



INDEPENDENT PROGRESSIVE POLITICAL ACTION CLUBS OF AMERICA

Constitution of the Independent Progressive Political Action Clubs of America (IPPACA)

Preamble:

The **Independent Progressive Political Action Clubs of America (IPPACA)** seeks to continue the tradition of forward-looking progressive politics in the United States, as exemplified by the Progressive Party of Henry Wallace, who ran for President in 1948, and the American Labor Party, which operated from 1936 – 1956 in New York.

IPPACA is not a political party, but rather a legislative and electoral formation that works with candidates from different political parties, as well as independent candidates.

IPPACA seeks to work as a political force outside of the Democratic and Republican parties, the two Big Business parties of the United States.

IPPACA consists of local clubs around the country uniting around candidates based on opposition to war, racism, and repression, as well as support for labor.

IPPACA opposes repressive legislation, including legislation that attacks constitutional liberties, such as the right to free speech and the right to protest.

IPPACA supports and promotes candidates on local, state, and national levels.

Article I: Name

The organization is named the **Independent Progressive Political Action Clubs of America (IPPACA)**.

Article II: Membership

• Section 1: Individual membership

- Individuals that agree with the main principles and objectives in the Mission Statement and pay regular membership fees to the National Committee (not

- clubs) are members of the **Independent Progressive Political Action Clubs of America (IPPACA)**.
- All members need to be involved in their regional club.
 - A member in good standing is any individual that has paid the membership fee to the National Committee (not clubs) within the previous 12 months and who has neither resigned their membership nor been expelled for cause.
 - A member in good standing shall have all the rights of membership, including prior notice of all club meetings and the national meeting of members, the right to attend, to speak according to Robert's Rules of Order and to vote at club meetings, and the right to accept appointments for various positions in the **Independent Progressive Political Action Clubs of America (IPPACA)**.
 - Reasonable cause for expulsion includes, but is not limited to, actively agitating against the principles and policies of the organization.
- **Section 2: Club membership**
 - **Rights of clubs:**
 - Will be given a charter from the Executive Committee.
 - Shall have one representative on the National Committee of the **Independent Progressive Political Action Clubs of America (IPPACA)**.
 - Club representatives to the National Committee shall be selected by the club and approved by the Executive Committee.
 - Shall be represented by voting delegates at the National Convention of the **Independent Progressive Political Action Clubs of America (IPPACA)** Convention every four years.
 - The number of voting club delegates shall be determined by a formula established by the Executive Committee based on the proportional size of the number of club members in good standing. In no case shall any formula be established which results in a club being unrepresented at the National Convention.
 - **Responsibilities of clubs to members:**
 - A club is required to give prior notice to all members in good standing of regular club meetings.
 - A club may not deny a member in good standing the right to attend, to speak according to Robert's Rules of Order, or to vote at regular club meetings.
 - **Responsibilities of clubs to the national organization:**
 - All clubs of the **Independent Progressive Political Action Clubs of America (IPPACA)** shall be responsible for adhering to and executing the general policies and programs of the National Committee of IPPACA. Each certified club chair shall be responsible for giving regular reports about its meetings and activities to the Executive Committee and shall raise funds needed for the regular operation of the national organization of IPPACA. No club shall make public statements or take public positions on behalf of IPPACA unless directed by the Executive Committee.
 - **Membership dues and fees:**
 - All individual membership fees are collected by the Executive Committee annually.

Article III: General Membership meetings occur as the National Committee sees fit. Meetings are open to all members. The meetings are managed by the IPPACA Executive Committee.

Article IV: Standing committees are established as the National Committee sees fit. Examples of standing committees include the Research committee and the Brochure committee.

Article V: The National Committee is the governing body of IPPACA. The National Committee is authorized to make decisions on all business and policy matters.

1. Duties and expectations. The National Committee approves policies, procedures, and plans for the organization; accepts proposals from the membership; brings in new members; and raises funds. National Committee members are also expected to participate in IPPACA activities such as: managing and attending general, district, club, committee, and National Committee meetings; volunteer staffing; fundraising and events; and publicizing IPPACA activities. The National Committee's overall responsibility is to help committees, districts, and clubs reach their goals and keep IPPACA "on track" by dealing with the administrative needs of the organization.
The National Committee will be led by an executive consisting of at least three people, including, at minimum, a chair and a secretary-treasurer. The secretary-treasurer position can be divided among two people in the form of a financial secretary position and a recording secretary position.
2. Meetings. The National Committee will meet at least twice a year. A simple majority of the number of National Committee members shall constitute a quorum. National Committee members are expected to attend at least half of the National Committee meetings during the year.
3. Officers of the National Committee include the Chair, Vice-Chair, Recording Secretary, Financial Secretary, Media Secretary, and Outreach Secretary.
 - a. **Chair:** The chair acts as the spokesperson for the organization, schedules meetings, invokes meetings of the executive committee for, and presides over, the National Committee and general meetings.
 - b. **Vice-Chair:** The vice-chair also works closely together with the chair and is expected to fill the role of chair when the chair is unable to perform their duties. They need to have records of all members of IPPACA including their email address and phone numbers. The vice-chair ensures that members are notified about meetings and that the agenda and related materials are shared.
 - c. **Recording Secretary:** The secretary takes minutes at meetings, distributes them to Executive Committee members within 48 hours, and keeps files of minutes on record.
 - d. **Financial Secretary:** They are tasked with reviewing finances and communicating with the National Committee on budgetary issues including dues payments.
 - e. **Outreach Secretary:** Is responsible for contacting and networking with other organizations promoting views aligned with those of IPPACA.

- f. **Media Secretary:** Is responsible for dealing with the news including social media.
4. The National Committee will elect officers to the above positions.

Article VI: Districts and Clubs

Districts are geographical subdivisions of national IPPACA.

Clubs are subdivisions of districts that are, at minimum, the entire district of major urban areas, or other areas where IPPACA members are concentrated.

Districts are expected to hold organizational meetings quarterly, and clubs are expected to hold regular meetings (minimally once a quarter; clubs should meet more frequently during election cycles) to be attended by their executive committee, including at minimum a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Recording Secretary (other possible roles include Membership Secretary, Financial Secretary, Press Secretary), and their general body. Additionally, the executive committee will meet separately and regularly to establish the agenda for the following general meeting. In both meetings a simple majority shall constitute a quorum.

Article VII: Endorsing Political Candidates

- The National Committee will approve all candidate endorsements.
- Recommendations for endorsements can be made from the Executive Committee, the National Committee, District-level organizations, or the clubs themselves.
- Recommendations for endorsements will be provided to the National Committee if approved by a simple majority from the recommending body.
- Candidate endorsements require a two-thirds majority approval within the National Committee to pass.
- IPPACA bodies can only provide endorsement recommendations for the candidates running in the geographical areas they cover.

Article VIII: National Convention

The National Convention is the primary decision-making body of the **Independent Progressive Political Action Clubs of America (IPPACA)**. The National Convention is the highest body of the Independent Progressive Political Action Clubs of America. It will meet every four years in person and/or by video conference. Club Delegates will elect the National Committee for the next four years.

Clubs will elect delegates (See Article II; Rights of Clubs) for the National Convention.

Article IX: Activities and funds

The Executive Committee will vote to approve expenditures. The National Chair and National Financial Secretary may directly approve expenses under a predetermined limit as defined by the National Committee. The National Committee as a whole must approve any expenses which would create a major change in the budget.

The constitution and the by-laws may be amended by the National Committee of IPPACA, subject to two-thirds majority. At the next National Convention, these changes will be voted on for final approval, again requiring a two-thirds majority of National Convention delegates.