



**Ontario Liberal Party  
2025 Annual Meeting**

**September 12-14, 2024  
Toronto, Ontario**

# **Report of the Constitution Committee**

*Tabled August 29, 2025*

*To be considered at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the Ontario Liberal Party*

# Report of the Constitution Committee

Tabled August 29, 2025.

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*All amendment proposals as set out in this report were properly submitted and have met the endorsement requirement prescribed in article 16 of the Constitution. As stated in section 4.1 of the rules of procedure regulating annual meetings, all amendment proposals included in this report are deemed to have been properly moved and seconded.*

## Constitution Committee



**Milton Chan**



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**Kate Julien**



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# 1. Election readiness of constituency associations

*Proposed by the Ontario Liberal Rural & Northern Commission*

## Explanatory Note

The party's voter data quality, readiness to field and support local candidates, and organizational capacity suffer when constituency associations are inactive or expend their energy and resources on activities not demonstrably connected to electoral outcome on the ground. A standardized framework with meaningful and measurable goals for tracking constituency associations' activities between elections would focus constituency associations on what matters: building quality data, growing membership and volunteer base, and improving fundraising capacity, while serving as an early warning system for identifying constituency associations requiring support, course correction, or organizational intervention by the party.

This amendment is designed to strengthen accountability for constituency associations' election readiness responsibility on an ongoing basis without creating undue administrative burdens on constituency associations. It formalizes a mechanism of accountability for discharging existing support and oversight responsibilities of the VP Organization as well as Regional Vice Presidents, and for benchmarking existing organizational objectives of constituency associations. To ensure the objectives in this framework are meaningfully tailored and forward looking, this amendment mandates a special committee be struck after each provincial election with a focused mandate and defined timetable to propose objectives and metrics in areas including voter ID collection, fundraising, and volunteer recruitment and engagement that would provide sensible guidepost toward readiness for the next election

## Current Text

## Proposed Amendment

<b>4 OFFICERS</b>	<b>4 OFFICERS</b>
<b>Regional Vice-Presidents</b>	<b>Regional Vice-Presidents</b>
4.26 A Regional Vice-President shall, in respect of the region that they represents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) monitor and help to coordinate the work of the area coordinators, if any, and the constituency associations in the region;</li><li>b) report to the Executive Council on the political activity and other concerns within or affecting the region;</li></ul>	4.26 A Regional Vice-President shall, in respect of the region that they represents: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>a) monitor and help to coordinate the work of the area coordinators, if any, and the constituency associations in the region;</li><li>b) report to the Executive Council on the political activity and other concerns within or affecting the region <b>and table a report quarterly to the Vice-President (Organization) on the metrics and progress of the constituency associations in their region;</b></li></ul>

- c) communicate the decisions of the Executive Council and the Provincial Council to the affiliated associations in the region;
- d) perform any duty required of them by this Constitution; and,
- e) perform other duties that are assigned to them from time to time by the Executive Council.

## 7 COMMITTEES

(new)

- c) communicate the decisions of the Executive Council and the Provincial Council to the affiliated associations in the region;
- d) perform any duty required of them by this Constitution; ~~and,~~
- e) perform other duties that are assigned to them from time to time by the Executive Council; ~~and~~
- f) track the election readiness of the constituency associations in their region against objectives and metrics developed by the special committee on election readiness and approved by the Executive Council, and provide targeted oversight and assistance for the election readiness efforts of constituency associations in their region.

## 7 COMMITTEES

### Special Committee on Election Readiness

7.19 Within 127 days following a general election, the Executive Council shall form a special committee, comprised of the following members:

- a) the Executive Director,
- b) the Vice-President (Organization),
- c) at least two (2) Regional Vice-Presidents,
- d) one member at-large chosen from Provincial Council;
- e) the senior campaign staff responsible for field organization in the preceding general election or a suitable alternate, to be identified by the campaign director or the chair of the Campaign Committee in the preceding general election; and
- f) if a chair has been appointed by the Leader for the Campaign Committee for the subsequent general election, such chair or their designate, otherwise a member who is not a member of the Provincial Council to be designated by the Leader.

