

2026 Bylaw Referendum Summary of Proposed Changes

Rationale for Bylaw Referendum

- The Strategic Board of Directors (SBOD) role and purpose have not been formally updated in more than 10 years
- SVS has grown significantly in size, complexity, and governance maturity
- Current structure no longer aligned with how SVS operates
- Current structure creates confusion with two “Boards” raising legal, regulatory, and liability concerns
- SBOD members have limited ability to contribute to SVS governance but value cross-society collaboration and focus on broader specialty issues

Proposed Governance Model

Executive Board

- Sole governing and fiduciary body of SVS
- Responsible for SVS strategy, budget, and operations
- Authority already established in SVS Bylaws and clarified through this update

Strategic Board of Directors → Vascular Leadership Council (VLC)

- Transitions from a governing “Board” to a “Council”
- Removes SVS governance and fiduciary responsibilities
- Aligns structure with focus on specialty-wide strategy and collaboration

Vascular Leadership Council

Purpose

- Identify and discuss critical trends, issues and challenges impacting the vascular surgery specialty
- Foster collaboration across vascular societies
- Support long-range strategic planning for vascular surgery specialty
- Strengthen cross-society relationships and initiatives

Structure

Chair: SVS President-Elect

Members:

- Regional and national vascular society representatives
- SVS Executive Board and other SVS leadership
- Additional partner vascular societies

Key Improvements

- Societies select their own representatives for 3-year term
- Clear focus on vascular surgery specialty-wide strategy
- Removes fiduciary and governance responsibilities and associated liability for non-Executive Board members
- Maintains importance of convening leaders across the field

What Happens Next

Voting period: May 21 – June 11, 2026

If referendum approved:

- Bylaw changes take effect immediately
- SBOD transitions to the Vascular Leadership Council
- First VLC meeting in Fall 2026