



BYLAWS OF THE INDEPENDENT PARTY

September 9, 2021

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 three 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: An member who subscribes to the Mission Statement and has supported the IPO or efforts to implement its principles in a manner defined by rule by the State Council. The rule shall specify at least two independently qualifying levels of support, one monetary and one non-monetary, and shall provide that the support requirement may be waived in part by the State Council for good cause.

- C. Major Supporting Member: A member who subscribes to the Mission Statement and has supported the IPO or efforts to implement its principles in a manner defined by rule by the State Council. The rule shall specify at least two independently qualifying levels of support, one monetary and one non-monetary, and shall provide that the support requirement may be waived in part by the State Council for good cause. For the purposes of these Bylaws, every Major Supporting Member is also Supporting Member.

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. The State Council shall consist of 5 councilors with voting authority, each of whom shall have been a Major Supporting Member for at least 1 year prior to serving on the State Council.
2. The State Council will conduct a duly noticed membership election on or before December 1 of each year:
 - a. In 2021 to select a councilor for Position 1, to serve a 4-year term;
 - b. In 2022 to select a councilor for Position 2, to serve a 4-year term;
 - c. In 2022 to select a councilor for Position 3, to serve a 5-year term;
 - d. In 2023 to select a councilor for Position 4, to serve a 5-year term; and
 - e. In 2024 to select a councilor for Position 5, to serve a 5-year term.
3. In the years after 2025, the State Council will conduct a duly noticed membership election on or before December 1 of each year to select one councilor to the expiring Position to a 5-year term.
4. If the State Council at any time has fewer than a full complement of councilors, it shall continue to function and shall fill any vacancy.

5. When a vacancy occurs prior to expiration of a councilor's term, the State Council may appoint a replacement to serve the remaining portion of the unexpired term.
6. To be eligible to seek a position on the State Council, a person must have been an officially registered member of IPO for at least 1 year and must also meet at least 1 of these criteria:
 - a. worked at least 40 volunteer hours for IPO during the previous 2 years;
 - b. ran for Oregon statewide office or the Oregon Legislature as an IPO-nominated candidate in at least 1 of the 2 previous election cycles;
 - c. maintained an active local chapter of IPO for at least 1 year; or
 - d. held elective public office for at least 1 year contemporaneous with 1 year of IPO membership, while also working at least 20 volunteer hours for IPO during the previous 2 years.
7. The responsibilities of the State Council shall include:
 - a. Appointing Party 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:
 - (1) elections for delegates to nominating caucuses;
 - (2) state and local conventions;
 - (3) elections to chose IPO candidates for public office.
 - f. Representing IPO interests;
 - g. Establishing procedures for considering endorsements as described in Article V;
 - h. Making binding interpretations of state organizational documents;

- i. Appointing standing and ad hoc committees;
 - j. Adopting amendments to the Bylaws;
 - k. Taking steps necessary to function as a state party committee within the meaning of 11 CFR 100.05, *et seq.*;
 - l. Waive or rescind for good cause any membership requirement otherwise stated or conferred under these bylaws; and
 - m. Any other duties that may arise requiring statewide coordination and administration efforts.
- B. Officers.
- 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.
- C. Advisors. The State Council may appoint advisors, who may participate in consultations as described in this Bylaws.
- D. 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 5 members may begin the process of forming a Party chapter by providing the following information to the Party secretary:
 - a. The names and addresses of those 5 Members;
 - b. The names and addresses of 3 Supporting Members who will assist in preparing a plan of organization, including regular meetings and membership goals, and oversee the activities of the proposed chapter, designating at least one as liaison to the State Caucus;

- c. The name of the member of the State Council who will review, oversee or direct volunteer hours and activities for conformance with Article III.B or C;
 - d. The name of the proposed chapter;
 - e. The geographic boundaries of the proposed chapter.
4. Upon completion of the plan of organization, the proposed chapter may apply for chapter recognition.
5. The State Council shall either accept or reject the chapter application. A rejection shall be in writing.
6. 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.
7. The State Council may require chapters to register political committees with the appropriate filing officers prior to receiving contributions.
8. Chapters shall notify the Party secretary of any changes to the designated liaison within 3 days of the change.
9. A member may join as many IPO chapters as desired but must reside within the geographic boundaries of the chapter.
10. Each chapter shall submit a roster of its members to the IPO secretary every six months.
11. 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.
12. 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 or policy 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.

