



a quick guide to AVMA
GOVERNANCE

Veterinary Leadership Conference



WELCOME TO the Veterinary Leadership Conference!

VLC is a great opportunity to network with leaders in the profession, learn how AVMA operates and see how you can contribute to the conversation.

Here, we'll explain the governance structure of AVMA and try to make navigating VLC a bit easier. Our goal for you during this conference and beyond is to introduce you to your AVMA leadership, help you develop your personal leadership skills and connect you with opportunities to join in on the fun!

AVMA GOVERNANCE

at a glance

Here's a quick look at AVMA organizations and what they do.

AVMA Board of Directors (BOD)

Who are they?

The Board of Directors is the administrative body of the Association. The 18-member board is comprised of the President, President-Elect, Immediate Past President, Vice President, Treasurer (non-voting), one representative from each of 11 geographic districts elected by the veterinarians residing in that district, the House Advisory Committee Chair (non-voting) and the Student AVMA President (non-voting).

What do they do?

The Board determines AVMA's policies within the limits of the AVMA Bylaws and promotes the Association's purposes. The Board acts for and on behalf of the House of Delegates between sessions of the House.

House of Delegates (HOD)

Who are they?

The House of Delegates is composed of AVMA members from 70 states and territories, and allied veterinary medical groups.

What do they do?

Association policies are set by the House of Delegates, made up of one delegate and one alternate delegate from each organization represented. The House of Delegates convenes each summer at the AVMA Convention and each winter at the Veterinary Leadership Conference.

House Advisory Committee (HAC)

Who are they?

The House Advisory Committee consists of seven members elected by the House of Delegates.

What do they do?

The purpose of the HAC is to advise and make recommendations to the HOD and BOD. Each HAC member chairs one of the seven Reference Committees.

Reference Committees (RC)

What do they do?

The RCs review matters before the HOD and make recommendations to the full HOD after deliberations. **There is often much debate at RC meetings. They're a great place to see how decisions get made and you can attend any RC you are interested in!**

Allied Groups

- AAAP—American Association of Avian Pathologists
- AABP—American Association of Bovine Practitioners
- AAEP—American Association of Equine Practitioners
- AAFP—American Association of Feline Practitioners
- AAFSPHV—American Association of Food Safety and Public Health Veterinarians
- AAHA—American Animal Hospital Association
- AAIV—American Association of Industry Veterinarians
- AASRP—American Association of Small Ruminant Practitioners
- AASV—American Association of Swine Veterinarians
- AAV—Association of Avian Veterinarians
- AAVA—American Academy of Veterinary Acupuncture
- AAVC—American Association of Veterinary Clinicians
- AHVMA—American Holistic Veterinary Medical Association
- ASLAP—American Society of Laboratory Animal Practitioners
- NAFV—National Association of Federal Veterinarians
- SFT—Society for Theriogenology
- SAVMA—Student American Veterinary Medical Association
- USUS—Uniformed Services of the United States

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

HOUSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

HOUSE OF DELEGATES

REFERENCE COMMITTEES

- 1. COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION**
- 2. COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC MATTERS**
- 3. COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**
- 4. COMMITTEE ON FINANCE AND ECONOMICS**
- 5. COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE
AND GOVERNMENTAL MATTERS**
- 6. COMMITTEE ON MEMBER SERVICES**
- 7. COMMITTEE ON SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES**

KEY GOVERNANCE MEETINGS at VLC

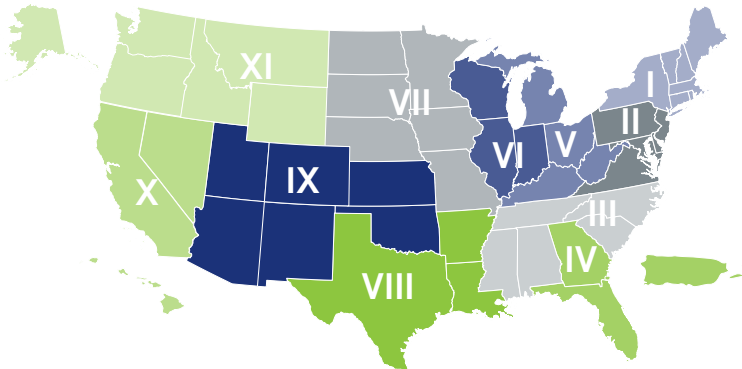
District Caucus Meetings

The AVMA Board of Directors (BOD) represents 11 geographic districts. Prior to the HOD meeting at VLC, HOD members in each district meet and discuss the matters that will be voted on.

You should attend your district meeting so that you can meet other leaders from your district. You'll want to attend—they're great for networking and give you an opportunity to share your opinions on policies that are being voted on.

Find your district:

- **DISTRICT I**—Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, Vermont
- **DISTRICT II**—Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Virginia
- **DISTRICT III**—Alabama, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee
- **DISTRICT IV**—Florida, Georgia, Puerto Rico
- **DISTRICT V**—Kentucky, Michigan, Ohio, West Virginia
- **DISTRICT VI**—Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin
- **DISTRICT VII**—Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota
- **DISTRICT VIII**—Arkansas, Louisiana, Texas
- **DISTRICT IX**—Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Utah
- **DISTRICT X**—California, Hawaii, Nevada
- **DISTRICT XI**—Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming



HOD Meetings

The HOD holds two meetings at VLC. HOD sessions are open for all AVMA members.

