



**ALABAMA MASONIC CODE CONSTITUTION AND EDICT CHANGE PROPOSALS TO  
BE PRESENTED AT THE NOVEMBER 2020 GRAND LODGE SESSION IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH ARTICLE VIII OF THE CONSTITUTION AND EDICT 33.1 OF THE  
EDICTS.**

**To: All Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge and Worshipful Master of  
Each Member Lodge:**

**The following proposed Constitutional changes are presented in accordance with  
the Article VIII (PROPOSITION TO AMEND) of the Constitution of the Alabama  
Masonic Code.**

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**PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE III, SECTION 4 OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Article III, SEC. 4 currently reads:

Article III SEC. 4. In the election of Grand Officers and in the decision of all questions on this Grand Lodge, each and every Master, Wardens or Secretary or his duly accredited proxy of every chartered subordinate Lodge shall have one vote. Each and every present Grand Officer, Past Grand Master, and Past Deputy Grand Master, Past Grand Warden, Past Grand Treasurer, and Past Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge shall have one vote and one vote only regardless of the number of positions, offices or appointments he now holds or has held in either or both the Grand Lodge or one or more of the subordinate Lodges, except such proxy votes as may have been assigned to him by the Lodge of his membership. A majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary for a choice.

Article III, SEC. 4 revised to read:

Article III SEC. 4. In the election of Grand Officers and in the decision of all questions on this Grand Lodge:

- A. Each and every Master, ~~Wardens or~~ **Warden and** Secretary or his duly accredited proxy of every chartered subordinate Lodge shall have one vote.
- B. Each and every present Grand Officer, Past Grand Master, and Past Deputy Grand Master, Past Grand Warden, Past Grand Treasurer, and Past Grand Secretary of this Grand Lodge shall have one vote and one vote only regardless of the number of positions, offices or appointments he now holds or has **held in the Grand Lodge.** ~~either or both the Grand Lodge or one or more of the subordinate Lodges, except such proxy votes as may have been assigned to him by the Lodge of his membership.~~ **In addition to this vote, he may have each and every vote which he may acquire from each and every subordinate Lodge of which he is a member, either by being the Master, a Warden or Secretary or received through proxy.**

A majority of all the votes cast shall be necessary for a choice.



Reason for change:

Currently, Grand Lodge Officers, either present or past, as defined in Article III, Sec. 4 are assigned one vote for their current or former office in the Grand Lodge. In the event this Brother holds one of the top 3 Offices or Secretary in his subordinate Lodge, and if he is unable to proxy it to another Brother, then the Lodge or the Brother loses the ability to cast a vote duly assigned to him and/or his Lodge. I feel that the Brother who has committed himself to the betterment of our Grand Lodge and his subordinate Lodge through this extra effort should be able to cast every vote duly assigned to him through his office, position or proxy.

John J Hall III, Secretary, Valley Masonic Lodge #516, District Lecturer #30

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### PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE V, SECTION 3 OF THE CONSTITUTION

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Article V, SEC. 3 currently reads:

Article V SEC. 3. The members of the Committee on Work, the District Lecturers, provided they are members of a subordinate Lodge, shall be members of the Grand Lodge; and on all questions, whether to be decided viva voce or by ballot, except in appropriations of funds of the Grand Lodge, shall have one vote, and no more.

Article V, SEC. 3 revised to read:

Article V Sec. 3. ~~The members~~ **Each member** of the Committee on Work, ~~the District Lecturers and each District Lecturer,~~ provided ~~they are members~~ **he is a member** of a subordinate Lodge, shall be ~~members~~ **a member** of the Grand Lodge; and on all questions, whether to be decided viva voce or by ballot, ~~except in appropriations of funds of the Grand Lodge,~~ shall have one vote **and one vote only regardless of the number of positions, offices or appointments he now holds or has held in the Grand Lodge. In addition to this vote, he may have each and every vote which he may acquire from each and every subordinate Lodge of which he is a member, either by being the Master, a Warden or Secretary or received through proxy, with full voting rights, including appropriations.**

Reason for change:

Currently, Committee on Work Members & District Lecturers are assigned one vote for their current position in the Grand Lodge. In the event this Brother holds one of the top 3 Offices or Secretary in his subordinate Lodge, and if he is unable to proxy it to another Brother, then the Lodge or the Brother loses the ability to cast a vote duly assigned to him and/or his Lodge. I feel that the Brother, who has committed himself to the betterment of our Grand Lodge and his subordinate Lodge through this extra effort, should be able to cast every vote duly assigned to him through his office, position or proxy.

