



**American Chemical Society
ACS Fall 2025 Meeting
Washington, DC
August 2025**

Councilor Talking Points: Summary of Governance Issues and Actions

The following summary is provided to help Councilors report to their Local Sections and Divisions on key actions of the ACS Council meeting held on August 20, and the Board of Directors' meetings held on August 15 – 17, 2025.

Actions of the Council

Election Results: Elected Committees of Council (*elected)

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Penny Beuning, Raychelle Burks, Jason Ritchie, and Frankie Wood-Black for three-year terms (2026 – 2028) on the Council Policy Committee (CPC).

*Penny Beuning	193	Fran Kravitz	127
*Raychelle Burks	255	*Jason Ritchie	228
James Carver	174	Stephanie Watson	161
Gregory Ferrence	165	*Frankie Wood-Black	207

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected William Carroll, Jr., Carmen Gauthier, Thomas Lane, Louise Lawter, and Lori Stepan for three-year terms (2026 – 2028) on the Committee on Committees (ConC). Louise Lawter will begin serving immediately to fill a vacated seat.

*William Carroll, Jr.	296	*Thomas Lane	245
Robert Cohen	61	*Louise Lawter	237
Roger Egolf	105	Margaret Levenberg	157
*Carmen Gauthier	242	*Lori Stepan	209
Timothy Hanks	133	Keith Vitense	169

- By electronic ballot, the Council elected Kelly Elkins, Jennifer Hollingsworth, Alison Hyslop, Gregory Tew, Kathryn Uhrich, Don Warner, and Peter Zarras for three-year terms (2026 – 2028) on the Committee on Nominations and Elections (N&E). After a tie vote and run-off election, Ellene Tratras Contis was elected to a two-year term (2026 – 2027) and Jingbo Louise Liu was elected to a one-year term (2026) to maintain rotation of terms as the committee expands its membership.

Mary Anderson	154	Kristina Proctor	115
Maria Contel	139	Elsa Reichmanis	186
*Kelly Elkins	218	*Gregory Tew	214
*Jennifer Hollingsworth	227	*Ellene Tratras Contis	189
*Alison Hyslop	191	Jackie Trischman	112
Julie Jessop	171	*Kathryn Uhrich	224
*Jingbo Louise Liu	189	Lichang Wang	139
Marge Matthews	94	*Don Warner	210
Lisa McElwee-White	151	*Peter Zarras	192

Other Council Actions:

Highlights from Committee Reports and Key Actions

- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 343 (86.40%) / No 54 (13.60%)] to approve the *Petition to Establish the Committee on the Advancement of LGBTQ+ Chemists (CALC)*, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. Members will be appointed to this committee with terms beginning in 2026.
- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 336 (83.58%) / No 66 (16.42%)] to approve the *Petition to Realign the Committee on Publications*, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This petition dissolves the committee; the work formerly performed by this committee will be handled by a new Journals Advisory Board reporting to the Governing Board of Publishing.
- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 393 (97.52%) / No 10 (2.48%)] to approve the *Petition to Amend the Name and Duties of the Committee on Public Relations and Communications*, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This petition changes the name from the Committee on Public Relations and Communications (CPRC) to the Committee on Communications (COMM).
- On the recommendation of ConC, and with the concurrence of CPC, Council voted [Yes 392 (97.76%) / No 9 (2.24%)] to approve the *Petition to Amend the Duties of the Committee on International Activities*, subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. This petition aligns the duties of the Committee on International Activities (IAC) with those of other committees responsible for Unit functions (such as the Committee on Local Section Activities).
- On the recommendation of the Committee on Economic and Professional Affairs (CEPA), Council voted to approve the Professional Employment Guidelines, as amended [Yes 373 (93.02%) / No 28 (6.98%)], subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors. CEPA

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presented an amendment clarifying the language associated with intellectual property ownership.

- On the recommendation of the Committee on Local Section Activities (LSAC), Council voted [Yes 389 (97.49%) / No 10 (2.51%)] to approve the *Petition for Changes in Local Section Territory*. This petition adds territory not currently within the boundaries of a Local Section to adjacent Local Sections.
- On the recommendation of the Committee on International Activities (IAC), Council voted to approve the creation of a new International Chemical Sciences Chapter in Guatemala [Yes 383 (97.21%) / No 11 (2.79%)], subject to the concurrence of the ACS Board of Directors.
- The Committee on Constitution and Bylaws (C&B) reported the certification of nine unit bylaws since the spring 2025 meeting. They include four Local Sections: Green Mountain, New York, Sacramento, and Southern Indiana; one Division: Rubber (RUBB); and four International Chemical Sciences Chapters: Ecuador, Ghana, Northeast China, and Shanghai.

Resolutions

The Council passed several resolutions:

- In memory of deceased Councilors;
- In sincere appreciation of the Chemical Society of Washington, host Local Section for the ACS Fall 2025 meeting, as well as the Divisional program chairs, symposium organizers, and ACS staff for the planning and execution of the meeting; and
- In appreciation of the outgoing Chair of Council, Dorothy J. Phillips.

