

Diocese of Pennsylvania Voting Criteria – A “Cheat Sheet”

Constitution

ARTICLE IV

1. . . . Every Clergyman of the Church . . . shall be entitled to a seat and vote in the Convention, if he or she is canonically resident in this diocese at the actual time of the meeting of the Convention, and is then employed in performing the duties of his or her station. . . . *Provided also*, That no Clergyman of advanced years or infirm health, who has been once entitled to a seat in Convention, shall lose his right to a seat, voice, and vote therein, by reason of his having ceased to have charge of a Parish, or to be in the service of a seminary of learning, or to be a Missionary as aforesaid. (*Amended, Second Reading, October 20, 1972*)
2. In a vote by ballot or by Orders the Deputation from each Church shall be entitled to one vote, and no more.”

ARTICLE VI

2. Membership of the Standing Committee and Deputies to General Convention, both lay and ordained, must, in their election, receive a majority of the whole number of votes cast at such election by each Order (*Amended, Second Reading, November 8, 1991*). In election to any other office or Committee, the vote of a majority of the Deputies present shall suffice unless otherwise ordered by this Constitution

ARTICLE VII

The Clergy and Lay Deputies in Convention shall deliberate in one body, and shall vote as such except when it is required otherwise by five members. In such a case the Convention shall vote as two distinct Orders, and the concurrence of both Orders shall be necessary to give validity to a measure; and such Clergymen and Lay Deputies as shall at any time be duly assembled in Convention shall be a quorum; and on every question the votes of a majority, or, if required by five, the votes of a majority of those voting of the two Orders respectively shall decide. But to enact any alteration of this Constitution or the Canons passed under it, the quorum shall consist of not less than one-third of the Clergy and Lay representatives respectively entitled to seats and votes in Convention.

Reconciling this with the answer in the FAQ’s:

-- The scantron ballots (i.e., for people) are included in only one voting packet per parish, because Standing Committee and General Convention Deputies are elected by a vote by order.

BUT—Question: The scantron ballot system effectively ensures that all elections of people to other committees (e.g., Clergy Salaries and Pensions, Finance and Property, Ecclesiastical Trial Court) are votes by ballot, with the laity receiving only one vote per parish (per Article IV), when Article VI would seem to say the opposite—that all other offices and Committee memberships are “the vote of a majority of the Deputies present . . . unless otherwise ordered by this Constitution. . . .” By including all elections of people on the scantron ballot have we been inadvertently contradicting the sense of the Article

VI? Or does the Constitution assume that all elections of people to any office or committee are necessarily by ballot, and thus needing to conform the rule in Article IV? For instance, the canon regarding the Ecclesiastical Trial Court does refer to a ballot (22.3.1.b) but the canon regarding Clergy Salaries and Pensions does not (4.5.1).

-- Colored voting cards are included in all packets because in decisions not made by ballot or by orders "the Clergy and Lay Deputies shall deliberate in one body" (Article VII), unless five members require it to vote by orders.

BUT—Questions: (1) If there should be five people nasty enough to call for a vote by orders on a resolution or other question, how are we to ensure that the one-parish-one-vote rule is being observed? (2) Article VII seems to imply that changes to the Constitution and Canons must be by a vote by orders, because a quorum is defined by orders. And yet we vote on canon changes with the colored voting cards, rather than by the one-parish-one-vote rule.