Constitutional Proposal A

California FFA Executive Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

State Staff Recommends a **Do Pass**.

FFA Advisory Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

By-Laws, Article VII,

Section B. Board of Directors:

(1) The official fiscal governing body of the California Association, Future Farmers of America, shall be the State FFA Board of Directors; an adult board. The direction and management of affairs, funds, and property of the corporation shall be vested in the Board of Directors who shall pursue such policies and principles as shall be in accordance with the provisions of the Articles of Incorporation, this Constitution and Bylaws, and the laws of the State of California.

(2) The Board of Directors of the corporation shall consist of twenty-one (21) members.

(a) State FFA Advisor (ex-officio non-voting member)

(b) Assistant State FFA Advisor (ex-officio non-voting member)

(c) Twelve (12) Agriculture Teachers two per each region

(d) Executive Director of the California Agricultural Teachers’ Association (ex-officio non-voting member)

(e) Member of the State Agricultural Education Advisory Committee

(f) Member of the California FFA Foundation Board of Directors

(g) Past State FFA Officer

(h) Agricultural Education Teacher Educator

(i) Current State FFA Treasurer (ex-officio member)

(j) Community College Agriculture Teacher

**Constitutional Proposal A1**

California FFA Executive Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

State Staff Recommends a **Do Pass**.

FFA Advisory Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

By-Laws, Article VII,

Section F. Compensation: No ***voting*** memberof the Board of Directors shall receive pay for his services but may, upon a majority vote of the Board, receive remuneration for expenses incurred in attendance at official meetings of the Board. The Board of 28 Directors, except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws, may by resolution authorize any officer or agent of the corporation to enter into any contract or execute and deliver any instrument in the name of and on behalf of the corporation, and such authority may be general or confined to specific instances. Unless so authorized no officer, agent, or employee shall have any power or authority to bind the corporation by any contract or engagement or to pledge its credit or to render it liable monetarily for any purpose or in any amount.

Rational In Support of Proposals “A” & “A1”

The Executive Director (ED) of the California Agricultural Teachers’ Association (CATA) manages the FFA Center and FFA Center Staff. In that capacity, the ED is an employee of the FFA and, in part, is directed by the FFA Adult Board of Directors. The FFA Constitution states that the “Duties of the Board of Directors will be responsibility for the financial viability and management of the fiscal operation of the association. The State Advisor and the Agricultural Education Unit Staff in the California Department of Education will be responsible for all program development and leadership”. Moving board members affiliated with California FFA to ex-officio non-voting members brings the adult board into compliance with the California FFA Constitution.

This amendment works in tangent with the previous in aligning the language of the constitution with the current practices in place.

Constitution Proposal B

California FFA Executive Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

State Staff Recommends a **Do Pass**.

FFA Advisory Committee No Recommendation

Article IV

Section E.

(12) There shall be four annual awards for the State FFA Degree recipients known as the California Star Farmer, California Star in Agribusiness, California Star in Agricultural Placement, and the California Star in Agriscience. A member who has received the State FFA Degree may apply for Star consideration at all levels provided he/she:

(a) is a Junior, Senior, or first year Graduate,

(b) is a student member in good standing at the time of application, and

(c) has an ongoing supervised occupational experience program which has been continuously under the supervision of the local agriculture instructor.

Selection of the sectional and regional Stars will be selected in each region. The California Star finalist shall be based on the Regional Star Winners in each region. The California Stars will then be evaluated and decided ***using a process approved by the State FFA Advisor to include evaluation of the application and the interviews***. In any given year a student may only apply and be considered for Star honors under one Star category.

Rational in Support of Proposal B

As time passed, California FFA went from records kept in paper books to the current AET records. As the tools have changed, it has required changes in the specific process. Having those details included in the constitution requires a constitutional amendment to change the procedure. By providing the authority to the State Advisor when a better procedure is identified an adjustment can be made.

This amendment allows for adaptability and flexibility in the award process for the California Star awards by changing the language of the constitution to reflect both current practice and allowing for necessary future changes.

Constitutional Proposal C

California FFA Executive Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

State Staff Recommends a **Do Pass**.

