

PROPOSAL 2

Membership Dues and Procedures for Registration

Submitted by

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana and 41 additional councils.

Proposal

The Credentials Section of the *Blue Book of Basic Documents*, Membership Dues and Procedures for Registration be revised as follows:

Current Wording	Proposed Amendment	If Adopted, Will Read
The National Board of Directors must obtain approval from the National Council whenever a planned dues increase will result in dues increasing more than a total of 25% in any one triennium.	The National Board of Directors must obtain approval from the National Council whenever a planned dues increase will result in dues increasing more than a total of 15% 25% in any one triennium.	The National Board of Directors must obtain approval from the National Council whenever a planned dues increase will result in dues increasing more than a total of 15% in any one triennium.

RATIONALE FOR PROPOSAL 2

What is the issue the discussion topic or proposal is trying to address?

25% of the upcoming \$65 dues is a much larger dollar amount than was 25% of the \$25 dues amount when this was first proposed in 2020.

Are there other ways to address this issue?

The issue of limiting the dues increases within each triennium gives the National Board the opportunity to react to financial conditions without consulting the National Council, however when this proposal was created, we could not have predicted the level of dues increase needed to make our national organization whole. The thoughtful and robust discussions and debate which resulted from the Special Session allowed the National Council and the National Board to reach an agreed-upon dues increase, and those discussions should happen regularly. Discussions such as this are essential to maintain the partnership between the National Board and the National Council, and therefore should happen on a regular basis, potentially at every National Council Session, if needed. Amending the 25% level to 15% we feel allows enough leeway for the National Board to keep up with inflation, while reinforcing the importance of the National Council in making the tougher decision should another large increase in National Dues be necessary

How does this proposal improve Movement governance or policy? OR how does this discussion topic inform Movement strategy?

Membership Dues increases should be reasonable and gradual to keep pace with inflation. Large dues increases would be best appropriately debated by the membership.



Does this agenda item have Movement-wide significance? Does it apply to all councils?

Yes. And Yes.

Is this agenda item time-sensitive? What happens if it is not addressed at NCS 58?

Yes, this saves the additional cost of holding another Special Session, while moderating the level of dues increase the National Board can impose between sessions of the National Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

This proposal revises the guardrails on the National Board to increase dues without consulting the National Council but would also allow for robust discussion on finances and membership dues at each triennial National Council session as needed.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE NCSAT

The NCSAT, while not indicating agreement with the proposal's intention, recommended that the National Board consider taking action in advance of NCS. The NCSAT did, however, recognize that the board may not be able to take such action given its fiduciary duties.

RECOMMENDATION OF THE NATIONAL BOARD

The board does not recommend adoption of this proposal. The National Council already debated and took action on this matter at the 2020 National Council Session, where the 25% dues increase threshold was set. At that same NCS, in partnership with the NCS Advisory Team and its Dues Sub-Group, the National Council passed related proposals for a dues-setting process that would best meet the needs of our Movement and the girls we serve. These proposals clarified the shared responsibility for setting membership dues by the National Board and National Council, and established requirements for the National Board to seek delegate and council input prior to any membership dues increase. These measures codified the National Board's commitment to seeking input from councils and delegates on the scope and purpose of any potential membership dues changes, and to report back to delegates and councils on their decisions and their impact.

The board demonstrated its commitment to the spirit and letter of these requirements when, in 2024, it undertook extensive engagement with delegates and councils on our Movement strategy and how it should be funded. The board has continued these discussions through the Secure Tomorrow discussion topic held in December 2025 and subsequent report backs to delegates.

As financial stewards and fiduciaries of the organization, with responsibility to act on the Movement's behalf, the National Board must retain the authority to make economic decisions on behalf of the organization—informed by delegate input—to address the circumstances at the time. Dues increases are only contemplated after careful consideration of the need and impact. The National Board believes that the existing threshold set by the National Council in 2020 remains appropriate and that reducing that limit would unnecessarily hinder the organization's ability to meet future challenges.