

Voting Procedures

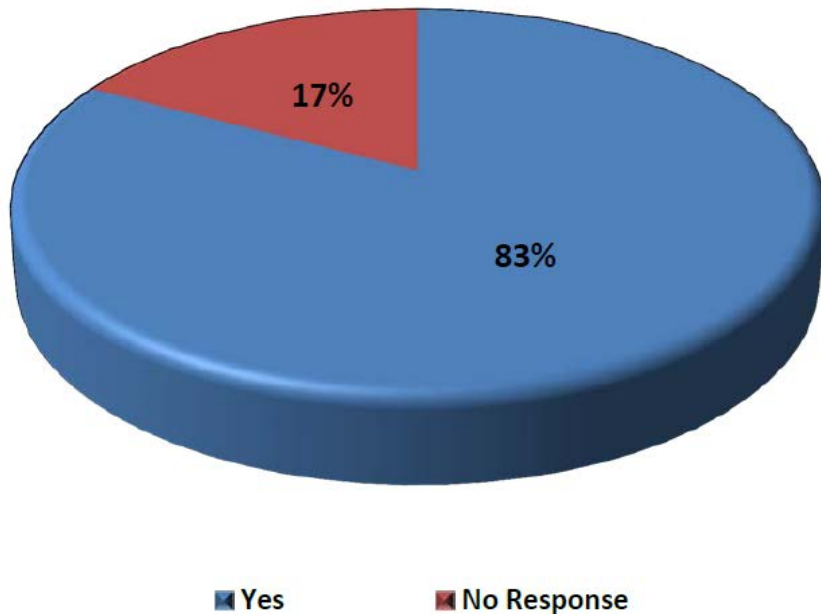
Georgia Service Manual

and

A.A. Service Manual

Each of the 93 Areas was asked to respond to whether their Area *“uses the 3rd legacy voting procedure as it is outlined in the Service Manual.”*

Does Your Area Use 3rd Legacy Voting?