The procedures below pertaining to nomination of candidates to the general election ballot are applicable if IPO remains a minor political party for the purpose of nominating candidates.

A. Definitions.

1. "Nomination" means selection by the IPO of a candidate to appear on a general election ballot as defined by ORS 249.002(1) for partisan political office under procedures set out in ORS 249.705-249.722(2).
2. "Endorsement" means the official IPO approval of:
 - a. the candidacy of a person for partisan or non-partisan elective office who is not an IPO nominee;
 - b. a state or local initiative, referendum, or recall petition or measure;
 - c. a legislative bill; or
 - d. an issue, cause, declaration, or other matter of public concern.

B. The IPO Caucus Function (Minor Political Party).

The IPO Caucus is a body composed of delegates who shall have authority to determine by majority vote of participating delegates certain policy and election related Party decisions as set out herein.

The following is in effect and shall be administered by the State Council during those elections cycles in which the Party is deemed a minor political party by the Secretary of States.

1. The IPO Caucus shall be composed of an odd number of delegates, the total number of which shall be determined by the State Council not sooner than 15 days after the last day for nominating candidates in the previous election cycle.
2. The IPO Caucus shall be composed of delegates who are Supporting Members nominated and elected by the members according to these Bylaws.
3. Any vacancies which occur in the IPO Caucus may be filled by the State Council.
4. Election of Delegates to the IPO Caucus.

- a. At the meeting of the State Council described in § V.B.1, the State Council shall determine the total number of delegates to comprise the IPO Caucus for the next election cycle, set the times and dates at which it will accept nominations for the Caucus delegates from members, direct the placement of an announcement on the official website of the Independent Party and to the extent necessary, publicize according to ORS 248.009(3).
- b. The announcement shall state that members may submit nominations for the IPO Caucus delegates and shall set out the manner of electing delegates by the members, including the date(s) for such election.
- c. 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 by means of the secure internet voting or secure telephonic voting.
- d. If an election is conducted by receiving completed ballots from members by mail, then ballots shall be provided to members by:
 - (1) mailing ballots to members;
 - (2) emailing ballots to members in PDF or HTML or other easily printed format; and/or
 - (3) posting ballots on the official IPO website in PDF or HTML or other easily printed format.
- e. If an election is conducted by internet voting or telephonic 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.
- f. 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 IPO website.
- g. Additional notice of internet nominating activity and elections shall, as deemed necessary, be given by means reasonably calculated to reach members.

C. Qualification of Candidates for Nomination and Procedure for Nomination of Candidates for Partisan Offices.

1. The authority to nominate candidates for all partisan offices to appear on a general election ballot shall reside in the IPO Caucus.
2. Anyone seeking to be considered as a candidate for an IPO nomination must (1) apply for such nomination, (b) have been an IPO member in good standing for at least one year at the time of applying to be a candidate for nomination, or if not a member of the Independent Party for one year or more, (c) demonstrate to the IPO Caucus good cause to consider his or her nomination.
3. "Good cause" means that the person seeking to become a candidate for nomination has convincingly demonstrated support for the policies of the Independent Party, including support for the legislative goals identified by the membership in each elections cycle.
4. The policies and legislative goals relevant to state, local and federal partisan offices in each elections cycle shall be voted upon by the membership and publicly identified at the official website of the Independent Party.
5. A determination of good cause must be made by a majority of those Caucus members attending and voting.
6. A candidate nomination application form shall be maintained on the official IPO website on or about March 1 of each even-numbered year and shall be available upon request to the IPO by mail, fax, or email to the addresses provided in Article XIII of these Bylaws.
7. The candidate nomination application process will close within 40 days of the conclusion of the official partisan primary elections in May of even-numbered years.
8. If there are no applicants to be considered for the nomination to a partisan political office, or if the candidate nominated by the candidate selection process is unable to participate in the general election, the IPO Caucus may declare the nomination for such office open and publish rules for applying for the open nomination on the official website of the Independent Party.
9. A candidate nomination application form shall be maintained on the official IPO website and shall be available upon request to the IPO by mail, fax, or email to the addresses provided in Article XIII of these Bylaws.