7.20 The special committee shall propose election readiness objectives and quantifiable metrics for constituency

	associations in areas including but not limited to voter contact, volunteer recruitment and engagement, fundraising, and associated timelines toward the next general election, to be ratified by the Executive Council within 248 days following the previous general election.
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## 2. Limits of associate members in constituency delegation

*Proposed by the Ontario Liberal Rural & Northern Commission*

### **Explanatory Note**

The Constitution currently allows members to become associate members and be elected delegates of a constituency association in which they do not reside. While this can enable members to represent a constituency association they are meaningfully involved in but not reside in at the annual meeting, it also enables members to attend the annual meeting as delegates for constituency associations they have no connection to, undermining the principle of equitable and meaningful representation by constituency associations at the annual meeting, rendering the concept of “delegate” meaningless. In particular, northern and rural communities often face distinct challenges and priorities that differ significantly from those in urban centres. Allowing members residing in communities far from these PLAs to be delegates and vote on behalf of these ridings distorts the policy direction, leadership choices, and internal party decisions that are supposed to reflect the will of Liberals across Ontario.

This proposal provides a reasonable compromise between these conflicting premises by reducing the number of delegate spots open to associate members from five (5) to three (3) and by requiring such associate members to be residents of the region where the constituency association is situated. It will contribute to ensuring that each riding’s voice is authentic and grounded in its own lived realities.

### **Procedural Note**

The two distinct elements in this proposal will be placed on the plenary floor as two separate motions for approval.

- Motion 2A – for requiring constituency association delegates to be resident of the region where the constituency association is situated (amendment to 3.12(e) and inserting a sentence to the beginning of 8.13(a)(v))
- Motion 2B – for reducing the number of delegate positions open to associate members from five (5) to three (3) (amendment to 8.13(a)(v))

## Current Text

## Proposed Amendment

<p><b>3 MEMBERS</b></p> <p><b>Rights of Membership</b></p> <p>3.12 A member has rights to the following:</p> <p>...</p> <p>e) stand for election to be a delegate representing any constituency association in which they are a member;</p> <p>...</p>	<p><b>3 MEMBERS</b></p> <p><b>Rights of Membership</b></p> <p>3.12 A member has rights to the following:</p> <p>...</p> <p>e) stand for election to be a delegate representing <del>any</del> constituency association <b>situated within the region they are a resident of and</b> in which they are a member;</p> <p>...</p>
<p><b>8 ANNUAL MEETING</b></p> <p><b>Delegate Composition</b></p> <p>8.13 The following persons shall be entitled to accreditation as elected delegates:</p> <p>a) fifteen (15) delegates elected by each constituency association, of whom:</p> <p>i) at least three (3) shall be under the age of twenty-six (26) and, if there is an Ontario Young Liberals riding club affiliated with the constituency association, these three (3) delegates shall be elected by the Ontario Young Liberals riding club; and, in addition,</p> <p>ii) at least three (3) shall be women; and, in addition,</p> <p>iii) at least three (3) shall be men; and, in addition,</p> <p>iv) no more than five (5) may be associate members of the constituency association. For greater certainty, delegate positions shall be left vacant once five (5) associate members are elected and the list of delegate-candidates who are resident-members is exhausted</p> <p>...</p>	<p><b>8 ANNUAL MEETING</b></p> <p><b>Delegate Composition</b></p> <p>8.13 The following persons shall be entitled to accreditation as elected delegates:</p> <p>a) fifteen (15) delegates elected by each constituency association, of whom:</p> <p>i) at least three (3) shall be under the age of twenty-six (26) and, if there is an Ontario Young Liberals riding club affiliated with the constituency association, these three (3) delegates shall be elected by the Ontario Young Liberals riding club; and, in addition,</p> <p>ii) at least three (3) shall be women; and, in addition,</p> <p>iii) at least three (3) shall be men; and, in addition,</p> <p>iv) <b>all shall be resident of the region in which the constituency association is situated and</b> no more than <del>five (5)</del><b>three (3)</b> may be associate members of the constituency association. For greater certainty, delegate positions shall be left vacant once <del>five (5)</del><b>three (3)</b> associate members are elected and the list of delegate-candidates who are resident-members is exhausted.</p>

