

MPI Forum Procedures
Version 3.6

The MPI Forum

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Chapter 1

Terms and Conventions

1.1 Document Definitions

This document defines rules and conventions for the creation of:

- **MPI Standard Document:** the main document defining the Message Passing Interface standard.
- **MPI Side Documents:** additional documents published by the MPI Forum in addition to the MPI Standard Document. These documents are ratified by the MPI Forum, but are not part of the official MPI Standard Document.

Both types of documents are marked with monotonically increasing version numbers using a major/minor version number scheme. This procedure document applies to the activity of the MPI Forum and is not tied to any specific version(s) of the MPI Standard or of any MPI Companion document(s).

1.2 Definitions of Roles

The following defines the roles of the people or groups of people involved in the MPI standardization process:

- **MPI Forum:** The group of people actively involved in the standardization process by participation in meetings, MPI working groups, and / or chapter committees.
- **MPI Forum Chair:** Is responsible for organizing the agenda for MPI Forum meetings as well as the activities leading to the publication of MPI Standard and MPI Side Documents. The MPI Forum Chair also maintains the overall outside presence of the MPI Forum.
- **MPI Forum Secretary:** Is responsible for organizing and recording ballots as well as artifacts from the MPI Forum meetings.
- **MPI Forum Treasurer:** Is responsible for managing the MPI Forum monetary resources and collecting and dispersing funds for the purposes of supporting the MPI Forum's activities.
- **MPI Standard Document Editor:** Is responsible for both maintaining the overall document and its repository, and for publishing newly ratified versions of the MPI documents.
- **Chapter Committee Chair (sometimes referred to as "Chapter Author"):** Is responsible for implementing and organizing reviews for approved changes into their respective chapter(s).

- **Chapter Committee:** Assists the Chapter Committee Chair in implementing and reviewing changes for the respective chapters.
- **Working Group:** Group of people working on individual, possibly cross-cutting topics that can lead to proposed changes for the MPI Standard Document. Working groups can be established at MPI Forum meetings once at least four IMOVE organizations indicate support for that proposed Working Group. Roughly annually, the MPI Forum will decide whether to continue each working group via the same mechanism used to establish it (it is suggested that all working groups are renewed at the same meeting to reduce confusion and bookkeeping). The meeting where this occurs should be publicized with the same deadlines as text proposals to ensure the working group is represented in case of absence. The decision can be delayed if the meeting where the working group would be continued does not establish quorum.
- **Working Group Chair:** Is responsible for organizing the work in the Working Group, reporting to the MPI Forum on progress in the working group, maintaining the outside presence of the Working Group, and organizing regular Working Group meetings.

1.3 Ballot Definitions

- **Voting MPI Forum Meeting:** An open meeting of the entire MPI Forum and general public where official ballots may be conducted.
- **Non-Voting MPI Forum Meeting:** An open meeting of the entire MPI Forum and general public where ballots cannot be conducted.
- **Organization:** A business entity that sends one or more representatives to an MPI Forum meeting.
- **Registration:** Individuals register for each voting MPI Forum meeting that they will attend. At the time of registration, individuals declare which organization they will represent at that meeting.
- **Overall Organization Eligibility (OOE):** An organization is generally eligible to vote if it has registered for and had one or more representatives present at two out of the last three voting MPI Forum meetings (including the current meeting).
- **Individual Meeting Organization Voting Eligibility (IMOVE):** An organization is eligible to vote at a specific voting MPI Forum meeting if all of the following are true:
 - The organization is OOE.
 - An individual representing this organization registered for that specific voting MPI Forum meeting before the first ballot occurred.
 - The organization had at least one of its representatives present during that specific voting MPI Forum meeting.

Once an organization becomes IMOVE for a specific voting MPI Forum meeting, that organization stays IMOVE for the remainder of that specific voting MPI Forum meeting. For example, if an organization's only representative leaves the meeting, that organization still remains IMOVE.