Plenary Session

At the Plenary Session:

- Updates of AVMA activities are shared from groups such as the American Veterinary Medical Foundation (AVMF), AVMA Political Action Committee (PAC), AVMA PLIT, AVMA LIFE and others
- The Veterinary Information Forum is an open discussion in which AVMA HOD members address high-profile issues of significant importance to AVMA member veterinarians

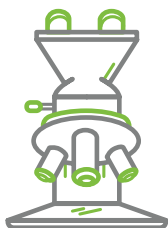
Formal Session

At the Formal Session:

- Reference Committee recommendations are made and HOD votes are cast
- Votes are cast electronically, and all votes on policies are displayed immediately
- Outcomes for elections are not displayed by delegation, so you cannot see how your representative votes in these

Want to know what items will be voted on in the formal session? Speak to your delegate or alternate delegate to see the formal agenda. It's a great opportunity to get to know your representatives!

PATHWAY FROM idea to AVMA policy



Stage 1: Identify the issue

Issues are continually identified—through clinical experience, discussion among colleagues, publication review and more. They're then directed to the appropriate volunteer group for consideration.



There are several paths an idea can take to become policy—and several ways it can begin. We encourage you to get involved and help us shape policy.



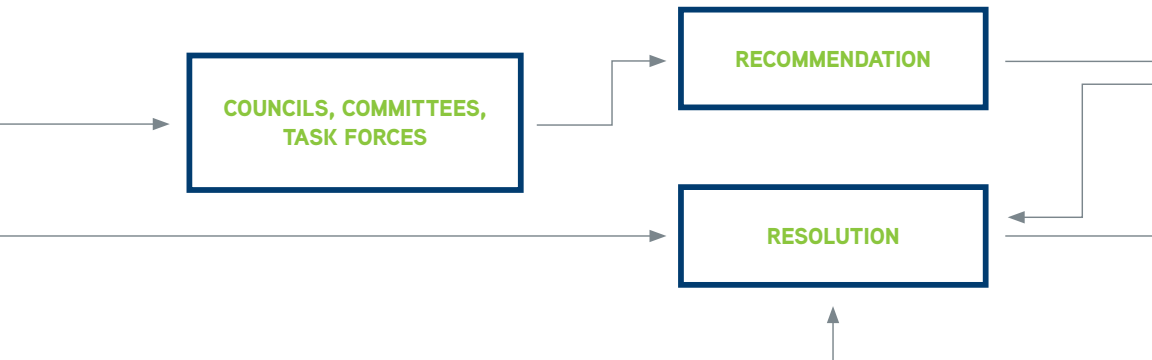
Stage 2: **Expert evaluation**

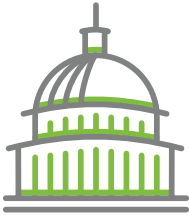
A volunteer council, committee or task force evaluates the issue and its importance to the AVMA and our profession, seeking input from relevant experts, colleagues and scientific resources. If appropriate, it recommends consideration by the BOD.



Stage 3: **Make a recommendation or resolution**

Recommendations, resolutions or a petition by at least 50 members are presented to the voting body for consideration.





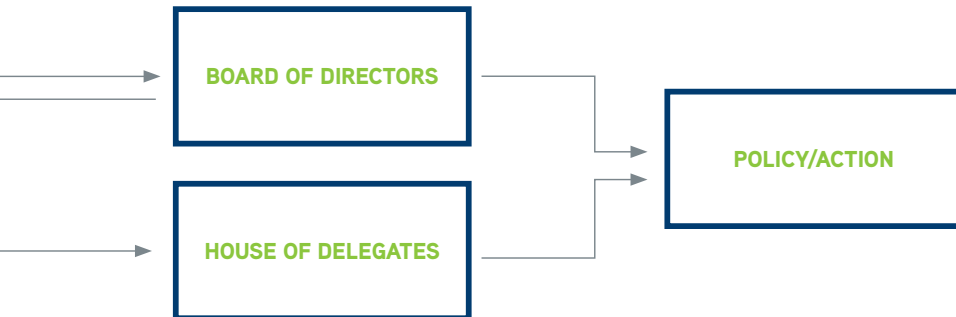
Stage 4: Policy makers discuss and decide

The BOD and HOD evaluate and vote on recommendations/resolutions. They can be approved, disapproved or referred for further refinement and input.



Stage 5: Policy is created

Once a policy is approved by the BOD or HOD, it immediately becomes official policy.



GET INVOLVED

Want to take an active role in the AVMA and all that we do? We'd love to have your help and input. These FAQs are a great place to start.

How do I volunteer?

The best way to get involved is to run for election to a council or committee of interest. You can find more information and all open positions at avma.org/volunteer

How do I sign up for alerts and news?

Visit the **email subscription center** to select what type of news and alerts you would like to receive.

How do I look up AVMA Leaders?

On the AVMA website, of course! Click on the "About AVMA" tab and then select "Governance." You can find a full leadership roster and more. Just looking for your state? Go to "Membership" and select "My AVMA Leaders."

How do I find bylaws?

The bylaws are located in the "Governance" section of the website as well.

Where can I find current AVMA Policies?

You guessed it—on the AVMA website. Click on the "Knowledge Base" tab and then select "Browse AVMA Policies."

For more information, visit:

www.avma.org

GOVERNANCE SCHEDULE AT-A-GLANCE

THURSDAY, JANUARY 4

5:00–6:30 PM	District Caucus 1–11
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FRIDAY, JANUARY 5

8:00–9:30 AM	Plenary Session
9:30–12:00 PM	HOD Winter Session
1:30–4:30 PM	Reference Committee 1–7

SATURDAY, JANUARY 6

9:45–11:50 AM	HOD Winter Session
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Schedule Subject to Change. The above are AVMA Governance Meetings only. Check avma.org/vlc for a full VLC schedule.



www.avma.org | 800.248.2862