

SEIU Constitutional Amendments and Resolutions for 2004 International Convention

Concerning direct membership election of all International officers.

Whereas, each SEIU member has the right to directly elect their highest elected official in the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, so also should each member have the right to directly elect their International President.

Be it resolved that:

SEIU shall elect all of its International leaders, including the president, secretary treasurer, executive vice-presidents and executive board members, by a vote of the membership of the International Union.

Constitutional Amendment:

Article V of the International Constitution concerning Election of Officers shall be amended by deleting the language in brackets and adding the language in bold:

Section 1: All nominations for International officers shall be made in open Convention [and elections shall be by roll call where there is more than one candidate for any office. Officers shall be elected by plurality vote.]

“The International Executive Board shall be authorized to appoint an Election Committee and to develop and implement rules and procedures for the election of officers consistent with this section. To qualify for the ballot as a candidate for an International office, a candidate who has been nominated from the floor of the Convention must thereafter, receive at least five (5%) of the votes cast by the delegates to the Convention. Such voting shall be conducted by secret ballot. There shall be a six–week campaign period between the end of the Convention and mailing of ballots to the members. All candidates shall have the right to have printed in the International newspaper a statement of their campaign issues. The International will facilitate campaign mailings to the membership for all candidates. All candidates shall have the right to attend and participate in any election forum held in any part of the International. All officers shall be elected by a plurality of the votes cast by the members of the International by secret mail-in ballot. Newly elected officers shall be sworn in and assume office within two weeks of the final certification of the results of the election by the current International Executive Board after disposition of any protests concerning conduct of the election.”

Section 3. [Delete entire section and substitute:] “Any member wishing to protest the election of any International officers must file a written signed protest with the Election Committee established by the International Executive Board for the conduct of the election within ten (10) days of the announcement of the preliminary election result. The Election Committee shall promptly investigate the protest, and shall order the nullification of an

election of an officer and a new election for that office if it determines that violation of election rules of this Constitution occurred which may have influenced the outcome of the election.

Submitted by John J. Templeton, President, SEIU, Local 509 & Head Delegate by vote of Joint Executive Board, May 20, 2004.

Concerning “Clean Elections”, and” Minority Unions.”

Whereas, the political system in The United States has been almost totally corrupted by the infusion of private funds from corporations and the wealthy; SEIU needs to take a leading roll in establishing, on the federal and state level, public funding of all public elections.

Whereas, SEIU needs to diversify its organizing efforts. And the concept of “Minority Unions offers us unique opportunities throughout our International’s jurisdiction to appreciably increase our membership.

SEIU shall make establishing “Clean Elections” on a federal and state level a top political priority for the next four years. This means allocating substantial resources to this commitment.

SEIU shall invest substantial resources and staff in an International wide “Minority Unions” organizing campaign.

Submitted by John J. Templeton, President, SEIU, Local 509 & Head Delegate by vote of Joint Executive Board, May 20, 2004.

Concerning jurisdictional changes and trusteeships under NSUP

Whereas, SEIU jurisdictional changes have been made in the past with less than adequate consultation with affected local/s, resulting in damage to said local/s and their members interests and

Whereas, trusteeships have been imposed upon locals for reasons other than corruption or serious malfeasance, and

Whereas, appointed trustees have run for regular local office with the support of the International and against local member candidates after trusteeship has ended and

Whereas, locals should be led by officers who are members from the jurisdictions they

represent, and

Whereas, these developments accompanying trusteeships have created unnecessary conflicts and divisiveness within these locals and their state councils, and

Whereas, the above has done serious damage to our International Union by weakening our unity and our reputation for democratic unionism.

Be it resolved that:

SEIU shall make no jurisdictional changes among its local unions without extensive and thorough communication with the affected local(s).

SEIU shall adequately compensate any local for any dues revenue lost through a jurisdictional change mandated by the International. This compensation shall continue until the affected local can be reasonably expected to fully recover its lost dues through organizing new members.

SEIU shall require that elected officers of local unions be members of that union and recently employed within a bargaining unit represented by that local.

When a new local is created as a result of jurisdictional changes:

1. Any interim president appointed by the International shall serve in that capacity for no more than one year.
2. No appointed interim president of a new local, who is not a member of that union, shall be eligible to run for office after ratification of the new local's constitution and bylaws.
3. The members shall democratically elect an interim executive board within three months of the creation of local.

Article XV of the International Constitution concerning Duties of Local Unions shall be amended as follow:

Section 2: (delete language in brackets; add language in bold): "No person shall be eligible for nomination as an officer, member of the Executive Board, delegate, or any other office in a Local Union who is not [has not been a member in continuous good standing in the Local Union for at least two (2) years immediately preceding the nomination and has, during all of that time, paid the full dues required for working members of the Local Union within each month when due] a member in good standing currently or recently employed within the bargaining jurisdiction of the Local Union.

SEIU shall establish clear and consistent guidelines for placing local unions under trusteeship. Trusteeship shall be used only as a last resort in the cases of corruption or

serious malfeasance and never for political reasons.

Constitutional Amendments:

Article VIII of the International's Constitution concerning International President – Duties and Powers shall be amended as follows:

Section 7(a). (Delete language in brackets; add language in bold:) “Whenever the International President has reason to believe that, in order to protect the interests of the membership, it is necessary to appoint a Trustee for the purpose of correction corruption or financial malpractice, assuring the performance of collective bargaining agreements or other duties of bargaining representative, or restoring democratic procedures, [or otherwise carrying out the legitimate objects of this International Union] he or she may appoint such Trustee to take charge and control of the affairs of a Local Union or of an affiliated body.”

SEIU shall encourage the process where rank and file members in trusted and new Locals are encouraged to run for top local leadership positions.

SEIU shall not interfere in local elections by arranging for trustees; interim appointed officers, staff or any other person not currently or recently employed within the local's jurisdiction to run for local elected office/s.

Article XIV of the International Constitution concerning Issuance of Charters shall be amended as follows:

Amend Article 14, Section 4. At the end of Section 4 add the following:

“....However, where the members of an SEIU local union have the right to directly elect their Chief Executive Officer, President, Treasurer, and/or or their Executive Board they may not be moved to another SEIU Local or organization where they would have to surrender their right to directly elect their Chief Executive Officer, President, Treasurer and/or their Executive Board unless the affected members vote in secret ballot referendum to approve such a move. For the purpose of this section the following definitions shall apply: President or Chief Executive Officer – (the officer responsible for administration of the local union). Treasurer – (the chief financial officer of the local union, responsible for receiving all dues and other money owed the local and paying bills). Executive Board – (The body that sets policy for the local union and amends and approves the budget for local). Secret ballot referendum – “A ballot conducted by the American Arbitration Association.”

Section 5 (Add before the last sentence) “.....Any provisional officer named pursuant to this section shall serve in that capacity for no more than one year, and shall not be eligible to run for office unless that person is a member by virtue of being currently or recently employed

within the bargaining jurisdiction of the Local....”

Submitted by John J. Templeton, President, SEIU, Local 509 & Head Delegate by vote of Joint Executive Board, May 20, 2004.