

Proposal: MPI Forum Voting Rules

Version 1.0

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1 Intent

This MPI Forum proposal was drafted with the following goals in mind:

1. Provide clear, unambiguous definitions and procedures for voting.
2. Enforce a high degree of consensus before text is accepted into the MPI standards document.
3. Disallow arbitrary abuse of voting procedures.

This proposal only details *official ballot* voting definitions and procedures. Unofficial voting procedures, such as “straw” votes, are outside the scope of this document.

2 Definitions

- **Physical MPI Forum Meeting:** An open meeting of the entire MPI Forum in a physical location (vs. a teleconference or other virtual meeting). In-person attendance to the meeting is open to all organizations in the MPI Forum as well as the general public.
- **Organization:** A **business** entity that sends one or more representatives to a physical MPI Forum meeting.
- **Overall Organization Eligibility (OOE):** An organization is generally eligible to vote if it has registered and had one or more representatives physically present at two out of the last three physical MPI Forum meetings (including the current meeting).
- **Individual Meeting Organization Voting Eligibility (IMOVE):** An organization is eligible to vote at a specific physical MPI Forum meeting if that organization is both OOE and at least one of its representatives is registered for that specific physical MPI Forum meeting.
- **Meeting Quorum:** Quorum is established at a physical MPI Forum meeting when more than $2/3$ of OOE organizations have registered for that meeting.

- **Individual Ballot Quorum:** Quorum is established for an individual ballot when more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of IMOVE organizations at the meeting vote (vs. abstain).

3 Procedures

3.1 Official Ballot Voting

Official ballot voting occurs only at physical MPI Forum meetings where a meeting quorum has been established.

All official ballots must be announced and scheduled at least two weeks prior to the start date of the physical MPI Forum meeting at which they will be held. The dates/times for official ballots will not change after two weeks prior to the beginning of the meeting to allow attendees to schedule their travel appropriately.

For each official ballot, each IMOVE organization is individually polled for their vote. The designated representative of an IMOVE organization may vote “yes,” vote “no,” or abstain from voting. If no representative of an IMOVE organization is physically present at the time of the ballot, that organization has implicitly abstained.

A ballot passes if:

1. The ballot meets the requirements for the individual ballot quorum, and
2. The number of “yes” votes is more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the sum of “yes” and “no” votes.

Rationale. The first condition prevents large numbers of abstentions from skewing results. The second condition sets a high requirement for consensus before a ballot will pass. (*End of rationale.*)

Note that if a ballot fails to meet the required individual ballot quorum, the ballot can be re-cast **once** at the same physical MPI Forum meeting. The ballot may also be deferred to a subsequent physical MPI Forum meeting. Specifically: failing to establish the individual ballot quorum does not mean that the ballot failed.

3.2 General Text Proposals

General text proposals for the MPI standards documents are usually “not trivial” changes, and typically add new semantics, change or clarify existing semantics, or remove previously-defined semantics.

General text proposals use the following process to be accepted into an MPI standards document:

1. Have a formal reading at a physical MPI Forum meeting.

- The final text of the proposal to be read must be made publicly available via the general MPI Forum broadcast email list at least two weeks prior to the start date of the physical MPI Forum meeting at which it is to be formally read.
 - The formal reading must be scheduled on the physical MPI Forum meeting's agenda at least two weeks prior to the meeting's start date.
 - Note that there is no criteria for "passing" or "failing" a formal reading. It is up to the proposal's author(s) to decide whether to bring the proposal up for a formal ballot at a subsequent meeting.
2. Pass a first official ballot at a physical MPI Forum meeting.
 - A proposal's first ballot must be conducted at a different physical MPI Forum meeting than it was formally read.
 - A proposal's first ballot must be concluded by the end of the second physical MPI Forum meeting after which it was formally read. Failure to meet this criteria means that the proposal is automatically withdrawn.
 3. Pass a second official ballot at a physical MPI Forum meeting.
 - A proposal's second ballot must be conducted at a different physical MPI Forum meeting than it was first voted.
 - A proposal's second ballot must be concluded by the end of the second physical MPI Forum meeting after which it was first voted. Failure to meet this criteria means that the proposal is automatically withdrawn.
 4. Changes to proposal text after it was made available for the formal reading (i.e., at least two weeks prior to the start date of the physical MPI Forum meeting at which it was read) are permitted in some cases:
 - Before the second ballot, changes are permitted if the text delta is presented at a physical MPI Forum meeting and approved via a special formal ballot of IMOVE organizations at that meeting:
 - (a) The ballot meets the requirements for the individual ballot quorum, and
 - (b) There are zero "no" votes.

Rationale. The first condition prevents a large number of abstentions. The second condition ensure that all non-abstaining organizations are unanimous in their consent of the text changes.
(End of rationale.)
- If the special ballot fails, the original text of the proposal is used.
- After the second ballot, text changes that do not change the semantics of the proposal are permitted with the unanimous consent of the relevant chapter committee(s).

Proposals may be voluntarily withdrawn at any time before the second ballot passes.

Ballots may be deferred to a subsequent physical MPI Forum meeting (within the timeframes listed above) in the following cases:

1. Before the ballot is conducted, the proposal author requests a deferral to the next physical MPI Forum meeting.
2. When the ballot is conducted, it fails to meet the individual ballot quorum.

If a proposal fails either of its ballots, or if a proposal is withdrawn, it must perform the entire procedure again (i.e., start over with a formal reading). If either ballot fails to establish its per-ballot quorum, it may be re-cast within the timeframes specified above.

3.3 Errata Proposals

Errata proposals for the MPI standards documents are usually “small” and deal with “critical” changes to documents to correct errors, clarify egregious ambiguities, etc.

Errata proposals use the following process to be accepted into an MPI standards document:

1. Pass a single official ballot at a physical MPI Forum meeting.
 - Final errata proposal text must be made publicly available via the general MPI Forum broadcast email list at least two weeks prior to the start date of the physical MPI Forum meeting at which its ballot will occur.
 - An errata proposal’s ballot must be concluded by the end of the second physical MPI Forum meeting after the proposal text was formally made publicly available. Failure to meet this criteria means that the proposal is automatically withdrawn.
2. Changes to proposal text after it was made available (i.e., at least two weeks prior to the start date of the physical MPI Forum meeting at which it was balloted) are permitted in some cases:
 - Before the ballot, changes are permitted if the text delta is presented at a physical MPI Forum meeting and approved via unanimous consent of IMOVE organizations at the meeting.
 - After the ballot, text changes that do not change the semantics of the proposal are permitted with the unanimous consent of the relevant chapter committee(s).

If an errata proposal fails its ballot, it must perform the entire procedure again (i.e., start over by posting the text a minimum of two weeks before a physical MPI Forum meeting).

Procedures for deferring errata proposal ballots are the same as those for general text proposals.

3.4 Changing These Rules

The procedure for changing these rules is the same as for Errata Proposals (essentially: publish the proposed change at least two weeks prior to a physical MPI Forum meeting and then pass one official ballot).