Minority Statement

Section 5A2

This statement is in opposition to the proposed threshold standard that would count no votes, abstentions and non-participation all as no votes. This standard actually eliminates the positive statement that is abstention: that is, that after considering the matter at hand the adherent does not wish to support the proposal yet does not wish to obstruct those who do. This positive voting option should be available to all groups participating in the community mechanism. It certainly should not be equated with opposition to a proposal, as it is no such thing. The abstention option might prove of particular value on issues that, although important, only impact a small portion of the community. The following standard is proposed:

Thresholds should be based upon the number of yes votes compared with the combined number of no votes and potential votes of non-participants. Abstentions should be treated as neither yes nor no votes, and should not be considered when determining whether a threshold has been met.

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