



Mojave River Valley Horsemen's Association

PO Box 171 Apple Valley, CA 92307

Notice to MRVHA Members

Subject: Proposed Bylaw Amendments for Membership Review and Vote

Dear MRVHA Members,

The 2026 Board of Directors is presenting the following proposed amendments to the Mojave River Valley Horsemen's Association (MRVHA) Bylaws for your review, consideration, and vote.

Please review each proposal carefully before casting your vote. Please return ballots by 09/08/2026

Explanation of Proposed Bylaw Amendments

1. Family Membership Voting Privilege

Current Bylaw

Article IV, Section 2(B) — Family Memberships:

“Family memberships include husband and wife, unmarried children, stepchildren, and foster children under the age of 18 years (as of January 1st) living at home. Only one vote per family membership.”

The current bylaws therefore provide one vote for the entire Family Membership, regardless of whether the membership includes one or two adults.

The bylaws separately provide in Article IV, Section 2(C):

“Junior members shall have all the privileges of active members, except those of voting or holding appointed or elected offices.”

Proposed Change

Family Membership Voting Privilege

Under this proposal, each adult included in the Family Membership would be entitled to one (1) vote, for a maximum of two (2) votes per Family Membership. Junior members would not have voting privileges.

Family Membership is defined as one adult member, their significant other, and junior members.

If passed by vote:

This amendment changes the voting structure from one vote per Family Membership to one vote for each adult member included in the Family Membership, up to two votes.

Explanation of the Change

This amendment changes the voting rights associated with a Family Membership.

Current Bylaw

One vote per Family Membership

Maximum of one vote

Family defined as husband and wife, unmarried children, stepchildren, and foster children under 18 living at home

Junior members cannot vote

Proposed Amendment

One vote for each adult in the Family Membership

Maximum of two votes

Family proposed to consist of one adult, their significant other, and junior members

Junior members remain unable to vote

2. Board Member Nomination and Election Process

Current Bylaw

The current nomination and election procedure is contained primarily in Article V, Section 3.

Article V, Section 3(A)

“For the office of President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer and Board of Directors: The Board of Directors shall appoint a Nominating Committee Chairman at the September Board meeting. The Board shall designate the Chairperson of the committee; the chairperson shall select two other members in good standing to be on the committee. The Committee shall present a slate of candidates, with the consent of those nominated at the October Board of Directors meeting. This slate shall be comprised of one nomination per available position.”

Article V, Section 3(B)

“Double blind ballots shall be prepared and mailed by the Secretary in late October and write-in nominations from the eligible voting membership shall be accepted at that time. Ballots must be returned at least one week prior to the November meeting at which results will be announced to the Board and Board-elect.”

Article V, Section 3(C)

“The Election shall be by a simple majority of votes.”

Article V, Section 3(D)

“Installation of the newly elected officers and directors shall occur at the Year-end Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting in December.”

Article V, Section 3(E)

“The Show Chairman is appointed by the Board of Directors and installed as the fifth Director of the Board following the installation of the Board.”

Proposed Change

Board Member Nomination and Election Process

1. Members may submit nominations by mail or in person at a general membership meeting or at a MRVHA show once nominations are open.
2. Each nominee will be contacted and asked whether they accept the nomination and wish to be included on the ballot.
3. All nominees must be current members in good standing or become members for the current membership year before their name is placed on the election ballot.
4. All nominees who accept their nomination will be placed on the election ballot.
5. The completed ballot will be distributed to all members by mail.
6. All members eligible to vote under the MRVHA Bylaws are eligible to vote for the accepted nominees to fill the Board of Directors positions. Junior Memberships are not entitled to vote, and Honorary Membership is expressly a “Non-voting membership.”
7. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes for each position shall be elected. A majority of the votes cast shall not be required when more than two nominees are on the ballot.
8. Installation of the newly elected officers and directors shall occur at the Year-end Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting.
9. The Show Chairman is appointed by the Board of Directors and installed as the fifth Director of the Board following the installation of the Board.

Explanation of the Change

The proposed amendment would substantially change how candidates get onto the ballot and how winners are determined.

