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Providing That the AFL-CIO's Regular Convention Shall Be Held Once Every Four Years, Rather Than Once Every Two Years

Submitted by the Executive Council

Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution requires that the regular conventions of the Federation be conducted every two years. This provision remained in effect even after the convention voted in 1997 to increase the terms of elected office from two years to four years. Thus under the Constitution currently, mid-way through each four-year election cycle, the Federation is still obligated to hold a regular convention even though there are no constitutionally mandated actions that need be taken at that time.

Meanwhile, the cost to the Federation of holding a mid-term convention is substantial. And for affiliates, most of whom typically have their own union conventions at least once if not more during this same cycle, the time and expense incurred in preparing for and attending this additional convention is significant as well. Yet, the Constitution also authorizes the Executive Council or affiliates to call for a special convention between regular conventions if necessary.

The proposed amendment would require the Federation to hold a regular convention every four years, rather than every two years. To provide additional flexibility in the scheduling of the convention, it would further expand the period during which the convention must take place from the last four months to the last six months of the convention year. Finally, recognizing that when the convention is held in the early part of

the six-month window it may not be possible to calculate unions' voting and delegate entitlement based on a 24-month period that does not end until June 30 of the convention year, the amendment would change the formula's 24-month period to one ending with the last calendar month occurring before the 90th day preceding the opening date of the convention.

Therefore, the Executive Council proposes the following amendments:

ARTICLE IV CONVENTION

Sec. 2. The regular conventions of the Federation shall be held every ~~two~~ four years, ~~beginning in 1955,~~ at a time during the last ~~four~~ six months of the year. The time and the place for holding the regular conventions shall be designated by the Executive Council, which shall give at least 90 days' notice of the time and place designated.

Sec. 9.(a) The number of members of each national and international union and organizing committee for the purpose of selecting delegates and for roll-call votes, and the number of members of each directly affiliated local union for roll-call votes, at the convention shall be the average monthly number on which per capita tax is paid for the 24-month period ending ~~June 30~~ with the last calendar month occurring before the 90th day preceding the opening date of ~~the year~~ the convention ~~is held~~.