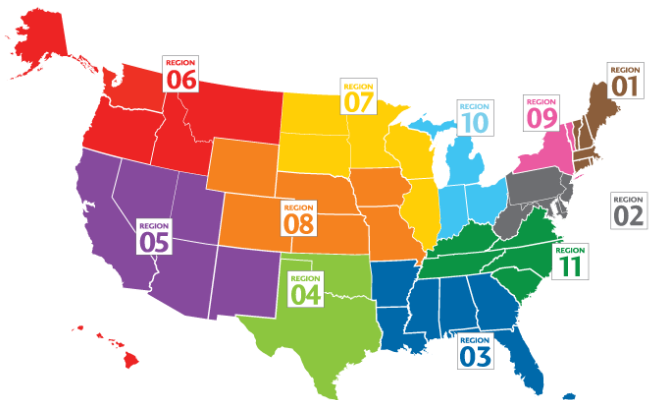


# OPTN *Regional Meeting*

## Regions



The U.S. is organized into 11 geographic regions to facilitate transplantation. In each region, a Regional Councillor, an Associate Regional Councillor, a UNOS Transplant Community Administrator and Policy Associate work together to coordinate regional activities. Each region is represented by a Regional Councillor on the OPTN Board of Directors, and there is a regional representative on most of the standing OPTN committees. Regional meeting information is located in the [Regions](#) section of the OPTN website.

## Regional Meeting Overview

- Public comment periods offer an opportunity to provide feedback on proposed changes to OPTN policies ([OPTN public comment](#))
- Meetings are held twice each year during the spring (Jan-March) and fall (Aug-Oct) public comment periods
- The meeting agenda is divided into two sections: discussion and non-discussion (ND) policy proposals\*
- Discussion policy proposals are presented and discussed at the regional meeting
- ND policy proposals are *not* discussed at the regional meeting

*\*All policy proposals – discussion and ND – are presented during [national webinars](#) held during the public comment period.*

## Regional Meeting Agenda

The regional meeting is chaired by the Regional Councillor. A typical meeting includes the following components:

- Regional update presented by the Regional Councillor
- OPTN update presented by a UNOS executive or President/VP of OPTN Board of Directors
- OPTN committee updates presented by Regional Representatives of OPTN committees
- Policy proposals presented by Regional Representatives from the sponsoring committees followed by discussion and voting (*discussion items only*)

## Voting

Regional meeting votes are advisory and help the Regional Councillor represent the viewpoints of the region to the OPTN Board of Directors on each proposal. This information also helps the Board understand the community's sentiment on each proposal.

- Each organization receives one vote, and all attendees may voice feedback or ask questions. When the Councillor calls for a vote, voting members are asked to indicate support, opposition, or abstention on proposals.
- Anyone may propose an amendment to a proposal, which may be voted on with the proposal or can be voted on separate from the proposal as written; there may be a call to vote on amended proposals.
- UNOS staff announce vote tallies and take notes on the feedback voiced by meeting attendees to create written comments that express the sentiment of the region.
- Regional comments on proposals are posted to the OPTN website in the [public comment section](#)\* and shared with the sponsoring committee for each proposal and the OPTN Board of Directors for consideration.

*\*Members and the general public are encouraged to post individual comments on the OPTN website in the public comment section.*

**Matching organs. Saving lives.**