A resolution to call a referendum on the amendment of the Bylaws of the Socialist Rifle Association in regards to the selection of offices, the nature of those offices, and other electoral matters

RECOGNIZED, that the SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION is a membership-based organization, and that the participation of its members is vital to its continued success and development.

RECOGNIZED, that the CENTRAL COMMITTEE of the SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION, in its role as the legal guardian of the non-profit entity and the conductor of the direction of the activities of the organization, requires both stability in its governance as well as accountability to the membership that it serves.

RECOGNIZED, that on the advice of legal and professional counsel, as well as the good faith suggestions of members of the organization, the CENTRAL COMMITTEE shall provide a unified statement on proposed changes to the structure of the Bylaws of the SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION, but that the decision on these matters shall rest in the authority of the members of the SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION.

FURTHER RECOGNIZED, that while the CENTRAL COMMITTEE may release a statement regarding its views and recommendations on the options presented to the membership for the referendum, it shall refrain, both as a body and on an individual basis of its members, from overt and improper influence and intervention of the proposed referendum. This shall not be construed to be an obstruction on the ability for members of the CENTRAL COMMITTEE to clarify and explain their stances, but rather to avoid engaging in actions that the Electoral Committee determines to be propagandizing or otherwise inappropriately influencing the referendum.

RESOLVED, in recognition of the above statements, and in consideration of the opinions gathered via survey of the membership, the CENTRAL COMMITTEE of the SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION declares the commencement of the 2019 Electoral Referendum, to be held starting 5:00 PM Central Time Friday May 10th, 2019, and to conclude 5:00 PM Central Time Monday May 13th, 2019. The purpose of this Electoral Referendum shall be to address the following questions:

1. Shall the terms of the members of the Central Committee be extended to two years in length?
2. Shall members of the Central Committee be limited to a consecutive number of terms?
3. If question #2 is approved of, shall members of the Central Committee be limited to serve four or six years consecutively in their role?
4. Shall the threshold for a petition to be made into a referendum continue to be one fifth of the dues paying membership, or shall it be changed to one fifth of the total number of members who participated in the most recent election of the Central Committee?
5. Shall the President of the Socialist Rifle Association stand for general election?
6. Shall the Vice President of the Socialist Rifle Association stand for general election?
7. Shall the Secretary of the Socialist Rifle Association stand for general election?
8. Shall the Treasurer of the Socialist Rifle Association stand for general election?
9. Shall the Legal Coordinator of the Socialist Rifle Association stand for general election?
10. Shall ratified chapters of the Socialist Rifle Association be permitted to petition for referendum, as chapters, if 1/4th of all ratified chapters petition for such a referendum?
RESOLVED, that the CENTRAL COMMITTEE of the SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION shall empower the Officers of the SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION to select a secure and appropriate mechanism by which to deliver electronic ballots to all members in good standing.

RESOLVED, that the CENTRAL COMMITTEE of the SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION appoints the following individuals to the Electoral Committee, whose appointments shall last from the passage of this Resolution to 11:59 Central Time, Monday May 20th, 2019, and shall be granted all powers given to them under the Bylaws of the SOCIALIST RIFLE ASSOCIATION. The member designated as Chair shall be charged with the good decorum of meetings of the Electoral Committee, shall direct votes taken within it, and shall maintain minutes of any meetings held by it.

1. Matt Renfroe, Chair (AKA Ravenigma (Matt - NEOhio))
2. Vasileos Efthymiadiis (AKA V - DC)
3. Chris Lutz (AKA cheepguava - Winston-Salem)
4. Kevin S. (AKA Saulecker – Durham NC)

RESOLVED, that the CENTRAL COMMITTEE shall make any and all necessary amendments to the Bylaws as needed to fulfill the results of this referendum. This shall include any grammatical and format modifications, as well as any modification of language to maintain compliance with the text and spirit of the changes, if any, approved of in the referendum.