John J Hall III, Secretary, Valley Masonic Lodge #516, District Lecturer #30

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## **PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE VIII OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Whereas all proposed amendments to the Constitution of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Alabama are presented at the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge in November;

and if it is approved during that Grand Lodge session, it is sent to the Subordinate Lodges to be voted on during their Annual Communication in June;

and whereas this results in a period of seven months between the presentation of the proposal and the next opportunity for any discussion and action taken by the subordinate lodges;

and this timeline and process does not afford the opportunity to have the reasons, facts, and supporting documentation for the proposed amendment to be adequately presented to the Brethren;

and as a result of the long duration between the vote at Grand Lodge in November and the presentation of the proposition at the Annual Communications in June;

this proposition to amend will NOT alter, change, or effect the vote of any lodge in any way; it simply changes the location where the vote will take place;

and whereas it is the responsibility of each Subordinate Lodge to be represented at the Grand Lodge session, each Lodge will have fair and equitable opportunity to vote on the proposed amendments;

Be it resolved that the proposition to amend below will provide the opportunity for the Brethren to have all of the information presented and debated by both sides of an issue prior to the vote on the proposed amendment which will ensure the best decision will be made by the Brethren for the Grand Lodge of Alabama.

### **ARTICLE VIII, PROPOSITIONS TO AMEND, CURRENTLY READS:**

Every proposition to revise, alter, or amend this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Secretary at least sixty days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at which time it is to be presented, and if certified by the Jurisprudence Committee as being in proper form, a copy of the proposal shall be sent to all Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge and to the Worshipful Master of each subordinate Lodge at least thirty days before the Annual Communication. It shall then be distinctly read and if approved by one third of the members of the Grand Lodge present, shall be entered upon the minutes and be thereafter submitted to the several chartered subordinate Lodges for their approval or rejection; and if two thirds of the chartered subordinate Lodges that have sent in their returns to the Grand Secretary as required in Edict 8.18, approve thereof by certificate over their respective seals, to the next succeeding Grand Lodge, the Grand Master shall so declare it, and from thenceforth it shall be considered a part and parcel of this Constitution.

No other proposition to alter, revise, or amend this Constitution shall be received by the Grand Lodge for its action without the foregoing provisions being complied with, except the Grand Lodge may by two thirds vote of the members present agree to waive the requirements of previous notice to the Grand Secretary and the Lodges.

**Be it resolved that Article VIII of the Constitution be amended as follows:**

### **PROPOSITIONS TO AMEND**

Every proposition to revise, alter, or amend this Constitution shall be submitted in writing to the Grand Secretary at least sixty days before the Annual Communication of the Grand Lodge at which time it is to be presented, and if certified by the Jurisprudence Committee as being in proper form, a copy of the proposal shall be sent to all Past Grand Masters, Officers of the Grand Lodge and to the Worshipful Master of each subordinate Lodge at least thirty days before the Annual Communication. It shall then be distinctly read and if approved by one third of the members of the Grand Lodge present, shall be entered upon the minutes and be thereafter submitted to the several chartered subordinate Lodges for **a reading in open lodge at the Annual Communication. The proposition will then be presented at the next Grand Lodge session for action and if two thirds of the subordinate Lodges approve, it will be considered a part and parcel of this Constitution.**

No other proposition to alter, revise, or amend this Constitution shall be received by the Grand Lodge for its action without the foregoing provisions being complied with, except the Grand Lodge may by two thirds vote of the members present agree to waive the requirements of previous notice to the Grand Secretary and the Lodges.

Respectfully submitted, Jon Michael Taylor, Dolcito Masonic Lodge #596

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**The following proposed Edict changes are presented in accordance with Chapter XXXIII, Edict 33.1 (PROPOSITION TO AMEND) of the Alabama Masonic Code.**

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#### **Proposition to Amend the Alabama Masonic Code Chapter XIII, Edict 13.1**

13.1 Seven Members Present-To open a lodge and transact any business there must be present no less than seven(7) Master Masons, who are members of the lodge, and the Master or one of the Wardens must be included in the number.

The District Lecturer may count in the quorum for opening the lodge he is visiting if within that Lecturers assigned district. The Lecturer will have no right to vote on any regular business.

Proposal to change 13.1 To Read

Seven Members Present- To open a lodge and transact any business there must be present no less than seven (7) Master Masons, who are members of the Lodge, and the Master or one of the Wardens must be included in the number.

The District Lecturer **or Past Grand Master** may count in the quorum for opening of the lodge he is visiting if in the Lecturer's assigned district **or the Past Grand Master's Assigned Group**. The Lecturer **or Past Grand Master** will have no right to vote on any regular business.

David Tucker, Past Grand Master

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## Proposition to Amend the Alabama Masonic Code Chapter XIII, Edict 13.10

Edict 13.10 currently reads:

13.10. CONSTITUTION AND PROCEEDINGS—It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each subordinate Lodge under this jurisdiction to keep constantly in his Lodge a copy of the latest edition of the Constitution, Edicts, Decisions and Resolutions of the Grand Lodge and also a copy of the last **printed** proceeding of the Grand Lodge and latest abridged report.

Proposed change to Edict 13.10 to read:

13.10. CONSTITUTION AND PROCEEDINGS—It shall be the duty of the Secretary of each subordinate Lodge under this jurisdiction to keep constantly in his Lodge a copy of the latest edition of the Constitution, Edicts, Decisions and Resolutions of the Grand Lodge and also a copy of the last proceeding of the Grand Lodge and latest abridged report.