- **Meeting Quorum:** Quorum is established at a voting MPI Forum meeting when more than $2/3$ of OOE organizations have registered for that meeting.
- **Individual Ballot Quorum:** Quorum is established for an individual ballot when more than $3/4$ of IMOVE organizations at the meeting cast a vote (vs. abstain). The number of IMOVE organizations is counted at the beginning of each ballot.

- **Draft Specification:** An unofficial version of the MPI Standard to be released roughly annually. The Draft Specification contains everything the MPI Forum has voted into the next version of the MPI Standard. The subsequent official version of the MPI Standard is not guaranteed to remain backward compatible with any Draft Specifications that preceded it, but is intended to allow implementors and users an opportunity to investigate new features before the next full version of the MPI Standard is available. The Draft Specification does not require an additional ratification vote by the MPI Forum (the votes to include a proposal in the MPI Standard are considered sufficient).

Chapter 2

Voting Rules

2.1 Intent

This chapter was written with the following goals in mind:

1. Provide clear, unambiguous definitions and procedures for voting on general text proposals, errata proposals, the final MPI Standard Document and changing this document.
2. Enforce a high degree of consensus before text is accepted into the MPI Standard Document.
3. Specify a process that ensures a high quality MPI Standard Document and that allows for fixes to the MPI Standard Document for issues found in final review stages.
4. Disallow arbitrary abuse of voting procedures.

This proposal only details *official ballot* voting definitions and procedures. Unofficial voting procedures, such as “straw” votes, are outside the scope of this document.

2.2 Procedures

2.2.1 Official Ballot Voting

Official ballot voting and formal readings occur only at voting MPI Forum meetings where a meeting quorum has been established, grouped into one or more voting blocks announced before the meeting.

All official ballots must be announced and scheduled at least two weeks prior (four weeks prior in case of votes for a final MPI Standard Document) to the start date of the voting MPI Forum meeting at which they will be held. The only exception are special formal ballots called *NO-NO-VOTE* according to the rules in Sections 2.2.2 and 2.2.3, which can be scheduled at any time before or during a voting MPI Forum meeting at a predetermined voting block time, as long as the *NO-NO-VOTE* relates to a reading or ballot officially announced two weeks before the meeting.

The dates/times for voting blocks will not change after two weeks prior to the beginning of the meeting to allow attendees to schedule their travel appropriately, except upon unanimous agreement of all OOE organizations who have at least one individual registered for this voting MPI Forum meeting before the meeting started. Upon such agreement, official ballots can only be moved to a different date/time within the same voting MPI Forum meeting, provided that the number of these organizations satisfies the meeting quorum requirements.

For each official ballot, each IMOVE organization is individually polled for their vote. The designated representative of an IMOVE organization may vote “yes,” vote “no,” or abstain from voting. Proxies are not permitted. If no representative of an IMOVE organization is present at the time of the ballot, that organization has implicitly abstained.

A ballot passes if:

1. The ballot meets the requirements for the individual ballot quorum, and
2. The number of “yes” votes is more than $\frac{3}{4}$ of the sum of “yes” and “no” votes.

Rationale. The first condition prevents large numbers of abstentions from skewing results. The second condition sets a high requirement for consensus before a ballot will pass. (*End of rationale.*)

Note that if a ballot fails to meet the required individual ballot quorum, the ballot can be re-cast one time at the same voting MPI Forum meeting. The ballot may also be deferred to a subsequent voting MPI Forum meeting. Specifically: failing to establish the individual ballot quorum does not mean that the ballot failed.

2.2.2 General Text Proposals

General text proposals for the MPI Standard Document are usually “not trivial” changes, and typically add new semantics, change or clarify existing semantics, or remove previously-defined semantics.