Meeting Attendance

The ACS Fall 2025 meeting was held from August 17 – 21. As of August 19, there were 11,640 registrations (10,602 in-person and 1,038 online). The ACS Spring 2026 meeting will be held in Atlanta, GA from March 22 – 26, 2026.

Actions of the Board of Directors - Executive Session

The ACS Board of Directors met in Executive Session on August 15-16, 2025, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, DC.

Board Actions

- Upon recommendation of the Society Committee on Publications, the Board voted to approve the reappointment of several ACS journal editors. The reappointments will be announced after the individuals have been notified and appropriate arrangements for their continued service have been made.

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- Upon recommendation of the Board Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board voted to approve a nominee for the 2026 Othmer Gold Medal.
- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Professional and Member Relations, the Board voted to approve that the ACS nominees for the Othmer Gold Medal and Perkin Medal must be an ACS member in good standing beginning with the 2027 cycle.
- Upon recommendation of the Governing Board for Publishing (GBP), the Board voted to approve a one-time extension of all current Governing Board member terms, to end on December 31 of their respective end term year. This will allow GBP member terms to transition to a Jan-Dec cycle in alignment with Society Committees.
- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board voted to approve that the advance member registration fee for 2026 ACS Spring and Fall meetings remain at \$549 for in-person and \$149 for virtual and approved associated pricing for all other registration fees.
- Upon recommendation of the Committee on Budget and Finance, the Board voted to approve the allotment funding request for the International Chemical Sciences Chapters.
- The Board also acted on confidential matters related to salary, merit, and inflation assumptions for the 2026 budget planning process.

Board Discussions

- The Board engaged in a strategic discussion on the strengths and opportunities of the ACS structure for component groups.
- Board Chair Wayne Jones facilitated a discussion about themes emerging from feedback Board members have received from the ACS community.

Reports

- The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Albert Horvath and his staff provided organizational updates on current affairs and new initiatives. He shared the strong performance of ACS in 2025, and growth across many areas. He highlighted:
 - The Fall 2025 meeting announcement that one hundred \$25,000 grants will be disbursed by year end under the one-time Graduate Student Success grant initiative as approved by the Board in June;
 - ACS solutions-driven programs for industry partners;
 - Collaborations with federal agencies, national labs, NGOs, foundations, and local government;
 - ACS advocacy efforts, including letters to Congress, direct lobbying, interactions with federal agencies, legislative meetings and briefings, and ACS community activities;
 - Executive Leadership Team (ELT) succession planning updates;
 - Fall 2025 program updates, including registration exceeding the budgeted 11,000 attendees;
 - ACS rebranding updates;
 - Ongoing planning efforts for the ACS 150th Anniversary Celebration;
 - Evolution of the ACS undergraduate scholarship portfolio, and
 - Sustainability efforts at ACS's Washington and Columbus campuses, including that the Washington, DC office buildings are LEED platinum certified.

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- ACS Treasurer and Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Emily Kunchala reported on the strong financial health of the organization. The report highlighted ongoing work in risk assessment, scenario planning, and cost optimization and productivity. For Q2 2025, the ACS financial guidelines have been met.
- Members of the presidential succession provided reports on their 2025 initiatives and activities.
- Committee Chairs Carolyn Ribes (Public Affairs and Public Relations), Katherine Lee (Professional and Member Relations), and Committee member Kimberly Agnew-Heard (Strategic Planning) provided updates on their respective committee activities, ongoing efforts to review their processes, and future plans.
- Chair of the Governing Board for Publishing, Al Horvath, along with ACS Presidents Manny Guzman (CAS) and Jim Milne (Publications), shared key priorities aimed at driving growth and enabling sustained success. They also outlined strategic opportunities to strengthen ACS's information science and publishing portfolios.
- Chair of the Committee on Budget and Finance Natalie LaFranzo reported on efforts to refine the committee's scope and to differentiate it from a proposed Board Committee on Finance.
- Chair of the Committee on Corporation Associates Michael Abrams updated the Board on the committee's work on safety culture and strengthening stakeholder partnerships, the ACS Industry Roundtable, Heroes of Chemistry, and their upcoming strategic planning retreat.
- Written reports were reviewed from the General Counsel, Human Resources, and the Committees on Chemical Technical Professionals, Chemists with Disabilities, Chemistry and Public Affairs, Community Activities, Education, Environment and Sustainability, Intellectual Property, International Activities, Public Relations and Communications, Publications, Professional Training, Science, Women Chemists, and Younger Chemists.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION FOR COUNCILORS

The following is a list of URLs and email addresses for supplemental information offered in oral reports at the Council meeting.

Officers

Dorothy J. Phillips, President

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Mary K. Carroll, Immediate Past President

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Rigoberto Hernandez, President-Elect

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ACS Offices

Office of the Secretary

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Resources

Committee Preference Form

www.cmte.acs.org

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N&E Nomination Form
National Election Candidate Information
ACS Governing Documents

nominations.acs.org
www.acs.org/elections
www.acs.org/govdocs