

**BYLAWS OF THE
LOCAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT LAW SECTION
OF THE NEW YORK STATE BAR ASSOCIATION
(As amended Thursday, January 18, 2024)**

ARTICLE I – NAME and SECTION MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Name. This organization shall be known as the Local and State Government Law Section (the “Section”) of the New York State Bar Association (the “Association”).

Section 2. Membership. Any member of the Association shall be eligible for membership in the Section, and shall be enrolled in the Section upon application and payment of such annual dues as shall be determined by the Executive Committee of the Section, and shall thereafter be deemed a “Member.”

ARTICLE II – PURPOSE

The purpose of the Local and State Government Law Section is to serve, educate and provide an impartial forum for attorneys, whether in the public, private or not-for-profit sector, on issues of local or state government law. The Section shall accomplish these purposes and the work of the New York State Bar Association by:

- A. Holding meetings and seminars, undertaking studies, surveys and analysis, and disseminating current information concerning judicial decisions, legislation and other matters of interest to attorneys practicing local and state government law;
- B. Submitting to the members of the Section and the Association reports and recommendations useful to the profession and advisable in the public interest;
- C. Reviewing pending legislation and promoting or opposing the same in the name of the Section and, whenever in its judgment necessary or appropriate, initiating legislation;
- D. Promoting and encouraging diversity, inclusion and social justice in the practice of law and the operation and management of the Section; and
- E. Furthering access to justice by promoting the voluntary participation of attorneys in regional and local *pro bono* programs.

ARTICLE III – SECTION MEETINGS

Section 1. Section meetings. The Section shall hold an annual meeting in conjunction with the annual meeting of the Association (the “Annual Meeting”), or as otherwise determined by the Executive Committee. The Section may also hold such other meetings as determined by the Executive Committee. Such meetings may be held in person, via videoconferencing or telephonically.

Section 2. Quorum. For the purposes of transacting business at a Section meeting, a quorum shall be 25 Members.

Section 3. Powers and Duties. No action may be taken by the Section in the absence of a quorum. All action taken by the Section shall require the affirmative vote of the majority of the Members who are present. The Officers shall be elected, and any vacancies on the Executive Committee filled, at the Annual Meeting of the Section.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

Section 1. Number and Titles. There shall be four officers of the Section: Chair, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, and Secretary (the “Officers”), each of whom must be a member of the Section in good standing.

Section 2. Election and Term. The Officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Section and shall hold office for one year, beginning on June 1st, or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Section 3. Powers and Duties.

- A. The Officers, by majority vote, may act on behalf of the Executive Committee with respect to exigent matters but only when there is insufficient time to convene a meeting of the Executive Committee.
- B. Chair. The Chair shall preside over all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee and shall be an *ex-officio* member of all Section standing and special committees, task forces and working groups. The Chair shall set the agenda for Executive Committee meetings and shall appoint the Chairs of any Section meetings. The Chair shall determine excused absences for Officers and Executive Committee members, and shall have such other powers and duties as are set forth herein or as may be granted by the Executive Committee.
- C. First Vice-Chair. In the absence of the Chair, or inability to serve, the First Vice-Chair shall preside at meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee. The First Vice-Chair shall also serve as the Fiscal Officer of the Section and shall perform such duties as usually pertain to that office or as assigned by the Chair.
- D. Second Vice-Chair. In the absence of the Chair and the First Vice-Chair, or inability of both of them to serve, the Second Vice-Chair shall preside at meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee. The Second Vice-Chair shall perform such duties as usually pertain to that office or as assigned by the Chair.
- E. Secretary. The Secretary shall keep a record of the proceedings of all meetings of the Section and of the Executive Committee, and of all other matters of which a record shall be ordered by the Chair, Executive Committee, Section or Association.

