Petition to Amend the IEEE Constitution

This petition, submitted by Robert Lesniewski to the IEEE Executive Director, seeks to amend the IEEE Constitution by placing his petition on the 2023 IEEE Annual Election ballot.

Petition Statement by Robert Lesniewski

From 2013 to present, total membership has declined. Approximately 1 in 3.6 members now leave IEEE each year.

Inflation is making the cost of everything you need to buy much more expensive, so you may be thinking your IEEE annual dues are becoming unaffordable, however, I believe this referendum will make both IEEE member and student dues more affordable and significantly increase all membership.

By resetting the annual IEEE member/student dues (including assessments) to USD100 & USD10 respectively, I project the following impact upon membership (excluding graduate and undergraduate students):

1. More members will renew.
2. More new members will join.
3. More former members will rejoin.
4. More Young Professionals will join or renew.
5. Total member growth will be at least 10%/yr vs -3.7% over the last 3 years.
6. Society membership growth will be at least 10%/yr.
7. Members may use money saved to join new Societies.
8. Available volunteer hours will grow at least 10%/yr.
9. Increasing volunteer hours will increase IEEE business revenue.

This reset of dues may not be increased through 2027.

Marked Version of the Constitution, Indicating All Additions and Deletions

IEEE Constitution, Article IV - Dues and Fees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Current IEEE Constitution</th>
<th>Marked Version of the Constitution, Indicating all Additions and Deletions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ARTICLE IV - DUES AND FEES</td>
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<td>Sec. 1. Dues and fees shall be specified in the Bylaws.</td>
<td>Sec. 1. IEEE Dues, including Assessments, as specified in the Bylaws shall not exceed USD100.00, and USD10.00 for qualifying students through 2027. Thereafter, increases shall not be more than 5% annually.</td>
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<td>Sec. 2. Under exceptional circumstances, the payment of dues and fees may be deferred or waived in whole or in part by the Board of Directors.</td>
<td>Sec. 22. Other dues and fees shall be specified in the Bylaws.</td>
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<td>Sec. 23. Under exceptional circumstances, the payment of dues and fees may be deferred or waived in whole or in part by the Board of Directors.</td>
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Summary Impact Statements of the Proposed Constitutional Amendment

IEEE Policies, Section 13.7.3.B. requires the IEEE Finance Committee and the IEEE Audit Committee to analyze the proposed Constitutional Amendment and provide a summary statement describing any significant expected financial, policy, or operational impacts on the IEEE that may result from the proposed Constitutional Amendment. The Petitioner may submit a separate summary impact statement.

The summary impact statements from the joint IEEE Finance and Audit Committees and the Petitioner follow.

Joint Summary Impact Statement by the IEEE Finance and Audit Committees

We believe that this proposed amendment would have a significant negative impact on you, as IEEE members, and on the ability of IEEE to provide programs and services that meet your needs and expectations.

The petition projects increases in membership that are unsubstantiated. Historical data and controlled studies do not support the projections made. Member engagement and benefits are more effective than dues to drive membership growth, retention, and member satisfaction.
If this amendment passes, member benefits will be significantly reduced. The reduction in dues income cannot be directly offset by other sources given IEEE’s public charity status.

Hard coding dues in the Constitution for several years, as proposed, removes IEEE’s ability to respond to situations that affect you, such as pandemics, changes in economic conditions, unemployment, etc. IEEE already has specific dues programs in place for special members such as Students, Young Professionals, Life Members, or colleagues in emerging and developing economies.

Currently, dues can be adjusted yearly by IEEE’s volunteer leadership, who are elected by members. If this proposed amendment passes, then dues may only be adjusted by another Constitutional amendment approved by another vote of members.

A combined Finance and Audit Committee composed of IEEE member volunteers was convened to review the impact of this proposed amendment on the members and finances of IEEE.

We recommend that the ability to set dues continue to be handled as set forth in IEEE’s Bylaws.

**Summary Impact Statement by the Petitioner**

In 2021, IEEE conducted a student promotion that offered all students 50% off dues. From 6/2021 to 6/2022 undergraduate student membership grew by 26.6% and the total professional membership, which excludes all student members, declined by 0.7%. Student benefits and services were not reduced. Why would USD100 professional member dues not have a similar impact on growth?

There are 4 IEEE professional member groupings, which excludes all student members. In 2022, Life members pay USD0, Electronic members pay USD33 to USD98, and Special Circumstance members pay 50% of full dues. The fourth group pays full dues of USD155 to USD208.

In 2020, the first 3 groups represented 33% of all professional members and these groups received full benefits and services. In 2020, Regions 1 to 8 members (excluding Jamaica) who paid USD166 to USD208 dues had a 14% membership decline since 2016, and Regions 9 & 10 members (excluding Japan) who paid USD157 to USD158 dues had a 1% membership decline since 2016.

IEEE has approximately 100,000 member volunteers & 1,100 staff, who have enabled the success of IEEE’s mission to advance technology for the benefit of humanity. IEEE has over USD850 million in net financial assets, which can be used to strengthen its mission success. Using IEEE’s assets to promote membership growth will increase IEEE volunteers, and, thus ensure IEEE’s continued mission success.

My simulations predict USD100 dues implementation should reduce member revenue for 2.5 years. After that member revenue should exceed current revenue levels. In year 4 all lost revenue should be recovered.

**Sign Petition**

The petition must meet the petition signature requirements described in IEEE governing documents to add this proposed amendment to the 2023 IEEE Annual Election Ballot. Members may sign the petition online at www.ieee.org/petition or by returning the completed original petition form to Carrie Loh, IEEE Corporate Activities, 445 Hoes Lane, Piscataway, NJ 08854, USA. **DO NOT fax, email, or forward copies of this petition as these are NOT valid methods for petition purposes.**

Petition signatures will only be accepted if received by IEEE Corporate Activities no later than 12:00 PM Eastern Time USA (17:00 UTC) on Friday, 14 April 2023.

**The individual signing this petition must hold an eligible voting member grade and is in good standing at the time IEEE Corporate Activities receives the individual’s signature.**

I certify that, to the best of my knowledge, I am eligible to vote for the proposed Constitutional Amendment in the 2023 IEEE Annual Election.

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<th>Print Name (legibly)</th>
<th>Signature</th>
<th>IEEE Member # or Address</th>
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The petitioner, Robert Lesniewski, can be contacted at r.lesniewski@ieee.org.