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BY-LAWS

Great Open Spaces City/County Management Association

ARTICLE I
NAME

Section 1. The name of the organization shall be the Great Open Spaces City/County Management Association (GOSCMA).

ARTICLE II
PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of this Association shall be to promote proficiency of city administrators/managers, county administrators/managers and other local government administrators and aid in the improvement of local government administration; to provide a clearinghouse for information on matters of interest or concern to all local governments and to establish a cadre of local government chief executives to devise and seek the enactment of legislation for the benefit of all municipalities and counties.

Section 2. The Association recognizes that the states participating in GOSCMA may have their own city/county management associations. It is the role of the GOSCMA Executive Board, and specifically the President, to maintain relations with those state associations.

ARTICLE III
OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of this Association shall be: President; First Vice President; Second Vice President; Secretary/Treasurer; and immediate past president; and such other officers as may be authorized from time to time by the active membership.

Section 2. All officers shall be employed as the chief administrative officer or assistant chief administrative officer by a municipality, county or council of governments in the states of Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming.

Section 3. The term of office shall be for two years or until their successor is duly qualified and elected.

Section 4. Any office shall be vacated immediately upon the resignation or retirement from active service in an administrative capacity within GOSCMA, in which event succession in office shall proceed from Second Vice President to First Vice President and from First Vice President to President, as applicable. A vacancy in the office of Second Vice President or Secretary/Treasurer, or any vacancy not otherwise filled through succession, shall be filled by the President.

ARTICLE IV
EXECUTIVE BOARD

Section 1. The Executive Board shall be composed of all officers elected or appointed in accordance with Article III.

ARTICLE V
COMMITTEES

Section 1. The President shall appoint such standing committees or special committees as he/she may deem necessary or desirable for the conduct of the organization's business.

ARTICLE VI
NOMINATIONS, ELECTIONS AND TERM OF OFFICE

Section 1. The Association shall elect the officers enumerated in Article III through the process outlined in Section 3 below and shall announce the successful candidates at the annual business meeting.

Section 2. The term of office shall start November 1st following election and run through October 31st of the second year thereafter.

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Section 3. At the annual business meeting, when terms of officers are expiring, the President will call for nominations from the floor for each open officer position. Members present may nominate themselves or others. Nominations will close once no additional names are submitted, and voting will proceed for each position as needed. It is the intent of the Association that, whenever practicable, the Executive Board include one officer from each member state. The Vice President positions shall follow the Association's established state rotation over successive terms. If the state scheduled for the Second Vice President position is already represented by the Secretary/Treasurer, including a Secretary/Treasurer reelected to an additional term, that state shall be skipped for that election cycle and the Second Vice President position shall advance to the next state in the rotation not otherwise represented. If no eligible member from the state designated by the rotation is nominated and willing to serve, nominations for that position shall be opened to any eligible member regardless of state. The absence of a nominee from a particular state shall not delay or invalidate the election, and the normal state rotation shall resume at the next election.

Section 4. Members may participate and vote electronically, including via secure online platforms or video conference. Participation by electronic means shall count as attendance for quorum purposes.

ARTICLE VII
MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

Section 1. Full Member — A Full Member of GOSCMA shall be any person who is a city or county manager or administrator, or an assistant or deputy city/county manager or administrator, employed by a GOSCMA city or county. Full members include the chief administrative officer of a consolidated local government. Full Members are encouraged to be members of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA). Full Members shall have voting privileges and shall have access to the GOSCMA listserv.

Section 2. Affiliate Member — An Affiliate Member of GOSCMA may be any person holding a responsible administrative position in a GOSCMA city or county other than the position of city or county manager or administrator, or assistant or deputy city or county manager or administrator. An Affiliate Member may also be any person who is interested in the objectives of GOSCMA, such as a former city or county manager or administrator, a former assistant or deputy city or county manager, a college instructor, whether employed by the private sector or other unit of government. Affiliate Members do not have voting privileges.

Section 3. Honorary Member — Honorary Membership in GOSCMA may be granted by a majority vote of the membership in attendance at any regularly scheduled meeting of the Association to any person who has made distinguished contributions to the Association and to the field of city and county government. Honorary membership is not limited to persons who have served as city or county managers or administrators. Honorary Members do not have voting privileges.

Section 4. Life Member — Life Membership in GOSCMA is available to any person who has retired or is no longer employed in the profession of city/county management and has been a member of GOSCMA for twenty years. Membership in a city or county management association of another state may be substituted for up to ten years of the twenty year membership requirement. Life Members shall have voting privileges.

Section 5. Student Member — A Student Member in GOSCMA shall be any college student interested in local government management who is pursuing an undergraduate or graduate degree (minimum half-time status). Student members do not have voting privileges.

ARTICLE VIII
PROFESSIONAL CONDUCT

Section 1. The ICMA Code of Ethics, as now written and as it may be amended, is hereby adopted as the Code of Ethics of this Association. All members, without regard to classification, shall be required to subscribe to and be bound by this Code of Ethics.

Section 2. The organization may form a Committee on Professional Conduct (CPC) as needed to address ethical matters or investigate complaints. The committee will consist of three active members who have each served at least five years in a local government management role. The President will appoint the committee

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members, and the Executive Board will confirm the appointments. The committee's term will continue until its assigned responsibilities are completed. The Secretary will serve as the Board's liaison to the committee.

Section 3. The purpose of the Committee shall be to promote ethical conduct among the membership and investigate any complaints of violation of the Code of Ethics. Such investigation shall be in accordance with ICMA/GOSCMA Code of Ethics: Rules of Procedure for Enforcement, incorporated as referenced here.

ARTICLE IX
DISSOLUTION

Section 1. Should the organization ever dissolve, all fund balances and assets shall be transferred to the International City/County Management Association for the purposes of promoting local government management in the five states of Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming.

ARTICLE X
ADOPTION

Section 1. These By-Laws shall be in full force and effect from and after its approval by a majority of the members voting.

Section 2. These bylaws may be amended at the annual business meeting held during the GOSCMA conference, or at a special meeting called by the President, provided that members are given at least 30 days notice of the proposed amendment(s).

Approved this 4th day of May, 2018
Revised on this 31st day of May, 2019.
Revised on this 27th day of May, 2022
Revised on this 8th day of August, 2025
Revised on this 21st day of May, 2026
Revised on this 6th day of November, 2026

Neil Cardwell
Neil Cardwell, GOSCMA President

Attest:

Steve McFarland
Steve McFarland, GOSCMA Secretary/Treasurer