Current Process

Under the current bylaws:

1. The Board appoints a Nominating Committee Chairman.
2. A committee is formed.
3. The committee presents a slate of candidates.
4. The slate contains one nomination per available position.
5. Write-in nominations are permitted.
6. Members vote by ballot.

7. The current bylaw states that the election is by a “simple majority of votes.”

Proposed Process

Under the proposal:

1. Members—not just a Nominating Committee—could submit nominations.
2. Each nominee would be contacted to confirm acceptance.
3. Nominees must be members in good standing or become members for the current membership year.
4. Every nominee who accepts the nomination would appear on the ballot.
5. Ballots would be mailed to members.
6. All members eligible to vote under the MRVHA Bylaws may vote for the accepted nominees. Junior Memberships are not entitled to vote, and Honorary Membership is a “Non-voting membership.”
7. The candidate receiving the highest number of votes for a position would win. A majority of votes cast would not be required when more than two nominees are on the ballot.
8. The newly elected officers and directors would be installed at the Year-end Awards Banquet and Annual Meeting.

Major Procedural Difference

The current system centers on a Nominating Committee and a predetermined slate. The proposed system would create a more open nomination process in which members may submit candidates, each nominee must accept the nomination, and all accepted nominees would be placed on the ballot.

The proposed amendment would also change the election standard from the current requirement of a “simple majority of votes” to a system in which the nominee receiving the highest number of votes for each position is elected.

3. Dissolution of the Club

Current Bylaw

The existing dissolution provision is in Article III, Section 1:

“Upon the dissolution of the corporation, the Board of Directors shall, after paying or making provisions for the payment of all liabilities of the corporation, make distribution of all assets of the Association exclusively to such organization or organizations structured and operated exclusively for equine and/or equestrian purposes as the Board of Directors shall determine. First consideration should be given to youth-oriented activities and riding groups in the area, and may include the disbursements of scholarships.”

The current bylaws establish how the Association's assets are to be distributed upon dissolution, but they do not expressly require approval by the General Membership before the Association is dissolved.

Proposed Change

Dissolution of the Club

Before the Mojave River Valley Horsemen's Association (MRVHA) may be dissolved or permanently closed, the proposed dissolution must be presented to the General Membership for a vote.

An affirmative simple majority vote of those members returning a dissolution ballot and eligible to vote shall be required to approve the dissolution of the Association. The Board of Directors may not dissolve or permanently close the Association without the required membership approval.

The proposed amendment would establish the following process:

1. A proposal to dissolve or permanently close MRVHA must be presented to the General Membership.
2. A dissolution ballot must be provided to members who are eligible to vote.
3. An affirmative simple majority vote of those members returning the dissolution ballot and eligible to vote shall be required to approve the dissolution.
4. The Board of Directors may not dissolve or permanently close the Association without the required membership approval.

If Passed

This amendment requires that any decision to dissolve or permanently close the MRVHA be submitted to the General Membership and approved by an affirmative simple majority vote of those members returning a dissolution ballot and eligible to vote before the Association may be dissolved.

Explanation of the Change

The proposed amendment would add a membership-approval requirement before the Association could be dissolved or permanently closed.

The current bylaws address the distribution of the Association's assets upon dissolution but do not expressly require the General Membership to approve the decision to dissolve the Association.

The proposed amendment would give the General Membership a direct voice in any decision to dissolve or permanently close MRVHA.

Summary of the Three Proposed Changes

Amendment	Current Bylaw	Proposed Change	Main Effect
1. Family Voting	One vote per Family Membership	One vote per eligible adult, up to two votes	Gives a second eligible adult in a Family Membership an individual vote
2. Board Elections	Nominating Committee presents a one-candidate-per-position slate; write-ins permitted	Members may nominate candidates; all accepted nominees appear on the ballot	Opens the nomination process and changes how winners are determined
3. Dissolution	Bylaws address distribution of assets upon dissolution; no express membership-approval requirement	General Membership must approve dissolution by a majority of eligible members who return a dissolution ballot	Gives the membership final approval over dissolution