ARTICLE V – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. Number, Election and Term. The voting members of the Executive Committee shall be comprised of the Officers of the Section, and eighteen other Members elected by the Section at the Annual Meeting for terms of two years each commencing on June 1st next following their election. Half of the elected members of the Executive Committee shall be elected for terms ending in even-numbered years and half for terms ending in odd-numbered years. When necessary to bring its membership into compliance with the preceding sentence, Members may be elected to one-year terms. In the event that a vacancy occurs during the term of any elected member prior to the end of such term, the Executive Committee may fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Section 2. Executive Committee meetings. The Executive Committee shall meet upon the call of the Chair or any four members, on a minimum of five days' notice, to the extent practicable. Such meetings may be held in person, via videoconferencing or telephone conference call, or any combination thereof, as may be authorized by law. Notice, reasonable under the circumstances, of all Executive Committee Meetings shall be given to all Executive Committee Members. An annual schedule of meetings, adopted by the Executive Committee, shall constitute notice of all meetings appearing on the schedule. A majority of the Section Officers may agree to cancel any scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee. Notice of all meetings may be sent via email, or otherwise in writing, to each voting member of the EC.

Section 3. Quorum of the Executive Committee. A quorum for the purposes of transacting the business of the Executive Committee shall be a majority of the whole number of voting members of the Executive Committee, excluding any vacancies.

Section 4. Attendance. Officers and members of the Executive Committee are expected to attend all meetings of the Section and the Executive Committee. Any Officer or member of the Executive Committee who is absent without excuse from two or more Section meetings or more than four Executive Committee meetings in any calendar year shall be given notice by the Chair of such excessive absences and an opportunity to explain the same. The Executive Committee shall have the power to remove an Officer or member of the Executive Committee from their position based upon excessive unexcused absences.

Section 5. Powers and Duties. No action may be taken by the Executive Committee in the absence of a quorum. All action taken by the Executive Committee shall require the affirmative vote of the majority of the voting members of the Executive Committee who are present. Motions shall be made or seconded only by voting members of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall fix dues, determine the policy and activities of the Section, and have general management of the Section. Upon the recommendation of the Chair, the Executive Committee shall appoint the Nominating Committee, and the Members of the Sections Caucus. The Executive Committee may call meetings of the Section. The Executive Committee shall have the sole authority to establish Section standing committees, special committees, task forces and working groups.

Section 6. Nonvoting Members. Every former chair of the Section, the chair of any Section Committee, Special Committee, Task Force or Working Group, the current Carol Van Scoyoc Scholarship Award winner, and the Delegate(s) to the House of Delegates and the Sections Caucus (if they are not voting members of the Executive Committee), shall be non-voting members of the Executive Committee, provided that they are a member of the Section in good standing. Attendance requirements shall not apply to nonvoting members.

Section 7. Delegate(s) to the House of Delegates. The Delegate(s) and the Alternate Delegate(s) to the House of Delegates and to the Sections Caucus must be members of the Section in good standing, and shall represent the Section at meetings of the House of Delegates of the Association and the Sections Caucus, and shall report to the Executive Committee regarding the actions of such bodies.

ARTICLE VI – NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Nominating Committee shall consist of four Members, no two or more of whom may work for the same local government subdivision, state department, agency or law firm. No member of the Nominating Committee shall be eligible to be nominated for any position.

Section 2. In choosing its nominees, the Nominating Committee shall strive to promote the Section goals of diversity and inclusion, while also considering each nominee's background, experience, and contributions to the Section, as well as the current composition of the Executive Committee.

Section 3. At the Annual Meeting of the Section, the Nominating Committee shall offer to the Section nominations for election to the positions of Chair, First Vice-Chair, Second Vice-Chair, Secretary, Delegate to the House of Delegates, Alternate Delegate to the House of Delegates, and members of the Executive Committee. Other nominations for the same positions may be made by any Member from the floor. No person may be nominated or elected to any office or as a member of the Executive Committee or Delegate to the House of Delegates or the Sections Caucus unless such person is a member of the Section in good standing at the time of such nomination and election.

ARTICLE VII – AMENDMENTS TO BYLAWS

These bylaws may be amended at any Section Meeting upon the favorable vote of a majority of Section Members present and voting at such meeting. Notice of any proposed amendment shall be given to the Members as part of the notice of the meeting. No amendment to the bylaws shall be effective until approved by the Executive Committee of the New York State Bar Association.

ARTICLE VIII – ASSOCIATION APPROVAL

Where required by the Association Bylaws or practice, any action taken by the Section must be approved by the Association or its Executive Committee, or the President of the Association, before the same is publicized, or becomes effective as, an action of the Association.