

1 **OVERTURE 2021-21 (48th GA)** from Pacific Northwest Presbytery (to 49th OC)  
2 “Amend *BCO* 42-6 on Vote Required for Maintaining Censure during  
3 an Appeal”  
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5 **[Editorial Note: This overture was originally submitted to the 48th General**  
6 **Assembly (2021), which referred it to the 49th GA Overtures Committee.]**  
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8 **Be it resolved** that *BCO* 42-6 be amended by addition, as follows (underlining for addition):  
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10 ***BCO 42-6.*** Notice of appeal shall have the effect of suspending the judgment of  
11 the lower court until the case has been finally decided in the higher court.  
12 However, the court of original jurisdiction may, for sufficient reasons duly  
13 recorded, prevent the appellant from approaching the Lord’s Table, and if an  
14 officer, prevent him from exercising some or all his official functions, until the  
15 case is finally decided (cf. *BCO* 31-10; 33-4). This shall never be done in the way  
16 of censure, **and shall require a two-thirds (2/3) majority.**  
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18 **Rationale:**

- 19 1. To ensure that "this shall *never* be done in the way of censure," it should require a two-  
20 thirds majority.  
21  
22 2. If, for example, a minister's disciplinary suspension is maintained during his Appeal of a  
23 Presbytery conviction or censure, the process would likely take six to nine months to  
24 adjudicate through the SJC. And if a church member was suspended from the Lord's  
25 Supper, his Appeal could take a year to be adjudicated by the Presbytery and the SJC.  
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27 *Proposed to the Pacific Northwest Presbytery at its stated meeting on January 24, 2020*  
28 *Final version adopted by an Administrative Commission of Presbytery on April 8, 2020*  
29 *Attested by /s/ TE Nathan Chambers, interim stated clerk*