floor at the annual meeting. In this event, the board may vote to conduct the election in any form permitted by Iowa Code section 533.203.

c. If the board of directors did not elect to accept additional nominations by petition, then the notice of balloting shall state that additional nominations will be taken from the floor at the annual meeting. In this event, the board may only vote to conduct the election in person at the annual meeting, and not by mail-in ballot, electronic voting, absentee voting, or any combination permitted by Iowa Code section 533.203.

d. The notice shall set forth the rules and procedures for voting and the date of the close of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at the annual meeting.

(1) The close of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at the annual meeting shall be at least two days prior to any meeting where voting will occur.

(2) Electronic ballots shall be submitted no later than midnight on the date balloting closes for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at the annual meeting in order to be considered valid.

(3) Ballots mailed to the credit union shall be postmarked no later than the closing date of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at the annual meeting and received within five business days after the closing date of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at the annual meeting in order to be considered valid.

(4) Ballots hand-delivered to the credit union shall be received prior to the close of normal credit union business hours on the closing date of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at the annual meeting in order to be considered valid.

(5) If more than one method of voting will be used, the notice shall also communicate that members have the right to vote through any of the methods of voting designated by the board, but that members will only be allowed to vote once.

e. The notice may be included with notice of the annual meeting and in statements or newsletters, on the credit union website, or on signs posted in the credit union.

f. Electronic mail may be used to provide the notice of balloting to members who have opted to receive notices or statements electronically.

12.3(4) Mailed ballots. If the board of directors, by majority vote, has elected to conduct the election in whole or in part by mailed ballot, then the secretary shall send with the notice of balloting a mail-in ballot.

a. The secretary shall include the following materials for balloting:

(1) One ballot, clearly identified as the ballot, on which the names of the candidates for the board of directors are printed in random order.

(2) One ballot envelope clearly marked “ballot” with instructions that the completed ballot shall be placed in that envelope and sealed.

(3) One identification form to be completed so as to include the name, address, signature, and credit union account number of the voter.

(4) One mailing envelope in which the voter, following instructions provided, shall insert the sealed “ballot” envelope and the identification form. The mailing envelope shall be preaddressed for return to the election committee.

b. If the credit union will also be conducting electronic voting, the mail-in ballot is not required for members who have opted to receive notices or statements electronically, and electronic mail may be used to provide the instructions for the electronic voting procedure.

c. Ballots mailed to the election committee or hand-delivered to the credit union shall be received unopened and placed in ballot boxes. The ballot boxes shall be opened by and the vote tallied by the election committee.

d. If voting will also occur at the annual meeting, the ballot boxes shall be opened by and the vote tallied by the election committee, the tallies placed in the ballot boxes, and the ballot boxes resealed to be taken to the annual meeting. If voting is not scheduled to occur at the annual meeting, the election committee shall tally the votes and certify the vote count to the board no later than five days after the close of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at the annual meeting.

12.3(5) Electronic voting. If the board of directors, by majority vote, has elected to conduct the election in whole or in part by electronic voting, then the secretary shall include with the notice of balloting specific instructions for electronic voting.

a. The instruction sheet for electronic voting shall contain specific instructions for electronic voting, including how to access and use the electronic voting system, and the period of time in which votes will be taken.

b. For those members who have opted to receive notices or statements electronically, the instructions for electronic voting required under this subrule may be communicated electronically.

c. The electronic voting shall be tallied by the election committee. If voting will also occur at the annual meeting, then the results shall be verified at the meeting.

d. If voting is not scheduled to occur at the annual meeting, the election committee shall tally the votes and certify the vote count to the board no later than five days after the close of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at the annual meeting.

12.3(6) Absentee ballots—subsequent in-person vote at meeting. If the board of directors, by majority vote, has elected to conduct the election only in person at the annual meeting, the board may also, by majority vote, utilize absentee ballots when no additional nominations will be taken from the floor at the annual meeting and when, in the opinion of the board, it is in the best interest of the credit union and its membership.

a. The secretary shall include with the notice of annual meeting a notification that members may vote either in person at the annual meeting or by absentee ballot if the member submits a written or electronic request for an absentee ballot and returns the ballot prior to the close of balloting for ballots submitted other than in person during voting at the annual meeting.

b. The secretary shall mail the balloting materials specified in paragraph 12.3(4) “a” to each member who is eligible to vote and who has submitted a written or electronic request for an absentee ballot.

c. Ballots mailed to the election committee or hand-delivered to the credit union shall be received unopened and deposited in ballot boxes. The ballot boxes shall be opened by and the vote tallied by the election committee, the tallies placed in the ballot boxes, and the ballot boxes resealed to be taken to the annual meeting.

d. At the meeting of members, printed ballots shall be given to those members who have not voted. The completed ballots shall be deposited in ballot boxes placed in conspicuous locations by the election committee before the meeting. After the members have been given an opportunity to vote, balloting shall be closed, the ballot boxes opened and the vote tallied by the election committee and added to any previous count of absentee ballots. The election committee shall immediately certify the vote count to the board. The chairperson of the election committee shall announce the result of the vote at the meeting.

12.3(7) Nominations from the floor—subsequent in-person vote at meeting. If the board of directors did not elect to accept additional nominations by petition, then additional nominations shall be taken from the floor at the annual meeting, provided that no electronic, mail-in, or absentee balloting has occurred.

a. At the annual meeting, printed ballots shall be distributed to those in attendance after additional nominations are taken from the floor, or the ballots shall also have blank spaces to write in the additional names. The ballots shall be deposited in ballot boxes placed in conspicuous locations by the election committee before the meeting.

b. After members have been given an opportunity to vote, balloting shall be closed, the ballot boxes opened and the vote tallied by the election committee.

c. The election committee shall immediately certify the vote count to the board. The chairperson of the election committee shall announce the result of the vote at the annual meeting.

12.3(8) In-person vote at meeting. If the board of directors elected to accept additional nominations by petition, and if the board of directors also chose to conduct the vote in whole or in part by in-person voting at the annual meeting, printed ballots shall be distributed to those in attendance at the annual meeting who have not voted.

a. The ballots shall be deposited in ballot boxes placed in conspicuous locations by the election committee before the meeting.

b. After those members have been given an opportunity to vote, balloting shall be closed, the ballot boxes opened and the vote tallied by the election committee and added to any previous count of mailed or electronic ballots.

c. The election committee shall immediately certify the vote count to the board. The chairperson of the election committee shall announce the result of the vote at the annual meeting.

12.3(9) Preservation of ballots. Ballots shall be preserved according to the provisions of 189—12.9(533). The 60-day retention period required by subrule 12.9(2) shall run from the date the results are certified to the board by the election committee.

12.3(10) *Publication of results.* Results of the election shall be reported to members according to the provisions of 189—12.10(533). The 60-day posting period required by subrule 12.10(1) shall run from the date the results are certified to the board by the election committee.
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