

Summary of Proposed Constitutional & Procedural Changes

(NYS Grand Lodge – December 3, 2025 Letter)

(1) AMEND SECTION 600.8: TO INCREASE THE ANNUAL GRAND LODGE PER CAPITA DUES

Before:

The Grand Lodge per capita dues paid by each Lodge per member remain at their current level, with no scheduled increases.

After (Proposed Change):

Per capita dues would increase by **\$2.00 per member per year for five consecutive years**, beginning January 1, 2027, resulting in a total increase of **\$10.00 per member** over five years.

(2) REPEAL & RENUMBER 117.6 CONSTITUTIONS AS THE GRAND LODGE IS COVERED BY THE ERRORS & OMISSIONS

Before:

Section 117.6 requires the Grand Treasurer to personally account for and safeguard Grand Lodge funds and property at the end of their term. This is a surety bond that was required for the Grand Treasurer to ensure faithful performance of his duties.

After (Proposed Change):

Section 117.6 would be repealed and renumbered because the Grand Lodge is now covered by **Errors & Omissions fiduciary insurance**, which already protects Grand Lodge officers and employees.

(3) AMEND & REPEAL §163 (B) GRAND OFFICERS PAGE 46 (OPINIONS, STATUTES ETC MASONIC LAW)

Before:

The Grand Master must approve the **amount, form, and sureties** of the Grand Treasurer's bond.

After (Proposed Change):

This requirement would be repealed, as fiduciary insurance now provides coverage for Grand Lodge fiduciaries, making this provision unnecessary.

(4) AMEND & REPEAL §183 (XXXII) GRAND OFFICERS PAGE 49 (OPINIONS, STATUTES ETC MASONIC LAW)

Before:

The Grand Master may extend the time for the Grand Treasurer or Grand Secretary to file an official bond.

After (Proposed Change):

This section would be repealed because fiduciary insurance coverage replaces the need for these bonding provisions.

(5) AMEND & REPEAL §252 b. BOND GRAND OFFICERS PAGE 61 (OPINIONS, STATUTES ETC MASONIC LAW)

Before:

The Grand Treasurer is required to execute and file an official bond approved by the Grand Master at the start of each term.

After (Proposed Change):

This bonding requirement would be repealed due to existing fiduciary insurance coverage.

(6) AMEND & REPEAL §253 (II) GRAND OFFICERS PAGE 62 (OPINIONS, STATUTES ETC MASONIC LAW)

Before:

The form and conditions of the Grand Treasurer's bond are detailed in this section.

After (Proposed Change):

This section would be repealed and replaced with reliance on fiduciary insurance instead of individual bonding.

(7) AMEND & REPEAL §254 (III) GRAND OFFICERS PAGE 62 (OPINIONS, STATUTES ETC MASONIC LAW)

Before:

If the Grand Treasurer fails to provide a required bond within 30 days, it is considered a declination of office unless extended by the Grand Master.

After (Proposed Change):

This section would be repealed, as bonding is no longer required due to insurance coverage.

(8) AMEND SEC. 118 #14 PG. 9 CONSTITUTIONS PERTAINING TO OFFICIAL BOND

Before:

Grand Lodge officers must execute and file an official bond approved by the Grand Master, with failure to do so within 30 days considered a declination of office.

After (Proposed Change):

The bonding requirement would be removed and replaced by fiduciary insurance coverage.

(9) AMEND SEC. 361, 362 & 364 CONSTITUTIONS ON DISPENSATIONS

Before:

- Lodges may confer degrees on up to five candidates at a time. Grand Master only may grant dispensation.
- Cross-Lodge degree work was less spelled out on process.

After (Proposed Change):

- District Deputy may grant dispensation for more than five candidates in his own District.
 - Reorders the sections.
 - Codifies the process of dispensations within District conferrals of degrees and adds process for outside of District.
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(10) AMEND SECTIONS 638 & 803 CONSTITUTIONS (PARTICULAR LODGE – NUMBER OF CANDIDATES)

Before:

A Lodge may confer degrees on up to five candidates at one time, with dispensations possible.

After (Proposed Change):

Clarifies that dispensations may be granted by either the **Grand Master or the District Deputy Grand Master**.

(No second vote required.)

(11) AMEND SECTIONS 638 & 803 CONSTITUTIONS (PARTICULAR LODGE – PROCESSIONS & REGALIA)

Before:

Brethren may participate in civic processions, but rules around wearing Masonic clothing and regalia were more limited.

After (Proposed Change):

Allows the District Deputy Grand Master to grant written permission for Lodges to wear Masonic regalia at appropriate public occasions, while reaffirming that aprons are worn only when engaged in Masonic duties.

(12) REWRITTEN CODE OF PROCEDURE IN ITS ENTIRETY

Before:

The Code of Procedure existed in its prior form, with amendments adopted over time.

After (Proposed Change):

The **entire Code of Procedure is rewritten and restated** as a single updated document. This includes previously approved amendments and clarifications, including provisions allowing remote testimony before Masonic Trial Commissions.

(13) SPECIAL RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO RESTORATIONS

Before:

Restoration of non-affiliated Brethren followed standard existing procedures.

After (Resolution):

For **one year**, Brethren unaffiliated for less than five years may be restored upon payment of **\$100** and a favorable Lodge vote. Back dues will be waived upon receipt of payment of

\$100 to lodge. The restored member is responsible for full dues in the year of restoration.
This item **does not require a Lodge vote** and is informational only.