

## **Summary of Amendments to the By-Laws of the Northwest Anthropological Association in 2023**

### Background

Prior to 2023, The Northwest Anthropological Association (NWAA) and Northwest Anthropological Conference (NWAC) operated through a bylaws framework that dated to 2004. Present-day circumstances from Covid-19 and lessons learned throughout the last two decades demonstrate the need for revisions to better enable the purpose of the organization. Bylaws discussions historically take a backseat at business meetings due to the prioritization of pressing matters and time limitations. To facilitate greater NWAC member accessibility and engagement, and completion of bylaws updates in future, an isolated change was proposed and voted on. The proposed update entailed adding the option for use of secure electronic ballots. This isolated change was presented for consideration and voted in at the NWAC NWAA business meeting April 14, 2023. A majority vote responded in favor to amend the bylaws. Provided below is the summary of the isolated change.

### Isolated Change in 2023 Bylaws

The isolated change entails the addition of the option for use of a secure electronic ballot to Article XIV. Amendments and Ratification, C:

#### *2004 Bylaws Language:*

C. Proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be submitted to the membership for approval (vote) at the annual meeting or by U.S. mail.

#### *2023 Isolated Change Result:*

C. Proposed amendments to the bylaws shall be submitted to the membership for approval (vote) at the annual meeting, by U.S. mail, or by secure electronic ballot.

### Why just this isolated change?

The isolated change will enable greater access for consideration of bylaws updates in future as well as participation in voting.