### 3. Remote participation in annual meetings

*Proposed by the Ontario Liberal Rural & Northern Commission*

#### Explanatory Note

In person participation in annual meetings and other party gatherings requires significant financial and/or time commitments that not all members can afford. The financial burden, on average higher for Liberals from northern and rural communities due to the greater travel distance and the higher likelihood of accommodation being required, means northern and rural PLAs are routinely underrepresented at our party gatherings. Such underrepresentation impacts the quality of our deliberations and diminishes the party's credibility as the voice for all Ontarians.

This proposal takes a tangible step toward reducing such inequalities and lowering the barriers to participation at the party gathering with highest decision making authority by allowing remote participation (including remote voting for accredited delegates) and reducing fees for remote participation. Enabling remote participation would also serve as evidence of our publicly stated commitment toward "building the most open and inclusive party in Ontario politics".

#### Current Text

#### Proposed Amendment

8	ANNUAL MEETING	8	ANNUAL MEETING
8.12	Only a person who is present at the annual meeting and who has been accredited as a delegate by the Ontario Liberal Party shall be entitled to vote on a question considered by the members at the annual meeting.	8.12	Only a person who is present <b>in person</b> at the annual meeting, <b>or is attending the annual meeting via remote means</b> , and who has been accredited as a delegate by the Ontario Liberal Party shall be entitled to vote on a question considered by the members at the annual meeting.
...		...	



<p>8.22 Executive Council shall establish a reduced annual meeting fee for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) all members who are 25 years of age or less;</li> <li>b) all members of an Ontario Young Liberal Club who are full-time students;</li> <li>c) all members who have attained the age of 65; and</li> <li>d) all members who are low-income.</li> </ul>	<p>8.22 Executive Council shall establish a reduced annual meeting fee for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) all members who are 25 years of age or less;</li> <li>b) all members of an Ontario Young Liberal Club who are full-time students;</li> <li>c) all members who have attained the age of 65; <del>and</del></li> <li>d) all members who are low-income; <del>and</del></li> <li>e) all members who are participating via remote means.</li> </ul>
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## 4. Conduct deposit for nomination contestants

*Proposed by Ryan St-Jean (Ottawa South PLA)*

*with written endorsement of 20 or more OLP members*

### **Explanatory Note**

Since the 2018 general election cycle, OLP Nomination Rules have required prospective nomination contestants to pay a non-refundable vetting fee to OLP. The fee was imposed to help defray various administrative and research costs associated with contestant vetting. For the 2025 general election cycle, such a fee was set as \$3000, or \$2000 if the prospective contestant was a woman. The fee is not refundable to the contestants, regardless of whether they are successful in securing the nomination, or whether they successfully complete the vetting process.

This amendment seeks to convert the vetting fee into a deposit that would be returned to unsuccessful contestants under certain conditions.