RESOLVED, that in the time between the completion of the referendum and the passage of this Resolution, the CENTRAL COMMITTEE may find it necessary to modify Sections of the Bylaws in a context not directly related to the issues related to those being determined by this referendum. In this event, the results of the referendum shall continue to be binding, but the inclusion of old text on the ballot shall not nullify unrelated amendments made following the creation of said text, and the CENTRAL COMMITTEE shall empower the Secretary to update this text as necessary prior to the release of the ballot for voting purposes.

FURTHER RESOLVED, that accompanying this Resolution shall be Attachment One: Electoral Referendum Ballot, whose text shall be used for the creation of an electronic ballot, and at a later date as soon as reasonably possible, Attachment Two: Ballot Recommendations, which shall constitute the CENTRAL COMMITTEE’s formal recommendations to the membership regarding the questions of the referendum.
This resolution was adopted by the affirmative vote of the following members of the CENTRAL COMMITTEE, listed below:

Alexander Tackett – Aye
Scott Hoadley – Aye
Laura Pedersen – Aye
Jason Hamilton – Aye
Jordan Billings – Abstain
Brad Latham – Aye

Held on this day, Friday April 19th, 2019.

Attesting:

J. L. Hamilton

Jason Hamilton, Secretary
ATTACHMENT ONE: 2019 Electoral Referendum Ballot

Instructions: Each question presented on this ballot is presented as a selection between two options. Please select whichever you feel appropriate for the question. Accompanying the question is a sample of how the bylaws would be amended if the change is approved, as well as an elaboration and explanation of the question being asked. Please ensure all questions you wish to answer have been answered prior to the submission of your ballot.

Definitions:

Central Committee: The governing body of the Socialist Rifle Association and its Board of Directors for legal purposes. Its power and roles are defined by Article Four of the Bylaws. Members are elected via “approval voting,” wherein those with the most “approvals” are selected first, until all positions have been filled.

Officers: The legal representatives of the Socialist Rifle Association for day to day matters. They are responsible for administrative and legal tasks pertaining to the upkeep of the organization. Their powers and roles are defined by Article Five. They are selected by appointment of the Central Committee. Officers do not have to serve simultaneously as officers and members of the Central Committee, and may be selected from any active member in good standing.

Referendum: A vote taken by the whole or sub group of the membership, such as this one. A referendum may be called to recall a member of the Central Committee or to amend the Bylaws.

Member in good standing: A member who has paid dues to the organization, has not been formally removed from the organization, and is not more than thirty days late on their dues.

Ratified chapters: Chapters that have passed bylaws under Article Nine of the Bylaws, and have been formally recognized by vote of the Central Committee.

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1. Shall the terms of the members of the Central Committee and the Officers of the organization be extended to two years in length, to take effect on the October 2019 election?

Explanation: Currently, members of the Central Committee serve one year terms. If approved, this would extend the term of the Central Committee to two years, with elections to be staggered between even and odd years. This would also extend the terms of the Officers of the organization. This would mean for the October 2019 election, some individuals elected would serve a “short” one year term, while others would serve two, but every term following would be a full two year term.

Bylaws text if changed (Article Four; Section Four): A quorum of the Central Committee shall be a majority of its members. The Central Committee shall assume office immediately upon its election to serve a two year term.

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For the first election in which two year terms are implemented, terms of at-large members of the Central Committee shall be staggered. The method by which this initial staggering will be conducted shall be as follows: following the certification of the election, a ranked list of candidates that have been elected will be produced by the Secretary, with the candidate receiving the highest number of approvals being first on the list, the candidate receiving the second highest number of approvals being second on the list, and so forth. Based on this ranking, odd numbered candidates shall be elected to a two year term, whereas even numbered candidates shall be elected to a one year term. After this initial staggering, candidates shall be entitled to a full two year term as outlined by Paragraph One of this Section.

2. Shall members of the Central Committee be limited to a consecutive number of terms?

Explanation: Currently, there is no limitation for how many times a member of the Central Committee may be elected to the Central Committee, only that they must continue to win election. This would institute a “consecutive term limit,” the amount of years to be determined by Question 3. A consecutive term limit means that an individual may only serve in their position for so many years and/or terms, but may run in the next election following their disqualification from office. For instance, if an individual were disqualified by term limit from the 2024 election, they could not run in 2024, but may run again in 2025.

