Dear HL7 Members:

Recent changes to ANSI’s Essential Requirements eliminate Associations as an interest type for balloting (this does not affect membership). Beginning with the September 2022 ballot cycle, if your organization falls under the Government/Professional Associations/Universities membership category, it will display as General Interest type for purposes of balloting.

ANSI also changed the requirements such that Consultants and Association voters must identify the interest type they are representing for a particular client, consensus group, or constituency. This change was made because many consultants and non-profit organizations are paid or otherwise represent another interest type and ANSI is of the opinion that those votes should be counted under the interest type they actually represent. For example, a consultant may be hired by a provider to participate in a particular consensus group, and their vote should be counted under the provider interest type. Likewise, a non-profit association may represent EHR vendors, and votes cast by that non-profit should be counted under the vendor interest type.

To accommodate these changes to the ANSI Essential Requirements, all Consultant and General Interest voting members will need to choose which interest type they are representing for each consensus group they join. These voters may be representing themselves and can still choose Consultant, Government/Non-Profit, or General Interest for any given consensus group.

Consultant and General Interest voters will see a screen similar to the one below when they join ballot pools:
Consultant and General Interest voters will use the pull-down menu next to the title of each consensus group they are joining to select the interest type they will be representing. An interest type must be selected for each consensus group. The ballot desktop will not allow these members to register for a consensus group unless an interest type is selected. Additionally, the interest type cannot be changed after ballot signup.

Voting members who are not Consultants or General Interest will not see this option. Instead, you will see a screen similar to the one below. Note that there are no pull-down menus, but there is a significant space between the checkbox and title of the ballot (consensus group).

Should you have questions about this change, please feel free to contact me (Karenvan@HL7.org) or Lynn Laakso (Lynn@HL7.org)

Sincerely,