Online Voting in 2020

NAMI has moved the voting process to an industry leading online voting system called Evote using a well-regarded site, Elections Online (www.electionsonline.com).

What does this mean for NAMI Affiliates and NAMI State Organizations?
- Affiliates and State Organizations who are not able to attend Convention will now be able to cast their ballots directly, as opposed to returning a physical Absentee Ballot
- Affiliates and State Organizations who are able to send someone to Convention, but would prefer that person take part in other activities occurring the day of voting can cast their vote in advance using this online system.
- Time and money are saved – once the person casting the vote logs into the system, it takes less than 5 minutes to complete the ballot if the choices have already been made. And, no need for a stamp!
- The Evote ballot also has links to bios of all the candidates and full descriptions of the bylaws amendment(s) should the person casting the vote need a reminder.
- NAMI staff will remain responsive to any and all questions or concerns from Affiliates and State Organizations about the new system.

How will the ease of use and privacy of voting be guaranteed?
- Votes are kept completely confidential. The system will tell NAMI **WHO** has voted, but the actual vote becomes secret once cast.
- The user credentials are linked to the Affiliate or State Organization identification code so there is security in knowing the vote being cast is for your group.
- Once a voter has cast the ballot, the unique user credentials are locked out so no one can use them to try to vote again.
- The system handles the vote weighting for us so no additional "math" is required by NAMI once the election is closed.
- The ballot is set so that it cannot be submitted if a voter accidentally votes for more or less than 5 candidates or skips the bylaws amendment(s). This will ensure that **EVERY** vote is counted and valid.

Why is this beneficial to NAMI?
- The Evote system is a step forward in NAMI's strategic leveraging of technology.
- It takes away the use of the temperamental and outdated Scantron machine NAMI used in the past to count ballots so the results of the elections are not delayed due to potential machine malfunctions or possibly even failure.
- This also means the results are tabulated immediately after the election is closed. For 2020, the election will close on Wednesday, July 15 at 6:00 p.m. Eastern SHARP.
- It is a HUGE savings in time and money for NAMI as a whole.
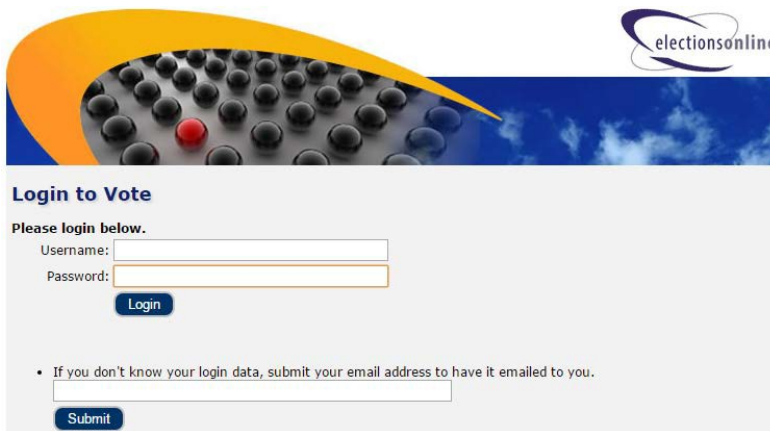
More information about Evote and Elections Online
David Simms, founder, developer of Evote and president of the company, saw a need to create an online system to handle elections. Evote has been used since 2002 to help professional associations, unions, businesses, educational institutions, community groups and many more organizations elect their leadership and pass resolutions and amendments. He and his designers always kept simplicity of use as key to the system.

Questions? → *Voting@nami.org*

→→*TURN PAGE OVER FOR INSTRUCTIONS TO CAST A BALLOT ONLINE* →→

How to Use the Elections Online System to Cast Your Vote

1. At the login screen, enter your unique **Username and Password EXACTLY** as provided to you by NAMI after credentialing.
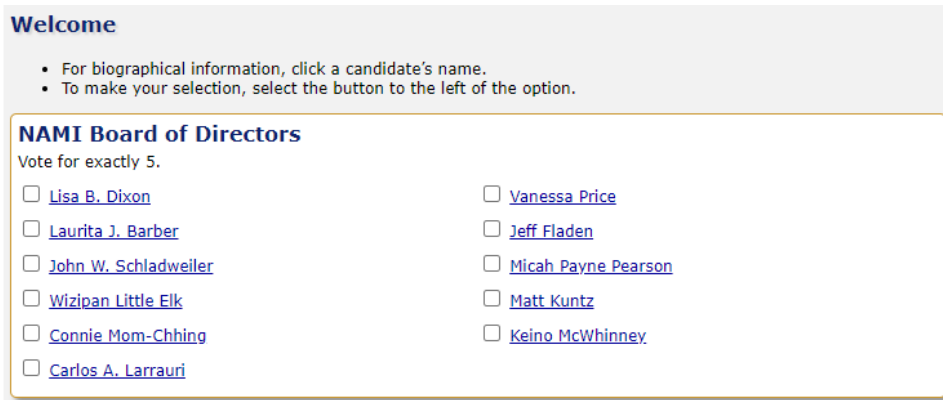

2. **Vote for EXACTLY 5 Candidates.** The system will not allow you to submit the ballot if you vote for more or less than 5 candidates.

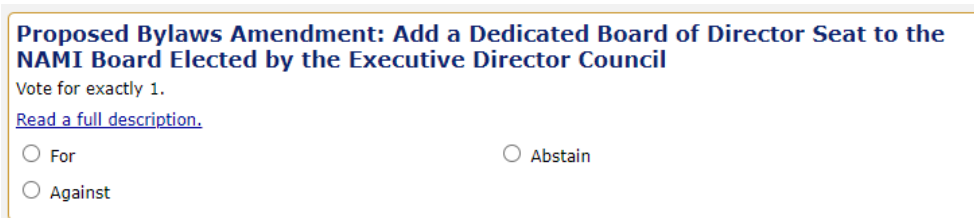3. **Vote for the Bylaws Amendment.** The system will not allow you to submit the ballot if the proposed amendment does not receive a vote.
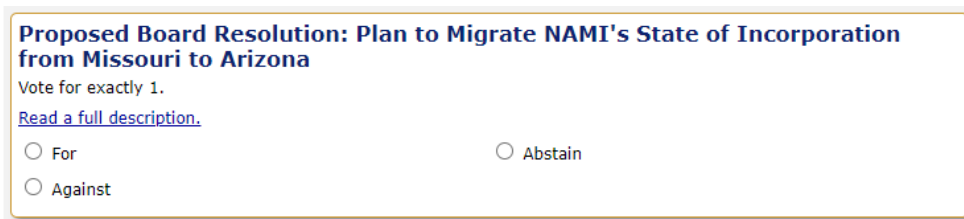

4. **Vote for the Board Resolution.** The system will not allow you to submit the ballot if the proposed resolution does not receive a vote.

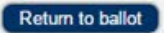5. Click **Proceed** (Proceed) at the bottom of the page.

6. Confirm that ballot is correct.

- If your votes are NOT correct or you change your mind, click **Return to ballot** (Return to ballot) and update your ballot.

- If your votes are recorded correctly, click **Submit ballot** (Submit ballot).

IMPORTANT NOTE: ONCE THE BALLOT IS SUBMITTED, THE VOTE IS FINAL!
YOU WILL NOT BE ABLE TO CHANGE THE VOTE AFTER IT HAS BEEN SUBMITTED.