Bylaws text if changed (Article Four, Section Four) (Addendum paragraph, to be inserted after existing and/or modified language in accordance with other amendments):

(If Question #3 selects four years): Members of the Central Committee shall be limited to serve four consecutive years in their capacity as members of the Central Committee. No member of the Central Committee shall be permitted to stand for election that would extend their commission beyond four consecutive years. A former member of the Central Committee may stand for election again after a one year lapse in their commission.

(If Question #3 selects six years): Members of the Central Committee shall be limited to serve six consecutive years in their capacity as members of the Central Committee. No member of the Central Committee shall be permitted to stand for election that would extend their commission beyond six consecutive years. A former member of the Central Committee may stand for election again after a one year lapse in their commission.

3. If question #2 is approved of, shall members of the Central Committee be limited to serve four or six years consecutively in their role?

Explanation: Currently, there are no term limits for the Central Committee. If question #2 obtains majority approval, this would determine, in years, how long a member of the Central Committee may serve before being ineligible to run for election. Similar to the term limits of the President of the United States, individuals who have served for one year less than the limit allows, if terms are extended to two years in length, would not be eligible to stand for election. For instance, if six years was set as the limit, an individual with five consecutive years of service would not be eligible to run the same as an
individual with six, as another two year term would surpass the limitation in years. The results of this question will have no bearing if question #2 is turned down by a majority.

Bylaws text if changed (Article Four, Section Four): (Please reference the bylaws change of question #2.)

4. Shall the threshold for a petition to be made into a referendum continue to be one fifth of the dues paying membership, or shall it be changed to one fifth of the total number of members who participated in the most recent election of the Central Committee, to take effect immediately following the October 2019 election?

Explanation: Currently, in order for a member’s petition to be turned into a referendum, they must obtain the support of one fifth of the whole of the membership in good standing. If this were changed by this question, it would instead become one fifth of the number of members who voted in the most recent election of Central Committee members.

Bylaws text if changed (Multiple sections changed) (Article Four, Section Six): Any member of the Central Committee may be removed for gross negligence, dereliction of duty, or violation of Article Two, Sections Two and Five. Removal shall require two-thirds approval of the Central Committee or a petition of one fifth of the number of members who voted in the immediately preceding election of the Central Committee, followed by a simple majority approval of the membership. Removal is effective upon certification of both the Central Committee and membership votes.

(Article Twelve): Amendments to these bylaws shall be conducted as follows:

Any amendment to these bylaws may be brought to a vote of the membership by the petition of one fifth of the number of members who voted in the immediately preceding election of the Central Committee.

Articles One, Two, and Four through Eleven may be amended by two thirds approval of the Central Committee or by simple majority approval of the membership.

Articles Three and Twelve may be amended by three fifths approval of the membership or by unanimous approval of the Central Committee.

5. Shall the President of the Socialist Rifle Association stand for general election and be guaranteed a seat on the Central Committee?

Explanation: Currently, the President and all other officers of the organization are appointed by the Central Committee, following the expiration of their term of the officers (currently concurrent with the Central Committee, but may change with the extension of the Committee’s term). If approved, this would guarantee the President a spot on the Central Committee, and make them subject to general election by the membership. The responsibilities of the President are outlined in Article Five, Section Three of the Bylaws, and include supervision of all other officers, the conducting of meetings, the enforcement of orders by the Central Committee, and any other duties the Central Committee may place upon them.
Bylaws text if changed (Multiple sections changed) (Article Five, Section Two): The Central Committee shall vote on any appointed officer positions at the commencement of its term. A simple majority approval shall be sufficient to elect an officer. The Central Committee may decide to appoint all appointed officers simultaneously, on the same resolution, if it so chooses.

Any member of the Central Committee may nominate themselves or another for any appointed officer position. Any member may nominate themselves or another for any elected officer position. No individual may serve in more than one officer position. The term of the officers shall be equal to the term allotted the Central Committee.