10. The IPO Caucus shall:
 - a. Choose and give notice of Caucus dates at which nominees will be decided;
 - b. Take reasonable steps to contact applicants for nomination and determine whether they are qualified for nomination by the IPO as described above;
 - c. Notify applicants as to whether they are qualified for nomination by the IPO;
 - d. For each partisan office, either (1) select a nominee from the qualified candidate(s) for nomination, (2) decline to select a nominee, or (3) fill any vacancies which exist or occur after nomination, according to rules established by the Caucus.
 - e. Report the results of any Caucus to the members on the official IPO website and any other means reasonably calculated to publicize the result.
 11. The IPO Caucus may, by a vote of not less than 2/3 of its delegates, delegate nominating authority for qualified candidates under rules adopted by the IPO Caucus to any of the following:
 - a. An Affiliated Chapter which includes the boundaries of the non-statewide office;
 - b. A specially appointed and elected IPO Community Caucus composed of no fewer than 5 delegates who are Supporting Members nominated and elected after notice periods and process substantially complying with that set out at § V.B.4;
 - c. A membership nominating Convention for Supporting Members or members eligible to vote for the candidate; or,
 - d. All members eligible to vote for the candidate through vote-by-mail, internet voting, telephone voting, or other means.
 12. The nominee of the IPO to any special election ballot shall be selected by the State Council.
- D. Consistent with subsections a.through e. of the preceding Section IV.A.6 of these Bylaws, the State Council may, in consultation with the Caucus, determine a schedule of filing fees to be charged to candidates for nomination who are qualified under Section V.B of these Bylaws, to defray expenses incurred in exercising the Nominating and Endorsement Authority in Section V of these Bylaws.

1. Any required "filing fees" shall be charged pursuant to a schedule adopted by rule and published on the IPO website (www.indparty.com). The schedules thereon shall apply equally to all qualified candidates seeking nomination for a particular office in a particular elections cycle.
2. Consistent with state and federal laws and the Mission of the Independent Party, the State Council, in consultation with the Caucus, shall establish by rule an alternative to a monetary "filing fees" which shall require a demonstration of IPO membership support in lieu of filing fees. The required demonstration of support shall be set pursuant to a schedule adopted by rule and posted on the IPO website.
3. Monies collected from "filing fees" shall be used for nomination or endorsement related purposes, including but not limited to: (1) costs of providing notices to potential candidates for office and notices to IPO members eligible to participate in the process; (2) costs of elections or conventions, such as rentals of space, proprietary software, purchase of necessary equipment and incidentals, and salaries of temporary employees; (3) payment for charges for official Voters Pamphlet statements; (4) establishing a reasonable amount in a reserve fund for future anticipated and special nominating procedures which may occur; and (5) retiring past debt for election related costs.

The following sections are in effect and shall be administered by the State Council under during those elections cycles in which IPO is deemed a major political party by the Secretary of State.

- E. In those election cycles in which the Party is deemed a major political party:
1. The IPO Caucus shall be composed of an odd number of delegates, the total number of which shall be determined by the State Council not sooner than 15 days after the last day for nominating candidates in the previous election cycle.
 2. In addition to any delegates elected by members, the IPO Caucus may include registered members, as determined by the State Council, who are: the State Councilors, Supporting Members, representatives from chapters, elected officials, and persons elected as precinct committee persons, if the State Council has elected to participate under ORS 248.007.
 3. The IPO Caucus shall advise the State Council on policy and organizational matters and exercise those duties not inconsistent with statutory candidate nomination procedures for major political parties, including continued authority to consider endorsements under Article

G of these Bylaws and to fill any vacancy in nominations declared to exist by the State Council.