Reason for change: To save the cost of having the Proceedings printed.

Respectfully submitted, Teddy R. Grogan Jr., PGM, Grand Secretary

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## Proposition to Amend the Alabama Masonic Code Chapter XVI, Edict 16.27

Whereas Edict 16.27 currently states:

16.27. MASTER MASON NOT EXAMINED—A brother who has been raised is not required to be examined on his proficiency in the M. M. Degree. Yet it is the duty of the W. M. or presiding officer to impress on the newly raised brother the importance of such proficiency.

Whereas, it is impossible for a Master Mason to adhere to the obligation if he has not learned what the obligation contains; and

Whereas, it is difficult for Master Masons from Alabama to visit other jurisdictions without knowing certain parts of the Master Mason examination,

Be it therefore resolved that Edict 16.27 be changed to the following:

16.27. MASTER MASON EXAMINED- A brother who has been raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason is required to be examined on his proficiency in the Master Mason Degree. The examination of the brother will be that as adopted by the Grand Lodge of Alabama, except a brother can be allowed to return the entire lesson, both questions and answers, upon approval of the Worshipful Master. In such a case the brother can be allowed to recite the entire lesson to the lodge under the supervision of the brother conducting the examination. No further deviation shall be practiced in his examination and no person, not even a member of the Committee on Work, shall teach or practice any change herein until adopted by the Grand Lodge. The examination of the brother should be to the extent of demonstrating that he understands the ceremonial work of the degree, but not necessarily to the extent of qualifying him to confer the degree. A Master Mason who fails to show proficiency in the Master Mason Degree will not be issued a dues card until proficiency in the Master Mason lesson is proven. (This is not a proficiency test on the degree work of each station or place) **This edict shall only apply to Master Masons raised AFTER the passage of Edict 16.27 in its current form.** The Grand Master of the State of Alabama, at his will, may relieve any Master Mason of the obligation of showing proficiency in the Master Mason Degree.

Submitted by, James Kenneth Yokem, Senior Warden, Lunar Lodge #918

## **Proposition to Amend the Alabama Masonic Code Chapter XVII, Edict 17.20**

Edict 17.20 currently reads in part:

Edict 17.20 PLURAL MEMBERSHIP - A Master Mason can be a member of multiple Masonic Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, provided all Lodges record him as a plural member, and his membership is reported to the Grand Lodge. A plural member can hold elected office in all Lodges at the same time excluding the first three Officers **and the Secretary**. Furthermore, a Master Mason of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may also hold membership in another Grand Jurisdiction provided this Grand Jurisdiction is in fraternal relations with the other Grand Jurisdiction and that said Grand Jurisdiction legalizes plural membership.

Proposed change to read:

Edict 17.20 PLURAL MEMBERSHIP - A Master Mason can be a member of multiple Masonic Lodges in this Grand Jurisdiction, provided all Lodges record him as a plural member, and his membership is reported to the Grand Lodge. A plural member can hold elected office in all Lodges at the same time excluding the first three Officers. Furthermore, a Master Mason of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction may also hold membership in another Grand Jurisdiction provided this Grand Jurisdiction is in fraternal relations with the other Grand Jurisdiction and that said Grand Jurisdiction legalizes plural membership.

Reason for change:

As Lodges continue to lose memberships, one of the main problems is filling the stations and offices. As a secretary, I believe it would be a big plus if secretaries with plural memberships could fill offices in other Lodges. I don't believe holding office in any other Lodge would interfere with the duty of secretary.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael P. Howell, Secretary of Valley Head Lodge 394, Valley Head, AL 35989

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## **Proposition to Amend the Alabama Masonic Code Chapter XIX, Edict 19.2**

Edict 19.2 currently reads:

19.2 Regalia- Blue Lodge regalia shall not be worn on any occasion except on occasions strictly Masonic. If a Lodge goes as a body, the Lodge must be opened and closed.

Whereas, many Lodges throughout the state wear Masonic regalia as a visual representation of the Fraternity during holiday parades and other civic celebrations; and

Whereas, a Lodge must be opened to wear Masonic regalia; and

Whereas, per Edict 12.4, a Lodge cannot be opened on Sundays except for a funeral or Lodge of Sorrow; and

Whereas, a conflict will arise for the wearing of regalia in parades and other civic celebrations held on Sundays,

Be it therefore resolved that Edict 19.2 be amended to read as follows:

Edict 19.2 Regalia- Blue Lodge regalia shall not be worn on any occasion except on occasions strictly Masonic. If a Lodge goes as a body, the Lodge must be opened and closed, ***unless dispensation is granted by the Grand Master.***

Respectfully Submitted by Daniel W. Robinson, Worshipful Master, Notasulga #119

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TEDDY R. GROGAN, JR, PGM

GRAND SECRETARY