

How to submit legislation for the Diocese of Atlanta 2008 Annual Council

Resolutions and amendments to the Constitution and Canons may be presented by Convocations or Diocesan Departments and Commissions or any Lay Delegate or Clergy Member.

Resolutions may be submitted any time before Council recesses on the first legislative day. Thereafter, a resolution must receive a two-thirds affirmative vote of approval of its introduction to Council. To be published on the diocesan website before Council, **a Resolution on any matter must be e-mailed (MS Word attachment preferred) to news@episcopalatlanta.org by October 1st, 2008.**

Amendments to the diocesan constitution or canons must be submitted to the Council Standing Committee on Constitution and Canons by October 14th, 2008. Send them to the Council Secretary, The Rev Herschel R. Atkinson, 509 Rhodes Drive, Elberton, GA, 30635-2006 or by e-mail MS Word attachment to olsmaj@comcast.net. E-mail them also to news@episcopalatlanta.org as stated above.

A Resolution that is not a constitution or canon change and has not been received by October 1st, 2008, will not be published on the diocesan website or included in the packets given to persons at the Council at registration. It must be introduced before recess of the first legislative day of Council. Prepare 550 copies of the resolution and bring them to Mrs. Janet Patterson, Chair of Annual Council Committee, to the Council on October 14th, 2008 to be distributed then.

Format

Please be guided by the formats below. Please do not use "whereas" clauses; they are not part of the resolution, and they cannot be debated, amended, or acted on by the Council. Instead, include an "Explanation" that focuses attention of the Council on the substance of the resolution.

A Model Resolution

Resolved, that resolutions submitted to any Council shall not include a preamble ("whereas" clauses); and be it further

Resolved, that any resolution or proposed Constitution or Canon change shall be followed by an explanation of the matter to be acted on by the Council.

EXPLANATION

Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, a standard authority, recommends that reasons for a motion not be in the motion or in a preamble. Instead, reasons and justifications are included in a straightforward manner in the explanation. Thus it is clear that only the substance of the resolution is being acted on. In addition, a statement of the effect of the resolution can be included.

A Model Canonical Change of Some Complexity

Resolved, that Section 1 of Canon 23 Of Church Debt be amended to read as follows:

Section 1. No ~~long term~~ indebtedness shall be incurred by an Aided Parish ~~or congregation~~ without the ~~the~~ prior approval of ~~(a) both the Bishop and the Board of Officers, or (b) the Bishop and Department of Finance~~ Committee.

EXPLANATION

Words to be deleted are lined through. Words to be added are underlined (or in italics if desired). The explanation should show the intent of and the effect of the proposed amendment. This format is followed also for proposed amendments to the Constitution or the Council Rules of Order.