

THE SUPREME COURT OF WASHINGTON

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF)
AMENDMENTS TO THE WSBA BYLAWS)
ARTICLE IV.D)
)
)
_____)

ORDER

NO. 25700-B-749

The Washington Supreme Court has plenary authority over the practice of law in Washington. The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) serves under the delegated authority of the Court in regulating and administering licenses to practice law in Washington and effectuating other purposes and functions as set forth in General Rule (GR) 12 and 12.1 – 12.5. All amendments to the WSBA’s bylaws are subject to Supreme Court approval.

In an e-mail dated March 17, 2026, the WSBA provided the Court proposed amendments to Article IV.D, of the WSBA bylaws that were approved by the Board of Governors at its March 6, 2026, meeting. The WSBA Governance Committee recommended changes to the current bylaws to permit Board of Governors members to engage in political activities but requiring them to do so in their individual capacities.

Now, therefore, it is hereby

ORDERED:

PAGE 2
ORDER NO. 25700-B-749
IN THE MATTER OF THE APPROVAL OF AMENDMENTS TO THE WSBA BYLAWS
ARTICLE IV.D

That the WSBA Bylaws Amendments to Article IV.D, as described above and as provided in the attached copy of the amendments, are approved by this Court and shall be given full force and effect.

DATED at Olympia, Washington this 3rd day of April, 2026.


CHIEF JUSTICE

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO WSBA Bylaws Art. IV.D

1 **IV. GOVERNANCE**

2 **A. – C.** [Unchanged]

3 **D. POLITICAL ACTIVITY**

4 **1. Board of Governors**

5 a. The BOG acting as a board must not publicly support or oppose, in any election, any
6 candidate for public office.

7 b. The BOG acting as a board must not take a side or position publicly or authorize any
8 officer or the Executive Director to take a side or position publicly on any issue being
9 submitted to the voters or pending before the legislature, unless the matter is
10 considered in public session at a meeting of the BOG with advance notice to the Bar’s
11 membership, and the following requirements are met:

- 12 1) The BOG first votes to determine whether the issue is within the scope of GR 12.2;
13 and
14 2) If the BOG determines that the matter is within the scope of GR 12.2, then the BOG
15 will vote to determine what position, if any, to adopt on the issue.

16 c. The restriction applies fully to prohibit:
17 1) the use of the name or logo of the Bar;
18 2) the contribution of funds, facility use, or Bar staff time; and
19 3) participation or support to any degree in the candidate’s campaign, or the campaign
20 on either side of the issue.

21 d. The restriction does not apply to matters that are exclusively related to the
22 administration of the Bar’s functions or to any issue put to a vote of the Bar’s
23 membership.

24
25
26

SUGGESTED AMENDMENTS TO WSBA Bylaws Art. IV.D

1 Notice of any BOG position or authorization to the President or Executive Director to take a
2 position must be published on the Bar’s website as soon as possible after the meeting at which
3 the final action is taken.

4 **2. Governors and Officers**

5 Governors and officers of the Bar have constitutional rights to speak and participate in political
6 activity in their individual capacities. However, if any Governor or officer supports or opposes
7 any candidate for public office or any issue being submitted to the voters, pending before a
8 legislative or rulemaking body, that person must not state or imply that they are acting on behalf
9 of the Bar in their capacity as a Governor or officer of the Bar unless specifically authorized to do
10 so by the BOG, making appropriate disclaimers when needed to remedy any appearance that a
11 Governor or officer is acting in their Bar capacity.

12 **3. Letterhead and Communications**

13 The Bar’s letterhead, logos, artwork, and other branding material may be used only for official
14 business of the Bar and must not be used for personal or charitable purposes, in connection with
15 any political campaign, to support or oppose any political candidate, or to support or oppose any
16 public issue unless the BOG has taken a position on the issue.