FFA Advisory Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

By Laws Article IV, Section D

Section D. The official delegates to the national convention shall be the state president and the state vice president. When additional delegates are necessary or when either the current state president or state vice president is unable to serve, the current state officers shall serve as official delegates in order of their respective offices. When additional delegates are necessary, the team of immediate past state officers shall serve in order of their respective offices. Only delegates to the national convention who are members of the current or immediate past state officer team shall receive payment of expenses from the state treasury of the Future Farmers of America. Should additional delegates be necessary, they shall be selected by majority vote of the ***current*** State ***FFA Officers***. Selection will be based on applicants' abilities without regard for their home region. Members wishing to serve as national convention delegates shall use a standardized application form which the Assistant State Advisor(s) shall make available annually to every chapter in good standing with the state association. Applicants must submit their applications to the Assistant State Advisor electronically, on or before the specified due date and time to be considered.

Rational in Support of Proposal C

It has been the practice of the State Officers to select the National Delegates. With current travel requirements and regulations, decisions on the selected delegates needs to be made in July. Often, members of the executive committee apply to be selected as delegates. This change reflects current practice.

Constitutional Proposal D

California FFA Executive Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

State Staff Recommends a **Do Pass**.

FFA Advisory Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

By Laws, Article IV, Section C

Section C.

***1. Each one of the thirteen (13) student members of the state executive committee will be entitled to one vote at the state conference.***

***2. In case of absence of an executive committee member, a person acting for him/her will be entitled to vote for him/her. The committee member shall provide the name of their acting representative to the secretary to ensure proper notation in the minutes and records of the conference. The committee member, if returning, shall notify the secretary of their return prior to participating in the state conference.***

***3. The right of the executive committee member to vote will include all motions from the floor as well as the official ballot.***

***4. All regional officers will also be entitled to debate at the state conference.***

All regional officers will also be entitled to debate at the state conference.

Rational in support of Proposal D

Clarifying the process for committee members to officially transfer their right to vote to an acting representative will reduce questions about this process.

Constitutional Proposal E

California FFA Executive Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

State Staff Recommends a **Do Pass**.

FFA Advisory Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

Constitution Article IV, Section E, Item 12

(12) There shall be ***five*** annual awards for the State FFA Degree recipients known as the California Star Farmer, California Star in Agribusiness, California Star in Agricultural Placement, California Star in Agriscience, ***and the California State Star Small Farmer***.

A member who has received the State FFA Degree may apply for Star consideration at all levels provided he/she:

(a) is a Junior, Senior, or first year Graduate,

(b) is a student member in good standing at the time of application, and

(c) has an ongoing supervised occupational experience program which has been continuously under the supervision of the local agriculture instructor.

Selection of the sectional and regional Stars will be selected in each region. The California Star finalist shall be based on the Regional Star Winners in each region. The California Stars will then be evaluated and decided on three criteria: FFA Record book Score, State FFA Star Application Score, and Interview Score. In any given year a student may only apply and be considered for Star honors under one Star category.

Rationale in favor of the proposal.

1. As a diverse state, we have students who have exemplary projects that are small-scale in comparison to the larger Star Farmer projects. Many of these students have limited funding and resources and still develop outstanding production SAE’s and should be recognized for these efforts.
2. This award will provide more opportunity for members encouragement by recognizing members achievements that may be overlooked in different award categories- with this awards it will continue to promote the membership motivation, there are many members from smaller chapters that are often targeted as the “fish” due to not having the fair opportunity that bigger chapters may be presented with

Constitutional Proposal F

Constitution Article XII, Section A

California FFA Executive Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

State Staff Recommends a **Do Pass**.

FFA Advisory Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

ARTICLE XII. AMENDMENTS Section A.

1. ***Submission of Proposed Amendments: Amendments to the state constitution or bylaws may be submitted by a chapter or by the Executive Committee.*** 
   1. ***Submission from a Chapter: Proposed amendments shall be submitted in writing to the California Association's Executive Committee at least one week prior to the February Executive Committee meeting.***
   2. ***Submission from the Executive Committee: The Executive Committee may propose an amendment by majority vote of the Executive Committee.***
2. ***Review and Notice: The Executive Committee shall review and provide a recommendation on each amendment proposed by a chapter or proposed by majority vote of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall forward all proposed amendments, together with recommendations to the chapters, at least 30 days prior to the annual leadership conference.***

Amendments to this constitution or by-laws may be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the delegates present at the annual state leadership conference.

