
Party Membership Endorses Constitutional Amendments Proposed by National Committee: Report on Referendum A, 1915.

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Amendments to the National Constitution, proposed by the National Committee in session, May 1915, and adopted by national referendum just closed, the tabulated results of which are given below as follows:

Article II — Section 7.

New Section. — Any member of the Socialist Party, elected to an office, who shall in any way vote to appropriate moneys for military or naval purposes, or war, shall be expelled from the party.

Yes — 11,041 [93.4%]. **No** — 782 [6.6%].

Article IV — Section 3.

Amended Section. — The National Committee shall meet in regular session on the first Sunday after the first Monday in June in each year except in years when the National Conventions of the party are to be held, in which years it shall hold its sessions in conjunction with the convention.

Yes — 10,763 [95.7%]. **No** — 484 [4.3%].

Article IV — Section 3.

To Suspend. — To suspend operation of Article IV, Section 3 for the year 1916.

Yes — 9782 [91.0%]. **No** — 965 [9.0%].

Article V — Section 9.

Amended Section. — All business of the National Committee shall, in the intervals between its sessions, be transacted by correspondence.

Yes — 10,399 [93.4%]. **No** — 730 [6.6%].

Article VI — Section 1.

Substitute Section. — The Executive Committee shall be composed of 5 members and shall take office on July 1st and serve for 2 years.

The call for nominations shall be issued on the first day of November. Each local shall be entitled to nominate 5 candidates. Forty days shall be allowed for nominations, 20 for acceptances and declinations, and 60 for the referendum.

Nominations from 5 locals in 2 states shall entitle a candidate to be placed on the ballot. Those receiving a majority of all votes cast shall be declared elected. If enough candidates do not receive a majority vote on the first ballot, the names of twice as many as remain to be elected, of those receiving the highest number of votes, shall be submitted for a second ballot.

Those receiving the highest number of votes on this ballot shall be declared elected. Vacancies shall be filled in a similar manner.

Yes — 10,266 [89.2%]. **No** — 1,242 [10.8%].

Article VII — Section 1.

Amended Section. — The Executive Secretary shall be elected at the same time and in the same manner as are the members of the Executive Committee. During his term of office he shall not hold any other official position within the party. The Executive Secretary shall receive as compensation the sum of \$1500 annually and shall have a bond in a sum fixed by the National Committee.

Yes — 11,970 [93.3%]. **No** — 855 [6.7%].

Article XIII / Article VII — Section 4.

[*Deletion and New Section.*] — Strike out Article XIII and all references to the Woman's National Committee in other parts of this Constitution and add the following to Article VII as Section 4:

“One half the amount received by the National Office for dual dues stamps shall be set aside as a special fund for propaganda among women, to be used exclusively for this purpose, under the direction of the Executive Secretary.”

Yes — 9,174 [80.3%]. **No** — 2,244 [19.7%].

Article X — Section 3, Paragraph 2.

Amended Section. — No member of the Socialist Party shall, under any circumstances, vote in any political election for any candidate other than Socialist Party members nominated, endorsed, or recommended as candidates by the Socialist Party, or advocate voting for them. To do so will constitute party treason and result in expulsion from the party.

Yes — 10,438 [89.8%]. **No** — 1,183 [10.2%].

Article X — Section 11.

New Section. — When a controversy exists in a state organization, the Executive Secretary shall continue to sell dues stamps to the Secretary recognized by him before such controversy is officially brought before him, until a state referendum has decided otherwise. He shall take no action except on petition of

10% of the locals (but not less than 3 locals), which must be located in different localities, appearing on the last official list filed with him by the State Secretary at least 3 months prior to controversy, and then only if there is doubt as to who is State Secretary. In such case he shall hold a referendum of those locals reported on the last official list to determine who is State Secretary. The individual signed ballots in such referendums shall be sent to the Executive Secretary.

Yes — 11,180 [97.7%]. **No** — 265 [2.3%].

Article XII — Section 2.

Amended Section. — Nominees for President and Vice President shall be elected by referendum of the party membership. The call for nominations shall be made on the first day of November of the year preceding the national election. Forty days shall be allowed for nominations, 20 for acceptances and declinations, and 60 for the referendum. Each nominee shall receive 10 or more nominations from 10 or more locals before his name shall be placed on the ballot. A majority vote shall be necessary to elect. In case no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, then the two names receiving the highest number of votes shall immediately be submitted to a second referendum, 60 days' time to be given for same.

Yes — 11,045 [97.6%]. **No** — 276 [2.4%].

Article XIV — Section 3.

