

AMERICAN LEGION RIDERS DEPARTMENT OF CALIFORNIA
1601 7TH STREET, SANGER, CA 93657-280
Department of California Convention, 18-19 April 2026
Norco, CA, 92860

Department Resolution No. 2026-11
Subject: Appointed Officer Term Limits
Origin: Chapter 476
Submitted By: Michelle Wattenbarger

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS The American Legion Riders Department of California Bylaws Article VII Section 14 currently reads, “*The Department Secretary, Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, Historian, Service Officer, Safety Officer, Quartermaster, and Parliamentarian shall be appointed each year by the Department Director with the approval of the Department Executive Committee to serve until their successors are selected or until removed by the Department Executive Committee upon recommendation of the Department Director.*”; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Riders Department of California Bylaws currently states that all Elected Department-level positions within the American Legion Riders Department of California and all American Legion Riders Department of California Committee members which includes Chairman, are currently subject to three-year term limits, establishing a consistent standard for leadership rotation across elected and committee roles; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Riders Department of California benefits from continuous leadership development, organizational growth, and the regular introduction of new ideas; and

WHEREAS, The long-term strength of the American Legion Riders depends upon the active development, mentoring, and advancement of new leaders within the organization; and

WHEREAS, The absence of term limits for appointed officers at the Department level allows individuals to remain in the same appointed position for extended periods of time, which can hinder leadership rotation and organizational change; and

WHEREAS, Extended tenure in Department-level appointed positions can make it increasingly difficult to recruit, mentor, and transition new leaders, thereby limiting opportunities for broader member participation; and

WHEREAS, The American Legion Riders Department of California conducts its elections and Department-level appointments during the Annual Department Convention; and

WHEREAS, Implementing reasonable term limits for Department-level appointed officers will promote fairness, encourage participation, and support the continued growth and vitality of the organization while preserving the autonomy of individual Chapters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED By The American Legion Riders Department of California at the Department Convention in Norco, California, on April 18-19, 2026, the American Legion Riders Department of California Bylaws Article VII Section 14 be amended to read as follows:

“Section 14. The Department Secretary, Treasurer, Judge Advocate, Chaplain, Historian, Service Officer, Safety Officer, Quartermaster, and Parliamentarian shall be appointed each year by the Department Director with the approval of the Department Executive Committee. Any appointed officer may be

removed by the Department Executive Committee upon the recommendation of the Department Director. No individual shall serve more than three (3) consecutive years in the same appointed Department-level officer position within the American Legion Riders Department of California; and after completing three consecutive years in the same position, the individual must step aside for at least one (1) year before being eligible to serve again in that same position. If no qualified successor is immediately available at the conclusion of the three-year term, the sitting officer may continue to serve for no more than ninety (90) days, during which time the Department Director shall actively seek and appoint a replacement. Any service beyond the ninety-day transition period may occur as recommended by the Department Director with the approval of the Department Executive Committee, and shall remain temporary in nature.”.

This is to certify by the signatures below that the above Resolution was passed as described.

Cory Wattenbarger
Secretary, Chapter 476

February 13, 2026
Date

Mike Phillips
Area 3 Vice-Director

February 21, 2026
Date

Department Director

Date

Department Secretary

Date