

BYLAWS OF THE INDEPENDENT PARTY

EFFECTIVE MARCH 1, 2010

Article I Name.

The legal name of this organization is the Independent Party of Oregon (hereinafter "IPO" or "the Party").

Article II Purpose and Mission Statement.

The Independent Party of Oregon is dedicated to:

- > encouraging voter participation and involvement in the democratic process
- > advocating election and government reform
- > reducing the electoral advantages of incumbency
- > reducing the corrupting influence of campaign contributions and "independent expenditures" upon candidates, office-holders and government policy decisions
- > replacing special interest legislation with common sense solutions for the health, education, welfare and economic security of Oregonians
- > requiring fiscally sound decisions, transparently made, and a taxation system that assures that all taxpayers that benefit from Oregon's education system, quality of life and dedicated workforce contribute fairly for the common good

Article III Membership.

There shall be two categories of membership.

- A. Member - As defined in ORS 248.002(4), an individual who is registered as being affiliated with the IPO.
- B. Supporting Member - A member of the party who (1) subscribes to the Statement of Principles of the IPO and (2) has supported the IPO or

efforts to implement its principles in manner defined by rule by the State Council, and duly promulgated on the IPO website and by other means, within the previous year. The State Council shall specify at least two independently qualifying levels of support, one monetary and one non-monetary by rule, and shall provide that the support requirement may be waived in part for good cause.

Article IV Organization.

The Party is established as a participatory institution to assure fair and open opportunities for all interested members. All members are encouraged to participate at all state and local meetings in accordance with the Bylaws and to become supporting members.

A. State Council.

1. A State Council shall be comprised of 3 councilors with voting authority, each of whom shall be a member who has been a supporting member of IPO for at least one year prior to serving on the SC. After the initial State Council is formed, as described below, councilors shall serve 5-year staggered terms.
2. The initial State Council shall be composed of the Sponsor of the IPO and two councilors appointed by the Sponsor. The Sponsor shall serve a 5-year term, and the other two councilors shall serve 3-year and 4-year terms, respectively, as designated upon appointment.
3. Thereafter, at the expiration of the term of 5 years, councilors shall be elected by the supporting members of the IPO in manner set out by State Council.
4. If the State Council at any time has fewer than 3 councilors, it shall continue to operate and function, and as soon as practicable, shall fill vacancies.
5. When a vacancy occurs prior to expiration of a State Council councilor's term, the State Council may appoint a replacement to serve the remaining portion of the unexpired term.
6. The responsibilities of the State Council shall include:

- a. Appointing officers and senior advisers;
- b. Managing day-to-day activities of the operation of the Party;
- c. Budgeting and finances, including seeking contributions and assisting candidate's fundraising efforts;
- d. Maintaining compliance with state and federal election law requirements;
- e. Scheduling and conducting voting for delegates to nominating caucuses;
- f. Scheduling and conducting state conventions;
- g. Representing statewide IPO interests;
- h. Establishing procedures for considering endorsements of persons who are candidates for offices not sought by IPO candidates;
- i. Establishing procedures for considering positions of support or opposition to state and local petitions and measures relating to the party principles;
- j. Making binding interpretations of state organizational documents;
- k. Appointing standing and ad hoc committees;
- l. Adopting amendments to the Bylaws;
- m. Taking steps necessary to function as a state party committee within the meaning of 11 CFR 100.05, *et seq.*; and,
- n. Any other duties that may arise requiring statewide coordination and administration efforts.

B. Officers and Senior Advisers.

1. The officers to be appointed by the State Council and to serve at its pleasure shall be one or more chairpersons, a secretary, and a treasurer. Officers may be appointed for professional experience in relevant skills and need not be supporting members.
2. An officer may hold more than one office.
3. The State Council may appoint senior advisors, who may participate as non-voting members of the State Council.

C. Affiliated Chapters.

1. The IPO State Council may grant charters to groups of IPO members seeking to establish affiliated party organizations within a political subdivision of the State.
2. Chapters are the primary grassroots organizations of the party and the primary forums for exchange of independent ideas and grassroots political change. The State Council shall supply chapters with information and expertise, upon request.
3. Any 15 supporting members may apply to form a party chapter by providing the following information to the Party secretary:
 - a. The names of those 15 supporting members;
 - b. The name of the proposed chapter;
 - c. The geographic boundaries of the proposed chapter;
 - d. The name of a designated liaison to the State Council; and
 - e. Either the name of a designated treasurer or a statement that the chapter will not accept contributions or make expenditures.
4. The State Council shall either accept or reject the chapter application. A rejection shall be in writing.
5. The State Council may revoke an existing chapter for cause, stated in writing and sent to the designated liaison by registered mail or delivery service which requires the recipient's signature.