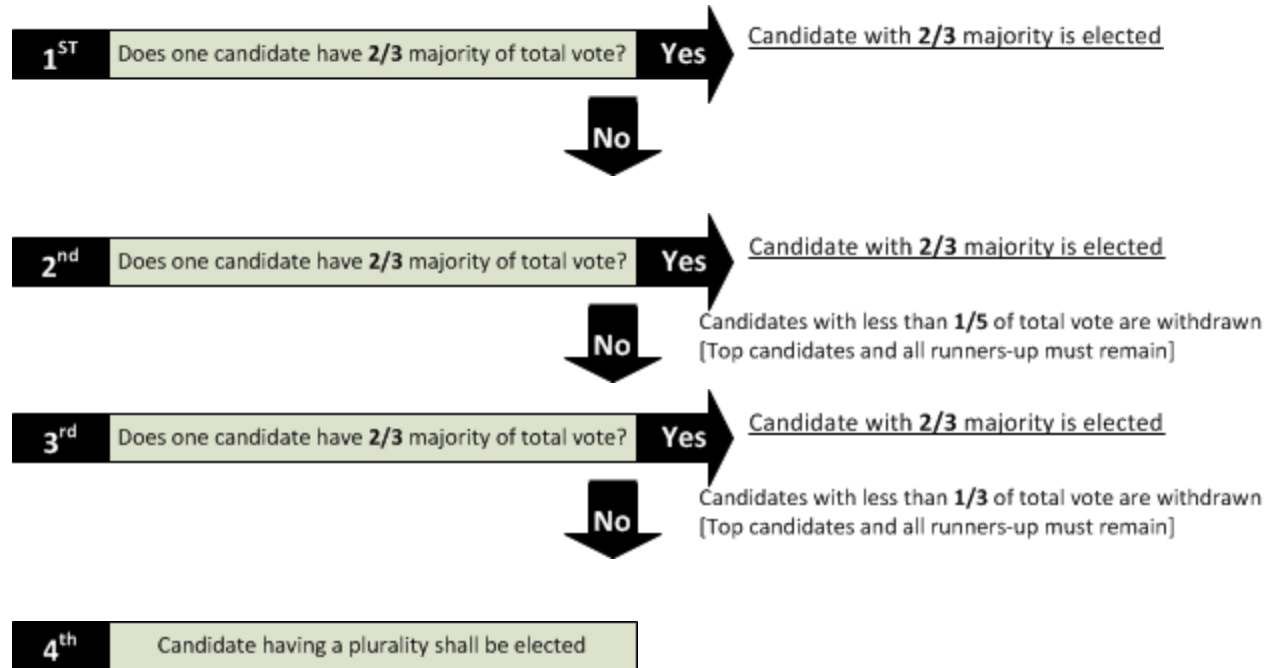
Results

- 77 of 93 Areas responded – 83% of all Areas
- 77 of 77 responding Areas indicated that their Area uses 3rd Legacy voting procedures as outlined in the Service Manual – 100% of all Responding Areas
- 2 Areas indicated they had not followed 3rd Legacy voting procedures at one time, but now do
 - These Areas had used alternative means of election but did not modify the 3rd Legacy procedure

Area	Additional Response
12	<p>Through the 1980's, Area 12 did not use the 3rd Legacy voting method and it was a Political nightmare. Even had a "North vs. South" tinge to it. We shifted to the 3rd legacy for all officer and alternates about 20 years ago. Surprise, the political crap went away.</p>
31	<p>Western Massachusetts, Area 31, uses the Third Legacy as outlined in the service manual. It's my understanding the first elections in AA took place in Boston, Area 30, with Bill W. present at that assembly. He facilitated the elections by asking all to stand for the position and as he read the qualifications the people either sat or kept standing until the qualifications were read in there entirety. (Hence, will you "stand for the position" was born.) From there the Third Legacy voting procedure, as outlined in the service manual, is utilized.</p>
62	<p>South Carolina was in recent service memory an area that did not follow the full 3rd Legacy election procedure as outlined in the AA Service Manual. I found this interesting 17 years ago when I first moved here from Area 72.</p> <p>As explained by the old-timers I consulted, a committee nominated a slate of candidates for area officer positions from one of three parts of the state in rotation so that neither the upstate, central, nor coastal regions held power over the others for too long; and also to facilitate communication between the officers. The only exception was that the candidates for delegate could be from any part of the state, but those names came from the nominating committee, too. Actual voting was by ballot as in the 3rd Legacy procedure. The elected chair and delegate appointed service committee chairpersons regionally, too.</p> <p>It obviously conflicted with Bill's suggestion to avoid nominating candidates, and to me, looked sort of fear-based. Several who I asked confessed that historical rivalries between specific Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston personalities were behind the set-up. What we saw in fact happening was that after four years out of contention for area office or committee service, we lost track of many trusted servants and sometimes never heard from them again.</p> <p>In 2001, I was invited to participate in an overhaul of the Area 62 Structures & Procedures that resulted in the elimination of the regional nominating process and brought all members of the area into the pool for election by 3rd Legacy. I am glad to report that so far, no one part of the state has taken over... and communication is better than ever. The only remnant of the old process is a list of declarations of intent to stand for the officer positions that is included in the minutes of the Assembly before the Election Assembly.</p>

Georgia Election Procedure

Ballot



Plurality (From Wikipedia)

Georgia Election Procedure

- In this voting system the single winner is the person with the most votes (plurality); there is no requirement that the winner gain an *absolute majority* of votes, but rather only a plurality, sometimes called a **relative/simple majority**.
- Systems allowing plurality election are more vulnerable to corruption using the spoiler effect than systems which require a majority
- The **spoiler effect** is the effect of vote splitting between candidates or ballot questions with similar ideologies. One **spoiler candidate's** presence in the election draws votes from a major candidate with similar politics thereby causing a strong opponent of both or several to win.