General text proposals use the following process to be accepted into an MPI Standard Document:

1. Have a formal reading at a voting MPI Forum meeting where the meeting quorum has been met.
 - (a) The final text of the proposal to be read must be made publicly available via the general MPI Forum broadcast email list at least two weeks prior to the start date of the voting MPI Forum meeting at which it is to be formally read.
 - (b) The formal reading must be scheduled on the voting MPI Forum meeting’s agenda at least two weeks prior to the meeting’s start date.
 - (c) There is no criteria for “passing” or “failing” a formal reading. It is up to the proposal’s author(s) to decide whether to bring the proposal up for a formal ballot at a subsequent meeting.
2. Pass a first official ballot at a voting MPI Forum meeting.
 - (a) A proposal’s first ballot can only be conducted after its formal reading.
 - (b) A proposal’s first ballot must be conducted at a different voting MPI Forum meeting than which it was formally read.
3. Pass a second official ballot at a voting MPI Forum meeting.
 - (a) A proposal’s second ballot can only be conducted after its first ballot passes.
 - (b) A proposal’s second ballot must be conducted at a different voting MPI Forum meeting than which it passed its first ballot.
4. Changes to proposal text after it was made available for the formal reading (i.e., at least two weeks prior to the start date of the voting MPI Forum meeting at which it was read) are permitted in some cases:
 - (a) Before the second ballot, changes are permitted if the text delta is presented at a voting MPI Forum meeting and approved via a special formal ballot of IMOVE organizations at that meeting, called a *NO-NO-VOTE*:
 - i. The ballot meets the requirements for the individual ballot quorum, and
 - ii. There are zero “no” votes.

Rationale. The first condition prevents a large number of abstentions. The second condition ensure that all non-abstaining organizations are unanimous in their consent of the text changes. (*End of rationale.*)

If the special ballot fails, the original text of the proposal is used.

- (b) After the second ballot, text changes that do not change the semantics of the proposal are permitted with the unanimous consent of the relevant chapter committee(s).

Proposals may be voluntarily withdrawn at any time before the second ballot passes.

Ballots may be deferred to a subsequent voting MPI Forum meeting in the following cases:

1. Before the ballot is conducted, the proposal author requests a deferral to the next voting MPI Forum meeting.
2. When the ballot is conducted, it fails to meet the individual ballot quorum.

If a proposal fails either of its ballots, or if a proposal is withdrawn, it must perform the entire procedure again (i.e., start over with a formal reading). If either ballot fails to establish its per-ballot quorum, it may be re-cast within the timeframes specified above.

2.2.3 Errata Proposals

Errata proposals for the MPI Standard Documents are usually “small” and deal with “critical” changes to documents to correct errors, clarify egregious ambiguities, etc.

Errata proposals use the following process to be accepted into an MPI Standard Document:

1. Pass a single official ballot at a voting MPI Forum meeting.
 - (a) Final errata proposal text must be made publicly available by the Errata document editor via the general MPI Forum broadcast email list at least two weeks prior to the start date of the voting MPI Forum meeting at which its ballot will occur.
2. Changes to proposal text after it was made available (i.e., at least two weeks prior to the start date of the voting MPI Forum meeting at which it was balloted) are permitted in some cases:
 - (a) Before the ballot, changes are permitted if the text delta is presented at a voting MPI Forum meeting and approved via a special formal ballot of IMOVE organizations at that meeting, called a *NO-NO-VOTE*:
 - i. The ballot meets the requirements for the individual ballot quorum, and
 - ii. There are zero “no” votes.

If the special ballot fails, the original text of the errata proposal is used.

- (b) After the ballot, text changes that do not change the semantics of the proposal are permitted with the unanimous consent of the relevant chapter committee(s).

If an errata proposal fails its ballot, it must perform the entire procedure again (i.e., start over by posting the text a minimum of two weeks before a voting MPI Forum meeting).

Procedures for deferring errata proposal ballots are the same as those for general text proposals.

