



Duties of a Delegate

Big I New York’s by-laws provide for the possibility of delegate voting at any annual or special meeting of the association.

Article VII – Meetings

Section 4. Any member of the Association present in person or by proxy, in good standing, as provided in Article III, shall be entitled to vote on all occasions at all meetings of the Association, provided however that when a roll call vote is demanded by not less than twenty-five (25) members, the certified delegate or delegates or their appointed alternates from each local board or association shall then cast as a delegation one vote for each member of their respective local board or association, and provided further that the members present or members who do not belong to a local association shall be entitled to cast one vote.

Paid members shall be determined from the records of the Association as of a date not later than ten (10) days prior to any annual or special meeting.

What is a “certified delegate”?

A certified delegate is one that has been named by the local association and submitted to Big I New York prior to the annual or special meeting. Local associations may also name an alternate who will vote in the event that the certified delegate is unable to vote at the time of the meeting.

What is a “roll call” vote?

In many cases, the business of the association is handled by proxy voting, which is done by authorizing another person, typically the President and/or the Chief Executive Officer to cast the member’s vote as directed by a returned valid proxy form. Any member in attendance at a meeting may demand a “roll call” vote with the backing of at least 24 other people in attendance. Once the presiding officer determines that there are 25 people calling for a roll call vote, each of the certified delegates (or certified alternate) in attendance will be asked to vote a “block” of votes based on the current number of members in good standing from that local association’s geographic area.

How is the number of votes assigned to each delegate?

Paid members are determined from the records of the Association as of a date not later than 10 days prior to the meeting. Ballots indicating the name of the certified delegate and alternate and the number of votes are prepared prior to each meeting in the event there is a roll call vote.

What happens to proxy votes in the event of a roll call vote?

In the event of a roll call vote, proxy votes previously submitted from members represented by a certified delegate are disregarded. The proxy votes from members who are not represented by a local association or a certified delegate are still counted as submitted.

How do members present at a meeting vote?

A member in good standing who is present at a meeting may only cast an individual vote if he or she is not represented by a certified delegate, whether because they are from an area with no local association or the certified delegate (or alternate) did not attend the meeting. If a person present at a meeting chooses to vote in person, any proxy vote previously submitted is revoked and disregarded.

Being named as a certified delegate should be taken seriously, as you are responsible for voting on behalf of all members in a particular geographic area. The by-laws do not permit substitutions for delegates or alternates at the meeting so care should be taken in naming a delegate and alternate that will be able to attend the meeting.