In November 2015, IEEE’s Board of Directors approved the presentation of proposed revisions to the IEEE constitution. The revisions, in the form of a single amendment, will be presented to IEEE voting members for approval as part of the 2016 IEEE annual election ballot. To adopt this amendment, an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of all ballots cast is required, provided the total number of those voting is not less than 10 percent of IEEE members who are eligible to vote.

According to IEEE’s The Institute, the amendment:

» Separates the role of an IEEE delegate from an IEEE director, so that directors need not also be delegates. This modification will allow the IEEE organizational structure to change in the future to better respond to the demands of a complex and changing world. Ultimately this will better serve the needs of members, the profession, and the public.

» Separates the requirement that corporate officers must also be directors. This will allow corporate officers as currently defined to serve in important leadership positions other than on the Board of Directors.

» Provides members with an increased role in selecting the Board of Directors by allowing the Board to be elected by the full eligible voting membership of IEEE.

» Adds the executive director, who is the most senior IEEE staff executive, as a nonvoting member of the Board of Directors to participate in setting the strategic direction of IEEE.

» Establishes a new role for IEEE delegates, who are members of the IEEE Assembly, to advise the Board of Directors on revisions to IEEE bylaws.

» Adds language to the IEEE constitution that explicitly ensures a richly diverse Board of Directors.

Learn more about the constitutional amendment at www.ieee.org/about/corporate/election/2016_constitutional_amendment.html.
IEEE Computer Society Comments on the Proposed IEEE Constitutional Amendment

In the upcoming IEEE election, you will be voting on proposed changes to the IEEE constitution to allow future changes to the organizational structure to better respond to the demands of a complex and changing world.

Technical Activities Board (TAB) Vice President José Moura asked all Societies for comments on the proposed constitutional amendments. After consideration of the proposed amendments, the Computer Society Board of Governors provided the following comments.

The IEEE Computer Society Board of Governors voted on the IEEE proposed constitutional amendment and voted to oppose the proposed constitutional amendment. The vote was as follows:

- 0 votes to approve the proposed constitutional amendment,
- 20 votes opposing the proposed constitutional amendment,
- 1 vote was an abstention.

The Computer Society Board of Governors passed the following motion.

MOVED, that the Board of Governors of the Computer Society opposes the proposed constitutional amendment. Our comments are as follows:

- The proposed constitution changes remove membership control of the IEEE structure;
- The still-to-be-written bylaws under the proposed constitution have considerable unknowns, but more importantly the bylaws will document the Board structure that the Board solely can approve without membership approval;
- The structure of IEEE, which the TAB Assembly strongly disagreed with in the February 2016 meeting, is still being developed and the benefits of that structure are not well defined;
- The significant risks associated with a major constitutional change without knowledge of the associated bylaw changes do not justify approving the proposed constitutional change; and
- There is no succinct rationale for the proposed constitutional change.

This is an important change and each member should give careful attention to the pros and cons of the proposed IEEE constitutional amendment. To afford each member with a balanced and fair opinion of the proposed constitutional amendment, the Computer Society strongly recommends reviewing the material in the following links that support the proposed constitutional amendment.

For background, the IEEE governing documents, including the constitution and bylaws, can be found here: www.ieee.org/about/corporate/governance/index.html.

For information about the proposed amendment and the IEEE Board of Directors’ statement in support of the amendment and statements in opposition to the amendment, visit www.ieee.org/about/corporate/election/2016_constitutional_amendment.html. Similarly, you can learn more about the IEEEin2030 Ad Hoc Committee effort to evolve the IEEE organizational structure here: www.ieee.org/about/corporate/ieeein2030_archive_m.html.