



2025 COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION ESSENTIAL CHANGES FOR CLUBS AND DISTRICTS

(Numbers in parentheses indicate relevant legislative enactments)

CLUBS

Fewer numbers to start clubs. To help create new clubs more quickly, the number of charter members has been reduced from 20 to 15 to start a Rotary club. (25-07)

Member termination. To avoid having to terminate an entire club, the RI Board may instruct a club to terminate a member for good cause. The member has 30 days to show why they should not be terminated. A two-thirds vote of the RI Board is required to proceed with the termination. (25-28)

Membership. Aligns RI Bylaws with Board policy by adding the word “sex” to the list of characteristics that cannot be used to limit membership. (25-36)

Club suspension or termination. Authorizes the RI Board to suspend or terminate a club that breaches TRF stewardship policies. (25-42)

CLUB FINANCES

Mid-year financial report. To help with year-end logistics, updates the deadline for Rotary clubs’ mid-year financial report from 31 December to 31 January. (25-06)

Rotary club dues. Noting significant cost reduction efforts and expense increases held well below the rate of inflation, RI per capita dues will increase to US\$41.00 per half year in 2025-2026, US\$42.75 per half year in 2026-2027, US\$44.63 per half year in 2027-2028, and US\$46.50 per half year in 2028-29. (25-49)

DISTRICTS

Governor Responsibilities. To underline the importance of strengthening clubs, governors promote to clubs both the RI strategic plan and participation in TRF grant programs (25-15) and must support assistant governors. (25-16)

Retaining Ballots. To reduce election complaints, the length of time that a balloting committee chair must preserve the ballots following a governor election has been extended from 15 days to 30 days. Ballots must be preserved past 30 days if an election complaint is filed. (25-17)

Election Challenge. To reduce conflict, campaigning, and election complaints, districts using the nominating committee process to select their governor now require a valid challenge to include the concurrence of 20 other clubs or 30% of the total number of clubs which are one year old or more at the beginning of that year, whichever is higher. (25-27)

District Conference. Districts are no longer required to hold an annual district conference. For districts with successful conferences, governors are encouraged to continue holding them. The COL voted to give greater flexibility to districts as they are in the best position to determine and meet the needs of their members. This also allows voting at a legislative meeting. (25-72)

Learning Events. Two district seminars will change their names to reflect modern terminology. The President-elect Training Seminar (PETS) becomes President-elect Learning Seminar (PELS), and the District Training Assembly becomes Club Leadership Learning Seminar. Districts may continue to use their current terminology to reference these events locally while Rotary International materials will use the new names. (25-76)

RI OFFICERS

Nominating Committee for Director. This change protects sectioned zones so that the majority of the districts in the section must also agree that the entire zone participates in the process for selecting the member and alternate member of the nominating committee for director. (25-19)

Suspending and Removing RI Officers and Committee Members. Standardizes how RI officers, incoming officers, and committee members are suspended and removed. (25-29)

COUNCIL ON LEGISLATION

Enactment deadlines. To allow districts more time to submit enactments, extends the deadline for submitting legislation from 31 December to 31 March of the year before the COL. (25-56)

Representative Terms. Changes the term of a COL representative to start 1 July the year after the Council on Legislation and moves the selection process to the year in which the Council takes place to allow representatives to work earlier with districts on their enactments. A representative's term now ends 30 June after the Council on Legislation is held. A transition process will be decided by the RI Board and Council Services will communicate instructions to the governors and current representatives. (25-57)

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Rotary Zones. Zones are used for more than just elections of directors and the RI president. When determining zone boundaries, the RI Board may now consider number of members, geographical, language, cultural, or other factors deemed important. (25-35)

Non-political nature. Clarifies that Rotary may not issue statements, circulate resolutions or appeals, nor take actions that endorse a candidate for office, nor take a position on a controversial public measure or policies of a political nature unless relevant to the programs of Rotary and its Foundation. (25-37)