2.2.4 Process to Ratify an MPI Standard Document

Once a series of changes (errata and text proposals) are accepted into the MPI Standard using the processes above, the Forum can publish a new revision of the MPI Standard Document. This could be a new minor or major version of the standard; the process below applies to either. The Forum Chair, after consulting with the members of the Forum, initiates this process.

The ratification process of any MPI Forum Document starts after the end of the last voting MPI Forum meeting where changes were voted into that Document, and typically spans two subsequent voting MPI Forum meetings:

- Release Candidate Meeting (RCM)

- Final Ratification Meeting (FRM)

Ratification procedures are as follows:

1. Before publishing the new revision of the MPI Standard Document:
 - The MPI Forum must consider each of the published side documents and update their defined compatibility with the upcoming MPI Standard Document. Each document that needs a change to describe updated compatibility (including updating the current version) needs to be updated as described in Section 2.2.5.
2. Prior to four weeks before the start of the RCM:
 - Chapter Committees review changes to their chapters to ensure that approved changes have been integrated accurately into the MPI Standard Document and integrate minor, non-semantic fixes into the MPI Standard Document, if necessary. This should happen throughout the cycle of drafting the MPI Standard, but should be concluded by this deadline.
 - Chapter Committees may find problems with approved changes that require further deliberation by the Forum. Such problems must be itemized for review by the Forum.
3. At least four weeks before the start of the RCM:
 - (a) Chapter Committee Chairs determine whether there have been any changes to their chapters since the last published version.
 - (b) If there have been changes since the last published version, Chapter Committee Chairs publish the following for the Forum members to review:
 - Changes to the chapter since the last published version (preferably in the form of a colored diff, or a marked up PDF, or some other easily-reviewable format showing the changes).
 - List of still-unresolved problems, including (but not limited to) problems with or mistakes in approved changes.
 - (c) If there have been no changes since the last published version, Chapter Committee Chairs inform the MPI Forum Chair and the MPI Standard Document Editor of this fact.
 - (d) The MPI Standard Document Editor publishes a Release Candidate Draft of the entire MPI Standard Document (in PDF form), including all the changes intended for publication in the new version of the MPI Standard Document.
4. In the four-week window before the start of the RCM:
 - (a) MPI Forum members review all the material published by the Chapter Committee Chairs and MPI Standard Document Editor.
 - (b) Chapter Committees continue to work on still-unresolved issues. *Any* changes to text after the Chapter Committee Chairs publish their chapter drafts at the four-week window must be specifically discussed with the Forum at the RCM.
5. At the RCM:
 - (a) All Chapter Committee Chairs (or their designees) read their chapters for the entire Forum. The focus of the readings is the changes that have occurred since the last released version (as opposed to verbally reading the entire chapter word-for-word).
 - (b) Items that must be specifically itemized and discussed with the Forum during these readings include:
 - Any unresolved issues found in implementing approved changes.

