

This handbook describes the process for the **Empowered Community to utilize the Rejection Powers**. To learn more about the Empowered Community and the other Empowered Community Powers, please check out the [Empowered Community Administration web page](#), explore the public archive of the [Empowered Community Administration's mailing list](#) or contact the Empowered Community Administration at ECAdmin@icann.org.

PROCESS FOR UTILIZING THE REJECTION POWER

Rejection Power: Introduction

This power initiates when the ICANN Secretary delivers a “Board Notice for a Rejection Action” to the Empowered Community Administration and Decisional Participants.

The ICANN Bylaws specify [certain actions](#) which the Empowered Community has the power to reject:

- a. PTI Governance Actions
- b. ICANN Board’s rejection of IFR Recommendation Decisions
- c. ICANN Board’s rejection of Special IFR Recommendations Decisions
- d. ICANN Board’s rejection of SCWG Creation Decisions
- e. ICANN Board’s rejection of SCWG Recommendation Decisions
- f. ICANN and IANA Budgets, Operating Plans, and Strategic Plans
- g. Standard Bylaw Amendments, as contemplated by Section 25.1(e) of the ICANN Bylaws

These Board Notices are also posted on the [Empowered Community Correspondence webpage](#).

Rejection Power: Process Overview

Phase 1: Rejection Action Petition Period

The ICANN Secretary's delivery of a "Board Notice for a Rejection Action" to the Empowered Community Administration and the Decisional Participants initiates the Rejection Action Power, and the Petition Period begins. The Petition Period lasts 21 days, ending at 11:59 pm, *local time at ICANN's principal office*.

Board Notices enabling a Rejection Action should be anticipated annually after the ICANN Board approves the annual ICANN and IANA Budgets, ICANN's Annual Operating Plan, and Updates to ICANN's Five Year Operating Plan. Additionally, if the ICANN Board approves changes to ICANN's Standard Bylaws, or if there are contemplated PTI Governance Actions (including PTI Bylaws amendments, change in the PTI membership, asset sales, reorganization or liquidation), Decisional Participants can anticipate the Rejection Action Petition Period beginning after the Public Comment period ends (Public Comment is a separate process from the Empowered Community Rejection Action Power).

Decisional Participants notify their constituents of the Board Notice upon receipt, after which individuals may submit petitions for consideration (pursuant to the Decisional Participant's internal procedures). Petitions must meet certain requirements; for example, if a petition relates to an ICANN Budget, IANA Budget, Operating or Strategic Plan, it must be based on one or more significant issues specifically raised during the applicable Public Comment period. The Decisional Participant, pursuant to its internal procedures, determines whether to accept or reject the petition and notifies the Empowered Community Administration, ICANN Secretary, and the other Decisional Participants of its decision within the 21-day Petition Period.

The Empowered Community Administration confirms that any accepted petition includes required rationale¹, before the Rejection Action Petition Notice is posted on the appropriate icann.org webpage.

If no eligible petitions are accepted during the Petition Period, the Empowered Community Administration sends a "Rejection Action Termination Notice" to the ICANN Secretary, ending the process.

¹ Applicable for Rejection Action Petitions Notices relating to an ICANN Budget, an IANA Budget, an Operating Plan, or a Strategic Plan.

Phase 2: Rejection Action Support Petition Period

If the applicable Decisional Participant accepts the petition, the Petition Support Period commences upon the expiration of the Petition Phase, and expires on the seventh day at 11:59 pm, *local time at ICANN's principal office*.

The Petitioning Decisional Participant communicates with the other Decisional Participants, either directly or through the Empowered Community Administration, to determine if at least one other Decisional Participant supports the petition.

All Decisional Participants should review support-seeking petitions according to their own internal processes. With a decision to support a petition, the now "Supporting Decisional Participant" notifies the Empowered Community Administration, the ICANN Secretary and all other Decisional Participants.