### **Current Text**

### **Proposed Amendment**

<b>10 NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES</b>  11.2 In this Section 11:  (new)	<b>10 NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES</b>  11.2 In this Section 11:  ...  <u>“contestant conduct deposit” means a fee, to be paid by a prospective nomination contestant when submitting vetting papers, that is refundable after the conclusion of the relevant general election or byelection, to the contestant if they were not successful in securing the Party’s nomination and if all of the following conditions were met:</u>  i) <u>The contestant did not engage in any conduct or any pattern of conduct which showed lack of respect for the rule of law, for the rights, dignity and worth of other people, or for fairness in electoral competition, including the nomination process, or which showed breach of trust.</u>  ii) <u>The contestant did not engage in any claim, litigation or dispute of any sort that had caused controversy or disrepute upon the nominated</u>
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<p><b>The Nomination Commissioner</b></p> <p>11.3.4 <b>Role and Responsibilities of the Nomination Commissioner</b> - In addition to any other authority granted to them by virtue of this Constitution, the Rules of Procedure or a resolution of the Executive Council or the Provincial Council, the Nomination Commissioner or their designate shall:</p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f) receive nomination papers from all prospective nomination contestants;</li> <li>g) on appropriate grounds, have the ability to impose sanctions on nomination contestants, up to and including disqualification;</li> </ul> <p>...</p>	<p><u>candidate, the Ontario Liberal Party, or its staff and officials.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>iii) <u>The contestant provided a written attestation confirming that any funds donated to the contestant for the purpose of defraying the contestant conduct deposit have been returned to the donors.</u></li> <li>iv) <u>The contestant, in the unfettered opinion of the chair of the Campaign Committee, did not undermine the electoral prospects of the nominated candidate, any other nominated candidates of the Ontario Liberal Party, or the Ontario Liberal Party</u></li> </ul> <p>...</p> <p><b>The Nomination Commissioner</b></p> <p>11.3.4 <b>Role and Responsibilities of the Nomination Commissioner</b> - In addition to any other authority granted to them by virtue of this Constitution, the Rules of Procedure or a resolution of the Executive Council or the Provincial Council, the Nomination Commissioner or their designate shall:</p> <p>...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>f) receive <u>vetting papers, including the contestant conduct deposit fixed by the Campaign Committee, and</u> nomination papers from all prospective nomination contestants;</li> <li>g) on appropriate grounds, have the ability to impose sanctions on nomination contestants, up to and including disqualification;</li> </ul> <p>...</p>
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## 5. Straw polls on policy resolutions

*Proposed by Stefan Klietsch (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke PLA)  
with written endorsement from 20 or more OLP members*

### **Explanatory Note**

While in no way affecting the authority of in-person delegates at an Annual Policy Development Conference to make binding decisions on proposed policy resolutions, this amendment proposes to require a straw poll of the Party's members, permitting voting delegates in attendance to be informed of the perspectives of the full membership regarding those resolutions.

### **Current Text**

#### **10 Policy Development Process**

(new)

### **Proposed Amendment**

#### **10 Policy Development Process**

10.2.1 Where policy resolutions have been proposed in advance and placed on the agenda of an annual policy development conference, a ballot, providing an opportunity to vote in favour of, in opposition to, or expressing a desire for change of the policy resolution text of each such policy resolution, shall be sent to all members in good standing at least fourteen (14) days prior to the commencement of the annual policy development conference at which the policy resolution is to be considered. All ballots received prior to 5:00 pm on the third day prior to the commencement of the annual policy development conference shall be counted, and the results of the ballot count will be made available to delegates at the commencement of the annual policy development conference, but the ballot results shall not be binding upon the annual policy development conference.

## 6. Straw polls on constitutional amendments

*Proposed by Stefan Klietsch (Renfrew-Nipissing-Pembroke PLA)  
with written endorsement from 20 or more OLP members*

### **Explanatory Note**

While in no way affecting the authority of in-person delegates at an Annual Meeting to decide upon the adoption of proposed constitutional amendments, this amendment proposes to require a straw poll of the Party's members, permitting voting delegates in attendance to be informed of the perspectives of the full membership regarding those amendments.

### **Current Text**

### **Proposed Amendment**

<b>16 Amendments to the Constitution</b>  (new)	<b>16 Amendments to the Constitution</b>  16.6.1 A ballot, providing an opportunity to vote in favour of or in opposition to each proposed amendment contained in the report of the Constitution Committee shall be sent to all members in good standing at the same time as that report is published on the Party website. All ballots received prior to 5:00 pm on the third day prior to the commencement of the annual meeting shall be counted, and the results of the ballot count will be made available to delegates at the commencement of the annual meeting, but the ballot results shall not be binding upon the annual meeting.
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