

July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2017

Dear Colleagues,

A poll of the Executive Councilors was undertaken June 19-23 after the Austin annual meeting. Executive Councilors were asked to comment on two things: whether they endorse the policy that APsaA as an organization speaks to sociopolitical issues only, not about specific political figures; and whether they support a poll of the membership to further assess whether the Association should take a public stance on persons.

The poll yielded the following results: 78% of Councilors replied; 100% endorsed the policy that APsaA as an organization will speak to issues only, not about specific political figures; 79% opposed a poll of the membership.

The Executive Committee reviewed these results today and decided based on the data not to survey the membership. APsaA will continue to speak to *issues* about which it has something relevant to say.

However, it is important to note that members of APsaA are free to comment about political figures as individuals. **The American Psychiatric Association's ethical stance on the Goldwater Rule applies to its members only. APsaA does not consider political commentary by its individual members an ethical matter. APsaA's ethical code concerns clinical practice, not public commentary.**

Recent political discussion within our APsaA online communities has broadened to include diverse opinion. A respectful openness to different points of views is a welcome and encouraging shift in the direction of the Community Vision that Council unanimously endorsed in Austin.