If the eligible petition fails to receive support from at least one other Decisional Participant by the Petition Support Phase's end, the Empowered Community Administration sends a "Rejection Action Termination Notice" to the ICANN Secretary, ending the process.

All communication records are posted on the applicable icann.org webpage.

Phase 3: Rejection Action Community Forum Period

When the Petition Support Period expires and there is a Supported Petition, the Community Forum Period commences. This phase lasts for 21 days from the expiration of the Petition Support Period, ending at 11:59 pm, *local time at ICANN's principal office*. The Empowered Community may request that the Community Forum take place in person at the next ICANN Public Meeting. If such a request is made, then the Community Forum is extended² beyond 21 days, and the phase expires at 11:59pm, *local time* of the city hosting the ICANN public meeting on the official last day of that ICANN public meeting.

Pre-Community Forum Conference Call, by Request

The Petitioning or Supporting Decisional Participants, through the Empowered Community Administrator, may request a pre-Community Forum conference call, which the ICANN org must schedule prior to the Community Forum.

The Community Forum

The Empowered Community Administration ensures that the ICANN org, and any Supporting Organizations or Advisory Committees, understand how to submit views and questions for discussion during the Community Forum.

The Empowered Community Administration coordinates with the ICANN org regarding the logistics, administration, and other meeting requests, such as presentations, moderation, and translations, for the conduct of the Community Forum. The entire ICANN community is invited to participate in the Community Forum. The ICANN org and the ICANN Board are expected to send representatives to address any community questions or concerns regarding the Rejection Action. There is no other required format or length for the Community Forum session; it is a discussion forum where views can be expressed and questions answered.

If time remains in the Community Forum phase, and the Empowered Community Administration or Petitioning or Supporting Decisional Participant believes one or two additional Community Forum sessions would be beneficial, additional Community Forum sessions may be held.

No Empowered Community Decisions may be taken during a Community Forum. Records of the Community Forum and any pre-forum submissions, shall be made publicly available on icann.org.

² *The Forum Phase cannot be extended if the Action is related to the annual ICANN or IANA budget.*

Phase 4: Rejection Action Decision Period

When the Community Forum Period expires, the Decisional Participants decide on the Rejection Action during the Decision Period, which lasts 21 days, expiring at 11:59 pm, *local time at ICANN's principal office*.

During this Period, each Decisional Participant is expected to determine, pursuant to its internal procedures, whether it supports, objects to, or abstains from voting on the Rejection Action. The Decisional Participant then must notify the Empowered Community Administration of its decision prior to the end of this period. If a Decisional Participant fails to communicate its decision to the Empowered Community Administration, the Decisional Participant is considered to have abstained from the vote.

Phase 5: Decision Notification and Conclusion

Upon the close of the Decision Period, the Empowered Community Administration tallies all decisions communicated by the Decisional Participants to identify if the Rejection Action is approved according to the Threshold for Support requirements.

The Threshold for Support

- A Rejection Action Supported Petition relating to a Standard Bylaw Amendment requires the support of three or more Decisional Participants and cannot be objected to by more than one Decisional Participant.
- A Rejection Action Supported Petition relating to any other Rejection Action except for a Standard_Bylaw Amendment requires the support of four or more Decisional Participants and cannot be objected to by more than one Decisional Participant.

The Empowered Community Administration has 24 hours from the close of the Decision Period to tally the decisions and provide notice to the ICANN Secretary on whether the Rejection Action was approved or terminated. The Secretary posts the notice of the Empowered Community's decision on the appropriate [icann.org](https://www.icann.org) webpage.

Conclusion

After the final decision is communicated the next steps will vary. For example, if the Empowered Community determines to reject an ICANN Budget, the community should expect to see a return to the budgeting process.

If the Empowered Community does not achieve appropriate support to reject an action of the ICANN Board, then the act of the Board is expected to proceed. For example, if an ICANN Budget is not rejected, it will go into full force and effect at the appropriate time. Similarly, a Bylaws change that is not rejected will result in the Bylaws being amended in line with the Board action.