6. The State Council may require chapters to register political committees with the appropriate filing officers prior to receiving contributions.
7. Chapters shall notify the Party secretary of any changes to the designated liaison within 3 days of the change.
8. A member may join as many IPO chapters as desired.
9. Each chapter shall submit a roster of its members to the Party secretary every six months.
10. In all state Party documents, except the Constitution, references to non-state-level matters, such as chapters, shall be either explicit or immediately clear from context. All other references are understood to apply exclusively to state-level Party operations.
11. No chapter may endorse a candidate for election to public office, if the state Party has nominated or endorsed a different candidate for the same office. Nor shall any chapter take positions on other electoral matters (such as endorsing ballot measures or the associated signature drives) that are contrary to the positions of the state Party.

Article V Nominating Authority and Endorsement Authority.

A. DEFINITIONS.

1. "Nomination" means selection by the IPO of a candidate as defined by ORS 249.002(1) for partisan political office under procedures set out in ORS 249.705-249.722.
2. "Endorsement" means the official approval of the candidacy of a person for partisan elective office who does not meet the criteria for nomination as an IPO candidate for partisan political office, and who cannot be a candidate of the IPO as defined by ORS 249.002(1).

- B. 1. Nominating and endorsement authority for all partisan offices shall reside in the IPO Caucus.
- 2. The IPO Caucus shall be composed of an odd number of delegates, not fewer than five, the total number of which shall be determined by the State Council in the first meeting held after the results of the preceding general election have been certified.
- 3. The IPO Caucus shall be composed of a majority of delegates who are nominated and elected by the State Council and not fewer than two delegates who are supporting members of the IPO nominated and elected by the members according to these Bylaws.
- 4. Any vacancies which occur in the IPO Caucus may be filled by the State Council.

C. Selection of Delegates to the IPO Caucus.

- 1. At the meeting of the State Council described in § V.B.2, the State Council shall determine the total number of delegates to comprise the IPO Caucus for the next election cycle, elect the majority of delegates to the IPO Caucus, set the times and dates at which it will accept nominations for the remaining Caucus delegates from members, and direct the placement of an announcement on the Official Website of the Independent Party: www.indparty.com.
 - a. The announcement shall state that members may submit nominations for the IPO Caucus delegates for a period of not less than 5 days.
 - b. The announcement shall set out the manner of election of the IPO Caucus delegates elected by the members.
- 2. An election for delegates to the IPO Caucus by members may not be held earlier than the 7th day after notice of such election.

3. In order to achieve an equal opportunity for all members to participate in selecting delegates to the IPO Caucus, this election may be conducted by mail, or on the internet.
 - a. If an election is conducted by mail, then ballots shall be mailed to members no earlier than the 7th day after the announcement on the on the official website.
 - b. If an election is conducted by remote internet voting, the State Council shall adopt a process for authenticating that the member voting is in fact a member of the IPO and shall take other reasonable steps to assure the security and integrity of the process.
 - c. Notice of the opportunity to nominate and/or vote for delegates to the IPO Caucus and the procedures for authenticating internet voting shall be provided on the official website of the Independent Party.
 - d. Additional notice of internet nominating activity and elections shall, as deemed necessary, be given by means reasonably calculated to members.

D. Candidate Nominating Procedure of the IPO Caucus.

1. The IPO Caucus shall:
 - (1) Choose and give notice of a Caucus date for a particular office;
 - (2) Take reasonable steps to contact candidate nominees and determine whether they are qualified for nomination as a candidate of the IPO;
 - (3) Afford an opportunity for each qualified candidate nominee to meet with the Caucus;
 - a. For each partisan office, either (1) select a nominee, (2) decline to nominate any candidate, or (3) fill any vacancies which exist or occur, according to rules established by the Caucus.

- (1) Report the results of any Caucus to the members on the IPO website and any other means reasonably calculated to publicize the result.
2. The IPO Caucus may, by unanimous vote, delegate nominating authority for qualified candidates under rules adopted by the IPO Caucus to any of the following:
 - (1) An Affiliated Chapter which includes the boundaries of the non-statewide office;
 - (2) A specially appointed and elected IPO Community Caucus; composed of no less than five delegates who are supporting members nominated and elected after notice periods and process substantially complying with that set out at § V.C;
 - (3) A membership nominating Convention for supporting members eligible to vote for the candidate; or,
 - (4) All members eligible to vote for the candidate through vote-by-mail or other means.

