

# CTCPA Bylaws Vote Opens May 7: Share your voice and be part of the process!



Last year a Bylaws Committee was assembled and began meeting to consider and officially propose several changes to the CTCPA bylaws. Many of the modifications were first suggested by the CTCPA Strategic Planning Committee as it conducted a thorough review of the current bylaws to find provisions where the organization should consider changes.

## Who can vote?

Only Certified and International Members in good standing may vote on the proposed amendments.

## What is needed for a proposal to pass?

We need at least 10 percent of eligible voting members to participate in order for a vote to be considered valid. For an amendment to pass, the vote must carry a two-thirds favorable majority.

## How do I cast my vote?

We will send each voting member an electronic ballot via email as soon as voting opens. You can also cast your vote online by visiting [www.ctcpas.org/bylaws](http://www.ctcpas.org/bylaws) between Friday, May 7 and Wednesday, June 30, 2021.

[www.ctcpas.org/bylaws](http://www.ctcpas.org/bylaws)

## Bylaws Committee Members

### Paul Iannone

Paul N. Iannone, Attorney at Law LLC

### Camille Murphy

Murphy & Company, LLC

### Stacey Curran

Whittlesey

### Marissa LaBelle

RSM US LLP

### Mary Anne Milner

General Dynamics Electric Boat

## Proposed Amendments

### Proposal

#### Change from Audit to No Less Than Review

This proposal suggests that the CTCPA's annual financial statements be subject to an attestation engagement by an independent firm at a level no less than a review. It is unclear when the CTCPA bylaw requiring an audit was last reconsidered. We know the CTCPA was organized in 1909, and a review-level engagement was not an option until 1978. The CTCPA has no regulatory requirement for an audit of its financial statements.

### Proposal

#### Administrative Changes, Clarifications

The bulk of the proposed changes are simple rewrites to provide clarification, fix conflicts, correct grammatical errors, or make other small updates.

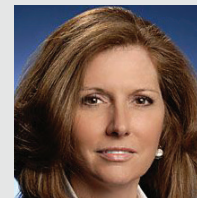
### Proposal

#### Increasing Board of Directors Numbers, Terms

To increase continuity and collaboration within the organization, the Strategic Planning Committee (SPC) suggested changing the Board of Directors' terms from one year to two years, as well as increasing the number of board members from seven to nine so that there are enough individuals to serve on various specialized committees and work collaboratively with the CTCPA Advisory Council.

*(continued on next page)*

## Members Weigh in on the Proposals



**Marie Benedetto**

CTCPA President  
*Innovative*

*Business Solutions*

“Remaining relevant is the driving force behind all the programs, advocacy initiatives, and opportunities that the CTCPA delivers for you.

To remain relevant, adaptation is required. The bylaws have undergone various modifications over the years and were last revised in December of 2012.

Not only have times truly changed, but the pace of change has been exponential. I implore you to make yourself familiar with the proposed bylaws changes that will transform the CTCPA to better serve our members, the profession, and communities we serve. These changes will ensure we solidify our past, incorporate our present, and revolutionize our future.”

## Proposal

# Membership Category Modifications

### Professional Colleagues

As CPAs' roles continue to change, members work with non-CPA professional colleagues more and more with each passing day. Firms are rapidly growing their advisory services and employing a broader range of professionals. CPAs working in finance and business frequently serve in executive management roles, working alongside colleagues with varied specializations to make strategic decisions for their organizations. As a result, forming meaningful relationships with a broader range of professionals is more important than ever.

While we currently offer an Associate membership category, it only allows for a very narrow group of non-CPAs who work directly under the supervision of a CPA to join the CTCPA. Several of the SPC's eight subcommittees found the current membership structure too restrictive to specific groups of professionals who would be valuable resources to other members.

The Professional Colleagues membership category could include attorneys, paraprofessionals, technology experts, governmental officials, and others who CPAs regularly collaborate and work with, creating a more robust membership with a deep bench of knowledge and experience.

