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Providing that the General Board Shall Meet At Least Once During Each Four-Year Convention Cycle, and Expanding the General Board's Authority Between Conventions

Submitted by the Executive Council

Article XI, Section 2 of the Constitution provides that the General Board, on which all AFL-CIO affiliates are represented, shall meet upon the call of the President or the Executive Council. However, it does not require that such a meeting be called within any particular time frame. This amendment would ensure that at least once during a regular four-year convention cycle (assuming that Constitutional Amendment No. 7 is adopted) a meeting of the General Board would be held.

Furthermore, Article XI, Section 3 describes the authority of the General Board as deciding "all policy questions referred to it by the Executive Officers or the Executive Council." The General Board does not have any authority with respect to matters relating to per capita tax or assessments.

By contrast, Article XVI, Section 5 gives the Executive Council the authority, when the Federation's interests so require and per capita tax funds are insufficient to meet those needs, to declare by a two-thirds vote a special assessment that remains in effect until the next regular convention. This proposed amendment would extend the same authority to the General Board, giving the Executive Officers or the Executive Council the flexibility to defer a decision regarding such a special assessment to the General Board.

Therefore, the Executive Council proposes the following amendments:

ARTICLE XI GENERAL BOARD

Sec. 2. The General Board shall meet at least once during each four-year convention cycle, upon the call of the President or the Executive Council.

ARTICLE XVI PER CAPITA TAXES AND ASSESSMENTS

Sec. 5. Revenue may also be derived from assessments when and as ordered by a majority vote of a convention. The Executive Council may also declare an assessment not to exceed four cents per member per month on all affiliated unions for a period not to exceed six months in any one year when the interests of the Federation require and when funds available from per capita tax are insufficient to meet the needs of the Federation, except that by a two-thirds vote the Council, or by a two-thirds vote pursuant to Article XI, Section 4 the General Board upon request of the Executive Officers or the Executive Council, may declare an assessment that exceeds four cents per member per month on all affiliated unions for a period to expire no later than the next regular convention when extraordinary circumstances require and when funds available from per capita tax are insufficient to meet those circumstances.