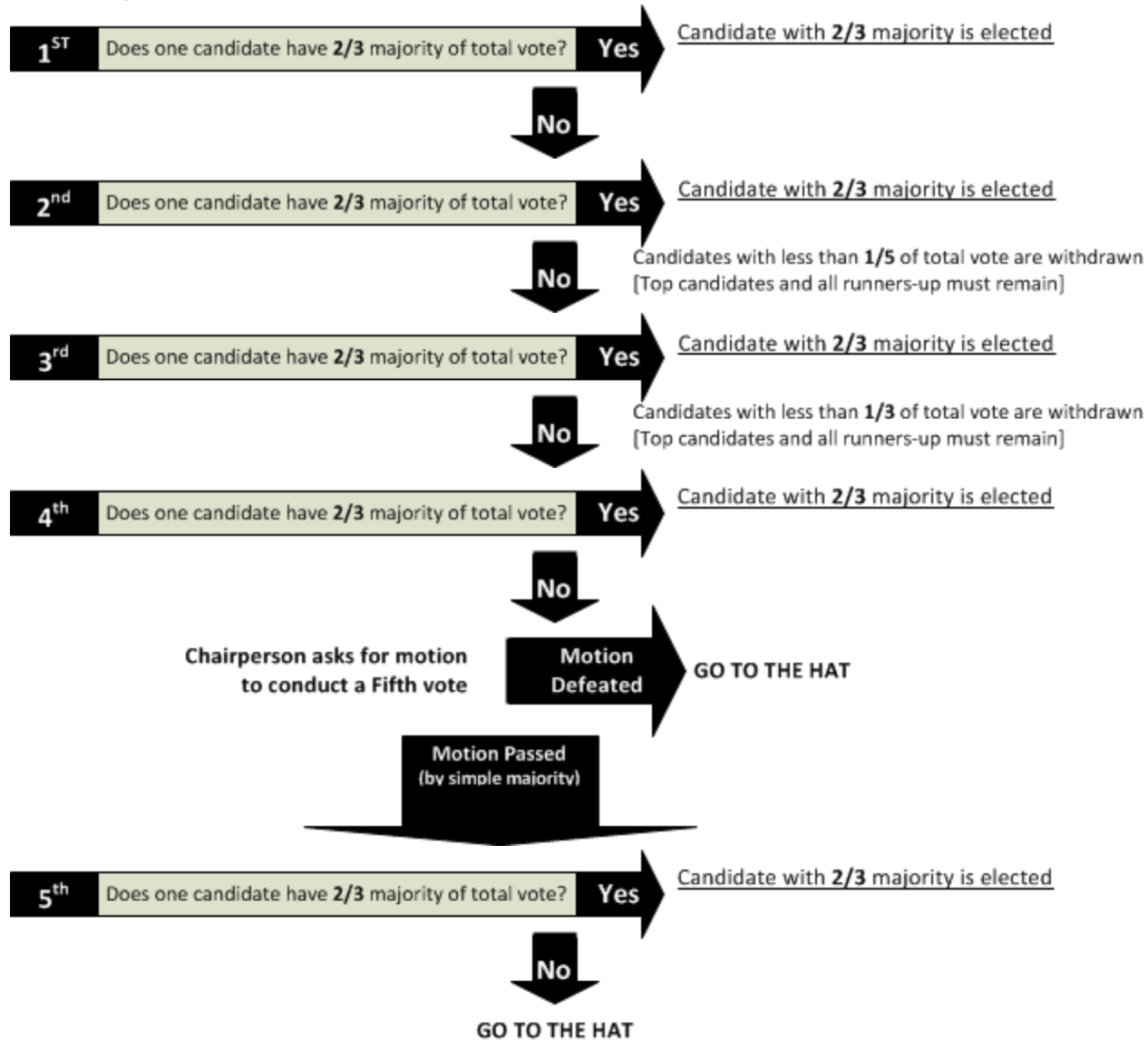
A.A. Service Manual, page S21

Third Legacy Procedure

“A.A.’s Third Legacy Procedure is a special type of electoral procedure, used primarily for the election of delegates and regional and at-large trustees. It is considered to be unique to A.A., and at first glance, appears to introduce a strong element of chance into a matter that should depend solely on the judgment of the majority. In practice, however, it has proved highly successful in eliminating the influence of factions or parties that seem to thrive on most political scenes. The railroading of a candidate for election is made difficult, if not impossible, since voters have a wide selection of candidates to choose from. More importantly, a second-place candidate who may be extremely well qualified but without early popular support is encouraged to stay in the balloting rather than withdraw.”

Third Legacy Procedure

Ballot



“Going to The Hat” Process

A.A. Service Manual - Pg. S22 “Lots are then drawn by the teller, and the first one “out of the hat” is the delegate (or trustee or other officer).