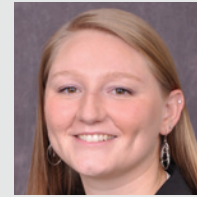
**Like Associates, Professional Colleagues would not have voting rights.**

### Student Members

While in the current bylaws those who apply to be Students are not considered members of the CTCPA, in practice and in the documents the society has been distributing for years, those individuals are considered members. This proposal reflects our current practice and makes those who qualify and join as Student Members official members of the CTCPA. **Student Members would not have voting rights.**

This modification also reduces from five to one the number of years after graduation that an individual may maintain their Student Member status, but continues to permit the Board of Directors chair to extend that status one additional year if the chair chooses.

The final proposed modifications to Student Members concerns changes to modernize and streamline the application process. First, students would be permitted to submit electronic applications, and second, the requirement that the Board of Directors vote on Student Member applications would be removed.



**Amber Moore**  
CTCPA Advisory  
Council Chair  
*Goldblatt Bokoff, LLC*

“No organization can afford to stick to the status quo – it is imperative that we adapt, push, and innovate to survive and thrive. That is precisely what the CTCPA is doing through this bylaws revision.”

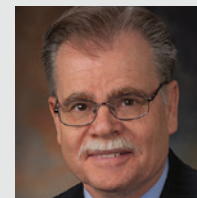
As a member working at a small firm, expanding CTCPA membership to include professional colleagues such as attorneys and technology experts will allow my firm and associates to make connections we need to help our business and our clients grow and thrive.”



**Brian Kelleher**  
Strategic Planning  
Committee Chair  
and CTCPA  
Past President  
*Fiondella, Milone  
& LaSaracina LLP*

“The Strategic Planning Committee identified and recommended to the Bylaws Committee several modifications to our leadership and membership structures to bring members and their organizations more value and relevance.”

As accounting and finance teams continue to expand into strategic and advisory services, the proposed expanded membership categories will allow our team members outside of traditional tax and audit roles to take advantage of vital CTCPA resources and engagement opportunities.”



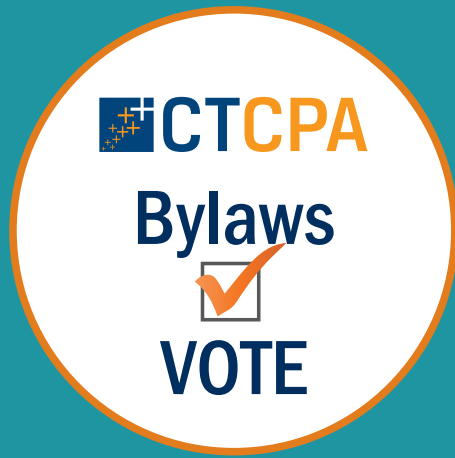
**Paul Iannone**  
Bylaws Committee  
Chair and  
Strategic Planning  
Committee Member  
*Attorney at Law*

“A primary goal of the Bylaws Committee was to reflect in the proposed bylaws the vision and future direction of the CTCPA in alignment with the outcomes of the Strategic Planning Committee. The Bylaws Committee also strived to modernize the bylaws to be aligned with current trends of professional membership organizations. I am confident that the proposed changes accomplish these goals, i.e., to strengthen the viability of the CTCPA so that it can continue to deliver high quality services to members for many years into the future.”



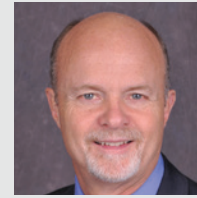
**We need at least 10 percent of eligible voting members to participate in order for a vote to be considered valid.**

**For an amendment to pass, the vote must carry a two-thirds favorable majority.**



**Cast your ballot at**  
[www.ctcpas.org/bylaws](http://www.ctcpas.org/bylaws).

A red-lined version of the bylaws and a list of pros and cons will be made available on the CTCPA website and emailed to all voting members in advance of the vote.



**Brian Reilly**  
CTCPA  
President-elect  
*Travelers*

“As a leader in a multinational company and a former Big 4 partner, I understand the challenges finance and accounting professionals face as we adapt in a rapidly changing business landscape.

These bylaws proposals will bring our organization modernized student membership to ensure we are filling the pipeline and supporting the future of the profession, a new membership category to allow more robust interactions with professional colleagues, and an expanded leadership structure to ensure we have the talent we need to collaborate and move our organization forward.

If you are a Certified or International voting member, I encourage you to review the proposals, ask questions if you have them, and take a moment to cast your affirmative vote.”

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