Officer positions that are not appointed shall be listed as such in their section, and shall be elected via approval voting. The full membership shall be given a ballot to mark which candidates they approve of for the office in question. Members may approve of as many candidates as they wish or none at all. The approval votes for all candidates shall be summed up and the candidate with the most approvals shall be selected for the office.

(Article Five, Section Three): The President shall be selected by approval vote of the membership, in accordance with Section Two of this Article. The President shall be granted a seat on the Central Committee, with all rights and privileges associated with an at-large seat. Removal of the President shall follow the process outlined for a member of the Central Committee as outlined in Article Four Section Six of these Bylaws, and shall not be subject to the removal process apportioned for appointed officers.

The President shall preside over all meetings of the officers and shall have the following duties:

1) They shall preside over all meetings of the officers.

2) They shall provide active management of the business of the officers, including active supervision and direction of the officers’ respective duties.

3) They shall see all orders and resolutions of the officers and Central Committee are complied with.

4) They shall submit monthly reports to the Central Committee on the activities of the officers.

5) In the absence of the Secretary, they shall record all votes and minutes of all proceedings in a medium meant for that purpose.

6) They shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Central Committee.

6. Shall the Vice President of the Socialist Rifle Association stand for general election and be guaranteed a seat on the Central Committee?

Explanation: Currently, the Vice President and all other officers of the organization are appointed by the Central Committee, following the expiration of the the term of the officers (currently concurrent
with the Central Committee, but may change with the extension of the Committee’s term). If approved, this would guarantee the Vice President a spot on the Central Committee, and make them subject to general election by the membership. The responsibilities of the Vice President are outlined in Article Five, Section Four of the Bylaws, and include the assumption of the role of President in the event of the absence of the President, and any other duties the Central Committee may place upon them.

Bylaws text if changed (Multiple sections changed) (Article Five, Section Two): The Central Committee shall vote on any appointed officer positions at the commencement of its term. A simple majority approval shall be sufficient to elect an officer. The Central Committee may decide to appoint all appointed officers simultaneously, on the same resolution, if it so chooses.

Any member of the Central Committee may nominate themselves or another for any appointed officer position. Any member may nominate themselves or another for any elected officer position. No individual may serve in more than one officer position. The term of the officers shall be equal to the term allotted the Central Committee.

Officer positions that are not appointed shall be listed as such in their section, and shall be elected via approval voting. The full membership shall be given a ballot to mark which candidates they approve of for the office in question. Members may approve of as many candidates as they wish or none at all. The approval votes for all candidates shall be summed up and the candidate with the most approvals shall be selected for the office.

(Article Five, Section Four): The Vice-President shall be selected by approval vote of the membership, in accordance with Section Two of this Article.

The Vice-President shall be vested with all the powers and shall perform all the duties of the President during the absence of the latter. The Vice President shall be granted a seat on the Central Committee, with all rights and privileges associated with an at-large seat. Removal of the Vice President shall follow the process outlined for a member of the Central Committee as outlined in Article Four Section Six of these Bylaws, and shall not be subject to the removal process apportioned for appointed officers. The Vice-President’s duties are:

1) They shall have any other duties as may, from time to time, be determined by either the officers or the Central Committee.

7. Shall the Secretary of the Socialist Rifle Association stand for general election and be guaranteed a seat on the Central Committee?

Explanation: Currently, the Secretary and all other officers of the organization are appointed by the Central Committee, following the expiration of the term of the officers (currently concurrent with the Central Committee, but may change with the extension of the Committee’s term). If approved, this would guarantee the Secretary a spot on the Central Committee, and make them subject to general election by the membership. The responsibilities of the Secretary are outlined in Article Five, Section Five of the Bylaws, and include the keeping of corporate records, taking of minutes, the security and
maintenance of the member roster, all official correspondence, and any other duties the Central Committee or President may place upon them.

Bylaws text if changed (Multiple sections changed) (Article Five, Section Two): The Central Committee shall vote on any appointed officer positions at the commencement of its term. A simple majority approval shall be sufficient to elect an officer. The Central Committee may decide to appoint all appointed officers simultaneously, on the same resolution, if it so chooses.