- Any technical issues found with approved changes or with the existing MPI Standard Document.
 - Any changes that were made within four weeks of the beginning of the RCM.
- (c) The MPI Forum collectively reviews the entire Release Candidate Draft MPI Standard Document, looking for problems such as (but not limited to):
- Formatting and whitespace problems, spelling errors, and other typos. Such problems should be itemized and can be fixed at the meeting by Chapter Committees and/or the MPI Standard Document Editor.
 - Logical inconsistencies in the overall document, or problems with approved changes.
- (d) The MPI Forum Chair compiles a list of all still-unresolved issues that will be fixed before this release of the MPI Standard Document.
- Forum members are encouraged to only allow “errata”-quality items on the list of still-unresolved issues. Larger items should either delay the ratification process or be deferred to a future version of the MPI Standard Document.
- (e) Per section 2.2.2, a first ballot is conducted on ratifying the entire Release Candidate Draft MPI Standard Document *along with* the listing of all still-unresolved issues and whitespace/spelling/typo fixes created in the previous steps.
- If the ballot fails, the entire procedure must be repeated, possibly starting a new RCM at the next Voting MPI Forum Meeting.
- (f) The ratification can be “fast tracked” if the following conditions are true:
- The ballot from (5e) at the same meeting passed.
 - The list of still-unresolved issues is empty.
 - The Forum resolved all other minor issues, such as formatting and whitespace problems, spelling errors, and other typos, and the MPI Standard Document Editor has produced a new Release Candidate Document containing all these fixes.
 - After a new Release Candidate Document is available, the Forum decides, via special formal ballot, to “fast track” the ratification. The ballot passes if:
 - i. The ballot meets the requirements for the individual ballot quorum, and
 - ii. There are zero “no” votes.
- (g) If all conditions are met, the ratification is fast tracked, steps 6) through (8b) are skipped, and step (8c) can be performed at the RCM.
6. Prior to four weeks before the start of the FRM:
- Chapter Committees and Working Groups work on resolving the issues in the list of open issues, integrate changes into the Release Candidate Document, and review any changes made.
7. At least four weeks before the start of the FRM:
- Chapter Committee Chairs publish the list of all changes made since the RCM, including changes made based on the list of open issues.
 - The MPI Standard Document Editor freezes the Release Candidate Document and publishes it to the MPI Forum.
8. At the FRM:
- (a) The MPI Forum Secretary conducts a ballot for each individual change that originated from the list of open issues decided upon at the RCM (and was completed before the four-week window). Ballots that fail must have their changes reverted.

- (b) The MPI Forum Secretary conducts a series of ballots for all other changes made since the RCM. In addition to the procedures listed in Section 2.2.1, if any “no” votes are recorded in the ballot for a given change, this change must be reverted.
- (c) The MPI Forum Chair compiles a list of all still-unresolved issues that could be fixed before this release of the MPI Standard Document.
- (d) On a different calendar date than any other ballots conducted at this meeting related to this document ratification, the MPI Forum Secretary conducts a final ballot on the entire Document. If any items remain on the list of still-unresolved issues, the forum should consider whether these should delay finishing the entire Document.¹
 - If the ballot passes, the MPI Standard Document Editor adds a date stamp to the Document and publishes it to the MPI Forum web site.
 - If the ballot fails, the MPI Forum should decide whether to repeat the FRM to resolve the remaining items on the list or to repeat the entire ratification process to resolve further issues. This decision does not require a new ballot and the MPI Forum chair must publicize the decision.

2.2.5 MPI Side Document Proposals and Publication

MPI Side Documents (such as the MPIR specification) follow a leaner process than the MPI Standard Document. They are generally maintained by a working group, which is identified as part of the initial proposal process.

New MPI Side Documents follow the same process as general text proposals. Once a proposal for a new MPI Side Document passes the appropriate formal ballot, the document is immediately published with version 1.0 and the date of the ballot.

Updates to an existing MPI Side Document must be proposed with a new, monotonically increasing version number and follow one of the two following procedures:

- Updates to MPI Side Documents that are proposed with a new major version number follow the same process as general text proposals.
- Updates to MPI Side Documents that are proposed with only a new minor version number follow the same process as errata proposals.

Once an update to an MPI Side Document passes the appropriate formal ballot, the updated document is immediately published with its new version number and the date of latest ballot.

2.2.6 Changing These Rules

The procedure for changing these rules is essentially the same as for Errata Proposals: publish the proposed change at least two weeks prior to a voting MPI Forum meeting and then pass one official ballot.

The new rules take effect as soon as they are approved/voted in by the MPI Forum.

¹Historical note: prior MPI Standard Documents had ballots for each chapter and then the entire document. This is no longer the case.

Chapter 3

Meetings

3.1 General Meeting Rules

The scheduling of future Voting MPI Forum Meetings may only occur after being announced publicly by the MPI Forum Chair (or their proxy) and the assent of $2/3$ of OOE organizations to allow time for both planners and attendees to prepare for the meeting.