Rational in Support of Proposal F

Breaking the process in the existing language into specific steps will clarify who is authorized to submit a proposal, and the process and timeline for consideration. This proposal grants the right to submit proposals to both chapters and the Executive Committee. All proposals are reviewed by the Executive Committee, who may make recommendations. Previous notice and vote requirements are defined.

Constitutional Proposal G

California FFA Executive Committee Recommends a **Do Not Pass**.

State Staff Recommends a **Do Pass**.

FFA Advisory Committee Recommends a **Do Pass**.

By Laws Article IV, Section D

Section D. The official delegates to the national convention shall be the state president and the state vice president. When additional delegates are necessary or when either the current state president or state vice president is unable to serve, the current state officers shall serve as official delegates in order of their respective offices. Only delegates to the national convention who are members of the current state officer team shall receive payment of expenses from the state treasury of the Future Farmers of America. Should additional delegates be necessary, they shall be selected by majority vote of the State Executive Committee at its fall meeting. Selection will be based on applicants' abilities without regard for their home region. Members wishing to serve as national convention delegates shall use a standardized application form which the Assistant State Advisor(s) shall make available annually to every chapter in good standing with the state association. Applicants must submit their applications to the Assistant State Advisor electronically, on or before the specified due date and time to be considered.

Rational in Support Proposal G

1. The vast majority of current state officers have experienced the delegate process and do not require past officers to be present. In the past ten years 72% of the state officers had previously served as a National Convention Delegate. In no year fewer than 3 members of the current state officer team not previously served.

2. A requirement to serve as a delegate is for them to attend the delegate training which is generally held in September at the State FFA Center in Galt. In the past few years, it has become difficult for past state officers to meet this requirement as they must attend their college classes.

3. Transitioning from state office to college, for many past state officers, can be difficult. Readjusting to life as a student takes a tremendous amount of effort and commitment. Missing additional classes does not allow for a smooth transition and can set the process back.

4. National FFA is considering a new membership process where membership is based on the chapter and not on the individual. Nationally, this will result in more agriculture students being FFA members. As each state’s membership grows, the number of official delegates from California will be reduced. This year California had 40 delegates while 5 years ago the number was 51.

5. In the past few years over 100 members have submitted applications to serve as a delegate to the national convention for what is becoming fewer open spots. Providing an opportunity for six more students to experience serving as a national delegate would enhance our service to our members.

6. Finally, it costs approximately $2,000 (air, ground transportation, lodging, and meals) per past officer. As our State Association budget gets tighter, allowing six more members to serve as delegates would potentially save the association more than $12,000.

Rational against proposal G.

1. Experience and Knowledge: Past state officers have firsthand experience navigating through delegate experience, understanding the process, and engaging with national issues. Their experiences allow them to contribute to discussions and ensure California’s perspective is well-represented. They can provide additional assistance to the current state officers who did not have the chance to serve as a national delegate themselves prior.

2. Continuity in Representation: Keeping past state officers as national delegates ensures consistency in California’s representation at the National FFA Convention. Their familiarity with ongoing issues and other associations prevents gaps in knowledge and strengthens advocacy efforts on behalf of California FFA members.

3. Leadership and Public Speaking Skills: Former state officers have already demonstrated strong leadership, communication, and public speaking abilities, which are essential for articulating California’s position on National FFA policies and initiatives.

4. Understanding of Parliamentary Procedure: The national delegate process requires a solid grasp of parliamentary procedure and structured debate. Past state officers, having participated in similar settings, can efficiently contribute to discussions without requiring extensive training as well as provide insight to others in conducting similar business.

5. Networking and Established Relationships: Past state officers have built relationships with National FFA leaders, delegates from other states, and agricultural education stakeholders. These connections can help California FFA influence national policies and foster collaboration on key issues.

6. Advocacy for California-Specific Issues: California has unique agricultural and FFA-related concerns that may differ from other states. Past state officers are well-versed in these issues and can effectively advocate for policies that benefit California FFA members.

7. Expectation of Past State Officers: There is no current written expectation or agreement *requiring* them to attend. They are, at any time, allowed to opt out of this responsibility if their schedule requires it due to educational, transitional or time related tension.

8. Aligning with the American FFA Degree Honor: Past state officers typically receive their American FFA Degree, the highest honor in the organization, at the same time during National FFA Convention where they serve as delegates. Covering their expenses allows California FFA to sponsor their achievements while also reinforcing the importance of lifelong involvement in FFA.