Any member of the Central Committee may nominate themselves or another for any appointed officer position. Any member may nominate themselves or another for any elected officer position. No individual may serve in more than one officer position. The term of the officers shall be equal to the term allotted the Central Committee.

Officer positions that are not appointed shall be listed as such in their section, and shall be elected via approval voting. The full membership shall be given a ballot to mark which candidates they approve of for the office in question. Members may approve of as many candidates as they wish or none at all. The approval votes for all candidates shall be summed up and the candidate with the most approvals shall be selected for the office.

(Article Five, Section Five): The Secretary shall be selected by approval vote of the membership, in accordance with Section Two of this Article. The Secretary shall be granted a seat on the Central Committee, with all rights and privileges associated with an at-large seat. Removal of the Secretary shall follow the process outlined for a member of the Central Committee as outlined in Article Four Section Six of these Bylaws, and shall not be subject to the removal process apportioned for appointed officers.

The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the officers and of the Central Committee, and all meetings of members, and will act as a clerk thereof. The Secretary’s duties shall consist of:

1) They shall record all votes and minutes of all proceedings in a medium meant for that purpose. They in concert with the President shall make the arrangements for all meetings of the officers, including any at-large meetings of the organization.

2) They shall send notices of all meetings to the officers and shall make reservations for the meetings when applicable.

3) They shall perform all official correspondence from the officers as may be prescribed by the officers or the President.

4) They shall record and maintain a roster of membership, to be populated with all necessary information to be preserved for the purposes of regular correspondence and administrative tasks within the organization. The President and Treasurer may request to inspect this record at any time to ensure the integrity of the roster.
5) They shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Central Committee or the President under whose supervision they shall be.

8. Shall the Treasurer of the Socialist Rifle Association stand for general election and be guaranteed a seat on the Central Committee?

Explanation: Currently, the Treasurer and all other officers of the organization are appointed by the Central Committee, following the expiration of the term of the officers (currently concurrent with the Central Committee, but may change with the extension of the Committee’s term). If approved, this would guarantee the Treasurer a spot on the Central Committee, and make them subject to general election by the membership. The responsibilities of the Treasurer are outlined in Article Five, Section Six of the Bylaws, and include the maintenance of the funds of the organization, the inspection of all expenditures of the organization, the correct payment of all obligations and debts of the organization, and any other duties the Central Committee or President may place upon them.

Bylaws text if changed (Multiple sections changed) (Article Five, Section Two): The Central Committee shall vote on any appointed officer positions at the commencement of its term. A simple majority approval shall be sufficient to elect an officer. The Central Committee may decide to appoint all appointed officers simultaneously, on the same resolution, if it so chooses.

Any member of the Central Committee may nominate themselves or another for any appointed officer position. Any member may nominate themselves or another for any elected officer position. No individual may serve in more than one officer position. The term of the officers shall be equal to the term allotted the Central Committee.

Officer positions that are not appointed shall be listed as such in their section, and shall be elected via approval voting. The full membership shall be given a ballot to mark which candidates they approve of for the office in question. Members may approve of as many candidates as they wish or none at all. The approval votes for all candidates shall be summed up and the candidate with the most approvals shall be selected for the office.

(Article Five, Section Six): The Treasurer shall be selected by approval vote of the membership, in accordance with Section Two of this Article. The Treasurer shall be granted a seat on the Central Committee, with all rights and privileges associated with an at-large seat. Removal of the Treasurer shall follow the process outlined for a member of the Central Committee as outlined in Article Four Section Six of these Bylaws, and shall not be subject to the removal process apportioned for appointed officers.

The Treasurer shall be vested with the power to attend to all finances of the organization and maintain all necessary records for the financial health of the organization as well as to maintain compliance with all applicable laws. The Treasurer’s duties shall be:

1) They shall submit for the officers a record of all expenditures of funds since the last meeting of the officers, shall submit to the Central Committee for approval all proposed expenditures, and shall submit an overview of the organization’s financial health to its members quarterly.
2) They shall present a complete and accurate report of the finances raised by this organization at any time a member of the Central Committee requests such a report.

