



# SVIC ByLaws - Suggested Changes

Sohail Parekh *(with input from Community members, BoTs and BoDs)*  
01/22/26

# General Membership

Provisions/Requirements	Present ByLaws	Suggested Changes	Comments
Types of Membership	General Member, Lifetime Member, Honorary Member, etc	General Membership only	Offer Certification-of-Appreciation as applicable <i>Exception Process: Grandfather prior awards and the benefits as applicable</i>
Membership Dues	Unspecified	\$50/Month or \$500/Year per family (non-Zakat) donations OR equivalent SVIC Volunteer-hours	<i>Exception Process: Waiver applied to certain households, Grandfather prior membership-awards (e.g. Lifetime/Honorary Membership, etc)</i>
Residency Requirements	Within 100 miles	Morgan Hill, San Martin, Gilroy, Hollister, Watsonville	<i>Exception Process: Grandfather prior Remote-Members</i>
Waiting Period for Voting	1-year of membership	1-Year of membership with membership dues paid	All new memberships should be reviewed by BoD

# Board of Directors (BoD)



Provisions/Requirements	Present ByLaws	Suggested Changes	Comments
Prior General-Membership Duration	1 Year	2 Year	Ensures better understanding of community needs and dynamics
Religious Requirement	Implicit: Via General-Membership	Explicit: Must believe in One God & Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) as last prophet	Prevent surprises and ensure alignment
Residency Requirement	No strict residency requirement	Morgan Hill, San Martin, Gilroy, Hollister, Watsonville (same as General Member)	<i>Exception Process: Grandfather prior Remote-Members</i>
Waiting period for re-election after serving two-consecutive terms	1 Year	2 Year	Ensure added diversity
Citizenship/Residency Requirement	No citizenship or visa requirements specified	US Citizen or Permanent-Resident (Green Card)	Ensures long-term Alignment and Commitment
Age Requirement	Must be at least 18 years old	Must be at least 21+ years old, Plus 1 Youth Member 16+ years	Need maturity but enable Youth participation
Volunteer Experience	None	6+ Months of active volunteer service in an SVIC committee	Ensure experience, alignment and commitment
Nomination Process	Not-Explicit	3 General-Member nominations	Process improvement
Non-Voting Board Members	The Board may appoint 1 non-voting board member for a 2-year term	Deprecate	Strengthens organizational integrity

# Board of Trustees (BoT)



Provisions/Requirements	Present ByLaws	Suggested Changes	Comments
Term Length	10 years	5 Years Plus waiting-period (5-Years) before re-election	5 Years is significant time to serve Give others opportunity to serve
Membership Requirement	Must meet ONE of the following at SVIC: Previously served on the BoD or Served in an SVIC subcommittee for at least 1 year with documented contributions	Must have served 2-terms as BoD, Lead subcommittees, 3+ Nominations by BoDs, General-Member for 5+ Years	Added maturity, participation and understanding of community needs
Major Financial Decision-Making Process	Simple-Majority vote by BoTs	Regular Decisions: $\frac{2}{3}$ -Majority vote by BoTs and Simple-Majority vote by BoDs. Property Buy/Sell Decision: $\frac{2}{3}$ -Majority vote by BoTs and Simple-Majority vote by BoDs and Community Members	Ensure alignment with elected leadership (BoDs) and Community