1   Proposed Statutory Rules

Article 1   We propose that the primary election for all partisan and non-partisan offices at the presidential, state, congressional and local level be eliminated; that only a single general election be held for those offices; that the ballot should allow each voter to express ranked approval of all qualified candidates for office; that the rankings be used to conduct an instant round robin of one-on-one contests between each candidate and every other, with additional tally of total approval rating; that when one candidate is undefeated in each one-on-one contest with every other candidate, that candidate will win the election; and that when no candidate is undefeated, the candidate with lowest total approval rating be successively eliminated until an undefeated candidate emerges.

Article 2   Each ballot will contain a complete list of all candidates for the office. In partisan races, each party may designate its representative candidate for that office, but other candidates who are members in good standing of that party will be allowed to state that party affiliation if they so desire.

Article 3   On the ballot, the voter may rank candidates in order of preference. The individual voter may give the same rank to more than one candidate, and may leave some candidates unranked. Ranking one candidate higher than another will be considered equivalent to casting a vote for the higher-ranked candidate against the other in the one-on-one contest between those two candidates. When a voter does not rank all candidates, then it is assumed that this voter is casting a vote for each ranked candidate against each unranked candidate, and that this voter is casting no vote in contests between unranked candidates.

Article 4   In addition to all qualified candidates for office, each ballot will include an extra option, Disapproved, that will be used purely to determine approval rating. With respect to counting votes, the Disapproved option will be treated like all other candidates for the office, but will not otherwise be considered to be a candidate, and in particular will not be eligible to win or lose any one-on-one contest with any other qualified candidate. When a voter ranks a candidate higher than the Disapproved option, that will be considered equivalent to casting an *approval* vote for the candidate. The *approval rating* of a candidate is the total number of valid ballots on which that candidate is ranked higher than the Disapproved option.

Article 5

1. A *majority winner* is a candidate such that on a majority of the valid ballots this candidate is ranked above every other candidate other than Disapproved. If there is a majority winner, then that candidate wins the election.

2. Suppose that there is no majority winner. Then a candidate X is called *undefeated* when for every other candidate Y other than Disapproved, X defeats Y in their one-on-one contest. If there is an undefeated candidate, then that candidate wins the election. The majority winner, if it exists, will always be undefeated.

3. Suppose there is no majority winner and no undefeated candidate. A candidate is *ranked-approval-undefeated* if, after elimination of zero or more least-approved candidates, that candidate is undefeated against all remaining candidates other than Disapproved. While there is no ranked-approval-undefeated candidate, the least-approved remaining candidate is eliminated from the race. As soon as a ranked-approval-undefeated candidate is created, that candidate wins the election. The majority winner or the undefeated candidate, if either exists, will also always be ranked-approval-undefeated.