3) They shall have the right of inspection of the funds resting in any accounts of the organization, to include budgets and subsequent audit reports.

4) It shall be the duty of the Treasurer to assist in direct audits of the funds of the program according to funding source guidelines and generally accepted accounting principles.

5) They shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Central Committee or the President under whose supervision they shall be.

9. Shall the Legal Coordinator of the Socialist Rifle Association stand for general election and be guaranteed a seat on the Central Committee?

Explanation: Currently, the Legal Coordinator and all other officers of the organization are appointed by the Central Committee, following the expiration of the term of the officers (currently concurrent with the Central Committee, but may change with the extension of the Committee’s term). If approved, this would guarantee the Legal Coordinator a spot on the Central Committee, and make them subject to general election by the membership. The responsibilities of the Legal Coordinator are outlined in Article Five, Section Seven of the Bylaws, and include providing legal advice and guidance on the actions of the organization, responding to legal correspondence served upon the organization, the drafting of legal correspondence sent by the organization, and any other duties the Central Committee or President may place upon them.

Bylaws text if changed (Multiple sections changed) (Article Five, Section Two): The Central Committee shall vote on any appointed officer positions at the commencement of its term. A simple majority approval shall be sufficient to elect an officer. The Central Committee may decide to appoint all appointed officers simultaneously, on the same resolution, if it so chooses.

Any member of the Central Committee may nominate themselves or another for any appointed officer position. Any member may nominate themselves or another for any elected officer position. No individual may serve in more than one officer position. The term of the officers shall be equal to the term allotted the Central Committee.

Officer positions that are not appointed shall be listed as such in their section, and shall be elected via approval voting. The full membership shall be given a ballot to mark which candidates they approve of for the office in question. Members may approve of as many candidates as they wish or none at all. The approval votes for all candidates shall be summed up and the candidate with the most approvals shall be selected for the office.

(Article Five, Section Seven): The Legal Coordinator shall be selected by approval vote of the membership, in accordance with Section Two of this Article. The Legal Coordinator shall be granted a seat on the Central Committee, with all rights and privileges associated with an at-large seat. Removal
of the Legal Coordinator shall follow the process outlined for a member of the Central Committee as outlined in Article Four Section Six of these Bylaws, and shall not be subject to the removal process apportioned for appointed officers.

The Legal Coordinator shall be responsible for assisting the whole of the officers in communication with attorneys or other legal services the organization contracts for legal assistance. The Legal Coordinator shall operate within all relevant laws, regulations and standards of professional responsibility associated with the practice of law. The Legal Coordinator’s duties shall be:

1) They shall provide advice, pursuant to all applicable laws concerning the nature of said advice, on procedural and regulatory matters faced by the organization.

2) They shall, at the direction of the President or other officers, contact and discuss legal matters concerning the organization with outside counsel.

3) They shall prepare any correspondence or response to official notices or summonses, based on their own expertise and the advice of outside counsel pursuant to any applicable laws.

4) They shall perform such other duties as may be prescribed by the Central Committee or the President under whose supervision they shall be.

10. Shall ratified chapters of the Socialist Rifle Association be permitted to petition for referendum, as chapters, if 1/4th of all ratified chapters petition for such a referendum?

Explanation: Currently, only members may put forward petitions in an effort to hold a referendum on an issue. If approved, this would allow ratified chapters to determine within their bylaws a mechanism for submitting a petition on behalf of the chapter as a whole to the organization. If one fourth of all ratified chapters submitted a petition for a referendum on the issue, a referendum would be held on the issue.

Bylaws text if changed (Article Nine, Section Five):

SECTION FIVE: CHAPTER PETITION

Ratified chapters who have submitted their bylaws in accordance with Paragraph Two of Section Two of this Article, and have been recognized by vote of the Central Committee, shall have the right to determine a mechanism within their chapter bylaws to submit a petition to the membership of the organization as a chapter. Should one fourth of all chapters ratified at the time of achieving said fraction submit the same petition, this petition shall be put to referendum to the full membership of the organization to be voted upon.