E. Qualifications of Nominee to be a candidate of the IPO for elective office.

To be qualified as a candidate, a nominee for an elective office must have been a member in good standing of the IPO for at least six months at the time of the nominating caucus or convention, unless the IPO Caucus, by unanimous vote, waives this requirement for good cause.

Article VI Conventions.

- A. A convention of members may be held from time to time.
- B. Convention rules shall be adopted and/or amended at any duly constituted state convention by a simple majority vote of the supporting members attending.

- C. Any convention at which for nominations for elective office are considered shall be publicized as required in ORS 248.009(3) for nominating conventions, and, if deemed necessary by the State Council, additional notice may be given by means reasonably calculated to reach members.
- D. Votes taken at a convention specific to candidate nominations and endorsements and ballot measure endorsements may be taken using absentee ballots. The State Council shall establish procedures for using absentee voting at a convention.
- E. For the purpose of attendance at a convention, attendance by any interactive means which may be verified shall be sufficient, and a convention may be conducted solely by appropriate interactive technology.

Article VII Amendments.

The Bylaws may be amended by either the State Council or by two-thirds vote of supporting members attending a convention duly noticed for the purpose of considering such amendments.

Article VIII Rules of Order.

- A. The IPO encourages independent thought, creative thinking and real solutions. We do not strive for consensus but for challenging ideas and encouraging input from all members regarding important matters. After full deliberation, the IPO shall operate by majority vote.
- B. During open discussions all attendees are encouraged to participate in a respectful and constructive manner. The group may appoint a facilitator, process observer and/or timekeeper. The goal of a discussion is an open exchange of ideas without personal biases and criticism.
- C. Robert's Rules of Order shall be employed, if necessary.
- D. Unless otherwise specified in this document, all decisions by the IPO at convention will be made by each supporting member in good standing

present casting one vote, with a majority of affirmative votes required for passage. A majority is defined as one more than half the total votes cast.

- E. Certain Actions Require two-thirds vote for approval. Amendments to the Mission Statement, the Statement of Principles, the Constitution or Bylaws shall require an affirmative vote of two-thirds of the supporting members eligible to vote and voting at a convention or meeting. There shall be no voting by mail or proxy on these items. All proposed changes must be received by the State Council 20 days before the convention or meeting. Anyone proposing a change shall provide sufficient copies for each member of the State Council and for the party officers. The State Council shall seek to disseminate the proposed changes as widely as possible.

Article IX Platform.

The IPO may adopt a Platform consistent with the Mission Statement and Statement of Principles. The Platform shall consist of a number of planks which shall state the Party position on specific issues. The Platform shall be considered plank by plank, and each plank must pass a two-thirds vote of the supporting members present in order to be adopted. The adoption of the Platform may be done by membership convention or on-line debate and vote consistent with the provisions for such functions provided in these Bylaws.

Article X Expulsion of Chapters, Individuals or State Council Personnel.

- A. The IPO has the right to expel an individual who demonstrably violates the party principles. Expulsion shall require a unanimous vote of the State Council or a two-thirds vote of the supporting members present and voting on such a resolution at a convention.
- B. State Council personnel can be removed for cause by a three-fourths vote of supporting members qualified to vote at any statewide meeting.

Article XI Finances.

- A. All contributions and funds raised by the Party shall be handled through the Independent Oregon Political Committee (IOPC).

- B. Decisions regarding finances are the responsibility of the State Council, in consultation with the officers.
- C. Party candidates shall form their own political committees, in accordance with law.
- D. Any statewide Party funds to be spent on salaries or other remuneration to individuals or entities must be approved by the State Council.
- E. Recognized chapters may raise funds as the "Independent Party of Oregon" if the State Council authorizes such fundraising in advance and the Chapter sends all funds raised thereby to the IPO treasurer to account for and deposit such funds.

Article XII State Outreach.

- A. An action or event may be called in the name of the "Independent Party of Oregon" only with the approval of the State Council or the supporting membership at a convention.
- B. Anything carrying the "Independent Party of Oregon" name must be approved by the State Council before being distributed. Chapters must use the party name and symbol with their chapter designation (e.g., Eugene Chapter of the Independent Party of Oregon).
- C. All members may identify themselves as members of the "Independent Party of Oregon" in any statement, commentary or expression they produce, but only designated spokespeople appointed by the State Council may speak on behalf of the State Party or issue press materials in the name of the Independent Party of Oregon.

Article XIII Effective Date.

These Bylaws adopted and effective: March 1, 2010