F. Presidential Candidate Selection Process.

1. The IPO is not formally affiliated with a national political party within the meaning of ORS 248.395(1) but may form alliances with political parties or campaigns in other states for the purpose of selecting a Presidential candidate.
2. If IPO has notified the Secretary of State of Oregon under ORS 248.007(5) that it has opted out of the provisions of ORS 248.012 through ORS 248.315, the State Council shall establish rules for the Presidential nomination process consistent with ORS 248.007.
3. The State Council shall review the eligibility of all persons suggested to be the candidate of the Party for President to determine whether each potential nominee (1) meets Constitutional standards for serving as President and (2) is eligible to be a nominee of the IPO under these Bylaws.
4. The members of the IPO may receive a "Presidential primary preference" ballot as part of the State of Oregon's primary election.
5. The results of the Presidential primary preference election will be reviewed by the State Council under § F.3, above.

G. The Endorsement Procedure.

1. Endorsement authority shall reside in the IPO Caucus, subject to override by the State Council.
2. An endorsement shall expire after the relevant election (for candidates and measures) or at the end of 2 years from its granting (for causes not determined at an election).

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.

- A. The IPO intends the word "Platform" to be consistent with the Mission Statement. The IPO will seek to have the membership set legislative goals and policies which best comport with the Mission Statement. The Platform shall consist of a number of planks which shall state the Party position on specific issues deemed significant by the members.
- B. There shall be frequent opportunity for members to suggest items for consideration in such a Platform pursuant to rules adopted by the State Council.
- C. The Platform may be amended by vote of the State Council after consideration of the results of responses from the membership.

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). The State Council may designate one or more directors of the IOPC.
- B. Decisions regarding finances are the responsibility of the State Council, in consultation with the officers.
- C. Nominated 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 Members 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 IPO or issue press materials in the name of the Independent Party of Oregon.

Article XIII. Continuity Upon Contingency of Reaching Major Party Status.

- A. To assure orderly transition and decision-making for the good of the Independent Party of Oregon and its members, this bylaw shall become effective immediately upon notification from the Secretary of State of Oregon, or any division or officer thereof, that under then-current Oregon law, rule or regulation, the status of the Independent Party of Oregon has changed so that it is no longer a minor political party under applicable law.
- B. The terms of then-current elected Party officer holders and State Council shall automatically be extended for one year.
 - 1. The State Council shall immediately undertake a review of any new obligations and changes that may be necessary to these Bylaws or other Party documents, policies or practices to assure orderly transition to the new status and to comport with laws, rules and regulations applicable to the new status.
 - 2. In addition to continuing to exercise all powers enumerated in these Bylaws not inconsistent with current or future laws, rules and regulations pertaining to major political parties in Oregon, the State Council is authorized to exercise and shall duly exercise all functions reasonable and necessary to comport with Oregon laws, rules and regulations which are or become relevant to major political parties, including, but not limited to (1) exercising choice under such laws when choice is allowed by statute, and (2) taking any action deemed necessary to clarify any laws, rules or regulations which pertain to major political parties in Oregon.

- C. The terms of office of then-current elected members of the IPO Caucus shall automatically be extended for one year to exercise all powers not inconsistent with current or future laws, rules and regulations pertaining to major political parties, including but not limited to advising the State Council on review and action to be undertaken under this Article.

Article XIV. Party Contact Information.

Independent Party of Oregon
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Suite 119-254
Portland, OR 97219
503-293-0399 voice
855-280-0488 fax
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Article XV. Effective Date.

These Bylaws were adopted and effective: September 9, 2021.