3.2 Voting MPI Forum Meeting

Voting MPI Forum meetings are intended to encompass all MPI Forum business including (but not limited to):

- Working Group meetings
- Plenary sessions
- Proposal readings
- Voting
- Procedural business
- Other discussions

Voting MPI Forum Meetings determine voting eligibility via the OOE and IMOVE rules described in Chapter 2. An organization's OOE status remains constant until the next Voting MPI Forum Meeting (where quorum is met), where OOE is again determined.

3.3 Non-Voting MPI Forum Meeting

A Non-Voting MPI Forum Meeting is intended to allow the Forum to make progress on proposals that are not yet ready for a reading. The schedule for non-voting meetings will be determined at the preceding Voting MPI Forum Meeting (regardless of quorum) and published on the MPI Forum website. All meetings are open to the public and connection information will be published for anyone in the MPI Forum to join (access is granted to all who ask the MPI Forum Secretary).

No voting or official readings take place during Non-Voting MPI Forum Meetings. Instead, the Forum can discuss topics to prepare for upcoming Voting MPI Forum Meetings. The intent is to allow the Forum to increase the pace of progress, particularly on large proposals that need feedback more often than only at Voting MPI Forum Meetings.

While there is no requirement to attend Non-Voting MPI Forum Meetings (voting eligibility is only determined at Voting MPI Forum Meetings), lack of attendance decreases the productivity of

such meetings and all who attend Voting MPI Forum Meetings are strongly encouraged to attend Non-Voting MPI Forum Meetings as well.

Chapter 4

Officer Elections

4.1 Terms of Office

The officers of the MPI Forum serve for a full release cycle. This is defined as the time until an official version of the MPI Standard is ratified. Officers for the next release cycle are elected at the Final Ratification Meeting (FRM) after the ratification of a new version of the MPI Standard.

Rationale. This longer, non-calendar limited term is intended to provide continuity across a full MPI Standard Document release series in order to preserve knowledge, reduce the overhead of transferring leadership roles from one person to another, and provide accountability for a full release of the MPI Standard Document. In its history, the MPI Forum has tended to keep officers through a full “major” release cycle rather than holding elections after every release, but during discussion, the Forum preferred to choose this cycle of electing officers after each release, even if the current set of officers is reelected. (*End of rationale.*)

If an officer chooses to vacate their position before the end of their term, nominations open immediately upon announcement of the vacancy, and an election to fill the vacant position takes place at the next Voting MPI Forum Meeting.

If an officer does not or cannot fulfill their elected role, the MPI Forum can conduct a ballot to remove an officer from their position. This ballot should be announced by a member of the MPI Forum in the same way as all other ballots (two weeks before a Voting MPI Forum Meeting via the existing announcement mechanisms) and will follow the same procedure as the ballot to elect new officers. The vacated position will immediately open for nominations and an election to fill the position will take place at the next Voting MPI Forum Meeting. If the position is vacated within four weeks of the next Voting MPI Forum Meeting, the election will take place at the following Voting MPI Forum Meeting to give candidates more time to be nominated.

4.2 Election Procedures

The election procedure is as follows:

1. At the Release Candidate Meeting (RCM), a call is made for nominations for each of the officer positions of the MPI Forum (Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and MPI Standard Document Editor). Nominations can occur at any point prior to two weeks before the start of the FRM. Nominations should occur via a public mechanism similar to that which is used to announce document readings (e.g., public mailing lists). Nominees may nominate themselves, and nominations must be accepted by the nominated person to be valid.

Rationale. While any person can be an officer of the MPI Forum due to the weak membership requirements, it is recommended that nominees are active participants in

the MPI Forum and are aware of the procedures and requirements of their offices. There is also no term limitation preventing officers from continuing to serve if renominated and reelected. (*End of rationale.*)

In the event that Rule 5g in Section 2.2.4 is in effect at an RCM and ratification is “fast tracked”, the election will be held at the next voting MPI Forum meeting. Nominations open immediately and remain open until two weeks before the start of that meeting.

