

PROPOSED STATUTE AMENDMENT
21st ALL-AMERICAN COUNCIL
Phoenix, AZ – July 14-18, 2025

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Rationale

This amendment to Article V, Section 3.b provides essential clarity and standardization to the terms of office for Diocesan Representatives serving on the Metropolitan Council. While the current statute establishes a three-year term length, it does not specify when these terms begin and end, which has led to inconsistent practices across dioceses and potential confusion about exact dates of service. By establishing January 1 as the universal start date and December 31 as the end date, the amendment creates a clear framework that aligns with the calendar year and enables smoother transitions between representatives. This standardization is particularly important for ensuring consistent diocesan representation at Metropolitan Council meetings that often occur around the time of diocesan assemblies, when new representatives are typically elected. The clear delineation of term dates eliminates any ambiguity about which representative—outgoing or incoming—should attend these meetings.

The proposed standardization of term dates also offers practical administrative benefits for both diocesan and central church operations. It allows for better planning of council activities and facilitates more orderly elections and transitions of leadership in Metropolitan Council's committees.

Current Statute: Article V, Section 3.b—Metropolitan Council

Terms of office

- b) Diocesan Representatives to the Metropolitan Council are elected for a term of three (3) years.

Proposed Amendment

Terms of office

- b) Diocesan Representatives to the Metropolitan Council are elected for a term of three (3) years. This term begins on January 1 of the year immediately following their election and concludes three years later, on December 31.