Amended Section. — When such National Language Federation shall have at least 1,000 members, their Translator-Secretary shall be entitled to necessary office room in the National Office, and to a salary from the national body not to exceed \$28 per week, nor to be less than \$15, the exact sum to be fixed by the Executive Committee of the Socialist Party. Such Translator-Secretary must be at least three consecutive years a member of the party, except when his federation has not been affiliated with the party that length of time. When any Language Federation is reduced to 1,000 members after the date of June 1, 1916, the rights of that Language Federation to office room and salaries shall be suspended at the discretion of the Ex-

ecutive Committee.

Yes — 9,822 [86.7%]. **No** — 1,501 [13.3%].

Article XIV — Section 4.

Amended Section. — Language Federations shall pay to the National Office the same sum monthly per capita as paid by the state organizations, receiving in exchange therefor dues stamps. They shall also pay through the Translator-Secretary to the regular state and county or city organizations 50 percent of the dues paid by the English-speaking branches.

The Translator-Secretary shall pay monthly to the respective State Secretaries the quota of all monthly dues paid by the branches of his federation in the state.

The State Secretary shall forward the county dues to the respective county secretaries, wherever their is an organized county.

Yes — 10,741 [95.7%]. **No** — 487 [4.3%].

Article XIV — Section 5.

Amended Section. — (a) Branches of Language Federations shall be an integral part of the county and state organizations, and must in all cases work in harmony with the constitution and platform of the state and county organizations of the Socialist Party.

Language branches, not affiliated with a federation of their respective language, shall work in harmony with such federation, restricting their work within the territorial jurisdiction of such branches. In no case, however, shall such branches indulge in or permit their members to carry on work against the interests of the federation. Federations shall not be permitted to organize additional branches not affiliated with them, except with the consent of the state organizations. The charter of any language branch not affiliated with a federation that condones or conducts work aiming at the destruction of a federation shall be revoked by the state organization in accordance with the method of procedure provided by the constitution of the state organization. When the charter of such branch is revoked, such of its members who will agree to refrain from similar objectionable work in the future shall be organized in a new branch. But no

member of a branch, the charter of which has been revoked for the offense mentioned above, shall be denied admission to the new branch if a statement is signed obligating himself to work in harmony of the provisions of the section.

(b) A Language Federation may, if its constitution so provides, exclude for cause any of the branches or locals affiliated with it. Such excluded locals and language branches shall lose only the rights and privileges dependant upon affiliation with the federation. They shall continue to be an integral part of the county and state organizations, until such time as the exclusion has been approved by the county and state organizations.

Members of a federation cannot be suspended or expelled from the party by the federation or by any of its sub-divisions, the power to suspend or expel members from the party being vested exclusively in the county and state organizations. The accused members shall be accorded a fair trial in the manner provided by the county and state constitutions or local by-laws.

Members of a federation can be suspended from membership in any of its sub-divisions by the subdivision to which the member belongs for work detrimental to the welfare of the federation involved. Such suspended members, unless the suspension has been approved by the county and state organizations, shall continue to be members of the party, and the county and state organizations shall either attach them to some other local or branch, or recognize them as members-at-large.

Yes — 10,213 [92.4%]. **No** — 842 [7.6%].

Article XV — Section 1.

Amended Section. — Motions or resolutions to be voted upon by the entire membership of the party except proposed amendments to the National Constitution shall be submitted by the Executive Secretary to the referendum vote of the party membership upon the request of locals representing at least 5 percent of the entire membership on the basis of dues paid in the preceding year.

The term "local" as herein used shall be construed to mean a local or branch or a local, but not a

body composed of delegates from branches or locals.

Yes — 9,813 [88.0%]. **No** — 1,344 [12.0%].

Article XV — Section 5.

New Section. — Whenever a motion, resolution, or an amendment has been regularly initiated or passed upon by the party membership, another motion that conflicts with the same shall not be considered for at least 6 months.

Yes — 10,589 [93.3%]. **No** — 762 [6.7%].

Article XVI — Section 1.

Amended Section. — This Constitution may be amended by a referendum of the party membership; amendments may be proposed by the National Convention, National Committee in session, or upon the request of locals representing at least 8 percent of the entire membership on the basis of dues paid in the preceding year. All such amendments to be submitted seriatim to a referendum vote of the party membership.

The term “local” as herein used shall be construed to mean a local or branch or a local, but not a body composed of delegates from branches or locals.

Yes — 10,011 [87.9%]. **No** — 1,381 [12.1%].

Young People’s Socialist League.

New Article. — *Section 1.* The work of the Young People’s Socialist League in the national field shall be under the control and direction of the Executive Committee of the Socialist Party.

Section 2. Branches of the Young People’s Socialist League shall be under the control of the city, county, or state organizations, and must in all cases work in harmony with the constitution and platform of the city, county, or state organizations of the Socialist Party.

Yes — 11,047 [92.9%]. **No** — 848 [7.1%].

Edited by Tim Davenport.

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