In the event that the ballot described in Rule ?? passes and an FRM needs to be repeated, nominations reopen immediately and remain open until two weeks before the start of the next FRM.

2. At the FRM, IMOVE organizations may vote for one candidate for each of the positions. This will occur via a special ballot conducted by the current MPI Forum Secretary (or an acceptable replacement if the secretary position is vacant). The options for the ballots will be the names of each of the candidates or “abstain”. A candidate is elected if:
 - (a) The ballot meets the requirements for the individual ballot quorum, and
 - (b) The number of votes for a candidate is more than 1/2 of the valid, non-abstain votes.

If no candidate reaches this threshold, the candidate with the lowest vote total is removed and the ballot is re-cast. As with other ballots, if a ballot fails to meet the required individual ballot quorum, the ballot can be re-cast one time at the same voting MPI Forum meeting. The ballot may also be deferred to a subsequent voting MPI Forum meeting (in which case the current officer should continue in their current role).

Rationale. While there are alternative voting mechanisms that could potentially determine a winner more efficiently, the system above was chosen for the combination of simplicity in the expected common case (where there are relatively few candidates and high consensus) and ability to handle the most complex case (with many candidates and an even split of votes). This also makes conducting the ballot relatively simple and similar to the existing voting systems used by the MPI Forum. (*End of rationale.*)

Chapter 5

Suggestions for Proposers

The following are several suggestions to consider before raising a proposal to the MPI Forum:

1. Socialize your proposal among all the relevant Forum chapter committees, other relevant Forum members, and real-world users. Get feedback and buy-in from as many people as possible.
2. Ensure that your proposal:
 - (a) Is not “syntactic sugar” for something that could be implemented outside of an MPI implementation.
 - (b) Represents a “best practice.”
 - (c) Is useful on a wide variety of platforms / architectures, both today and in the conceivable future.
 - (d) Is not an ephemeral use case.
3. Be prepared to cite concrete use cases and/or applications that can use the functionality in your proposal.
4. Implementations of proposals are strongly encouraged, especially for “non-trivial” proposals. The most highly valued implementations are ones that:
 - (a) Show a performance or functionality benefit that cannot be accomplished outside of an MPI implementation.
 - (b) Can be implemented on a wide variety of platforms / architectures.
5. Proposal quality issues:
 - (a) Use a similar writing style to the rest of the MPI specification document.
 - (b) Get the proposal proofread by a native English speaker.
 - (c) Ensure that the proposal fits in well with the overall MPI specification document.
6. Don’t let too much time elapse between the formal reading and ballots.

Chapter 6

Suggestions for Voters

The following are several suggestions to think about before voting on an MPI Forum proposal.

1. Actually read the proposal. Take time to think about it. Socialize it with your colleagues.
2. Is this proposal just “syntactic sugar” for something that could be implemented outside of an MPI implementation?
3. Does this proposal represent a “best practice”?
4. Is this proposal useful on a wide variety of platforms / architectures, both today and in the conceivable future?
5. Are there applications that will use the functionality from this proposal?
6. Is the use case for this proposal ephemeral?
7. Implementation issues:
 - (a) Is there an implementation? Implementations may not be *required*, but should be highly valued, especially for “non-trivial” proposals.
 - (b) Does the implementation show a performance or functionality benefit that could not be implemented outside of an MPI implementation?
 - (c) Is the proposal implementable on a wide variety of platforms / architectures?
8. Proposal quality issues:
 - (a) Is the proposal well-written?
 - (b) Is the proposal too young? E.g., does this proposal represent new work that may not yet have been completely vetted, thought through, or simply had time to mature?
 - (c) Is the proposal too old? E.g., has there been a significant time lapse between its reading and/or ballots? (if so, why?)