



AMERICA FIRST PATRIOT PARTY OF NEW MEXICO

Constitution and Bylaws

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OVERVIEW

1. MISSION STATEMENT

America First Patriot Party of New Mexico supports the people of New Mexico by putting America First and defending our God-given inalienable rights as put forth in the United States Constitution.

Our mission is to bring forward candidates who are leaders in their own communities who will represent We The People rather than corporate or big money interests.

With the Constitution recognized as the highest law of the land, our party will demand financial transparency, campaign reform, term limits and equal justice.

We adhere to the principle of small government held accountable to the Law as well as to the People, accountability that insures maximum liberty for the citizens of New Mexico.

2. GENERAL TERMS

A. AFPNM is divided into 2 groups: A) registered AFPNM Voting Members and B) Active Party Members. Active Party Members are divided into 3 groups: 1) Contributing, 2) Participating and 3) Ranking Members.

B. Two State Committees handle statewide AFPNM business: the State Party Committee (SPC) and State Central Committee (SCC).

1) The SPC consists only of elected party officers. The SCC consists of the elected State Party Officers plus the Ranking Active Party Members.

2) For purposes of clarity, references to SPC gatherings will be called meetings and SCC gatherings will be called conventions.

C. In each County, two County Committees handle county wide AFPNM business: County Party Committee (CPC) and County Central Committee (CCC). The CPC consists only of elected County Party Officers. The CCC consists of the County Party Officers plus the Precinct Officers.

D. A statewide Judicial Committee will resolve all questions of legality, constitutionality and conduct that may arise.

E. AFPNM will have its own Party Platform and all Candidates will reasonably work to support that platform. To the greatest degree possible, candidates for all public offices will be solicited and drawn from local businesses and community activist groups.

Article I - NAME, PRINCIPLES, PURPOSE, and EMBLEM

1.1 NAME

A) America First Patriot Party organization in the State of New Mexico shall be America First Patriot Party of New Mexico and may be referred to in this constitution and other official documents as AFPNM.

B) The name of AFPNM organizations within each political subdivision or campus shall be America First Patriot Party of _____ with the appropriate designation of the county, precinct or other appropriate political subdivision, or _____ College Patriot Club.

1.2 PRINCIPLES

We, the members of the America First Patriot Party of New Mexico, advocate the American tradition of keeping America our first priority by limiting government and defending the rights of the individual as codified in the Constitution of the United States of America.

Our Core Values are Honor, Courage, Excellence and Transparency.

We uphold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose under the Constitution.

In the United States, political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor even when unconstitutional, without proper authority. We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that the United States Constitution is the chain that binds government power and guarantees the indelible and inalienable God-given rights of the people.

The right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are given to all Americans:

thus we support life from conception - supporting contraception and adoption rather than abortion - holding sacred the sanctity of human life of all ages as God's creation and gift for the unborn to the elderly;

thus we support the right to liberty of speech and action;

thus we oppose all attempts by governments to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form;

thus we oppose all government interference with private property such as trespass, confiscation, nationalization, and seizure through eminent domain;

thus we support the prohibition of government waste, fraud, and abuse and misrepresentation of the people.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights without just and due cause as provided under the Constitution, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary, lawful and Constitutional contractual relations among individuals.

People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others but rather they should be left free by government to deal with one another as free individuals.

The resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market because economic systems such as Communism and Socialism are not compatible as they infringe on individual rights and financial freedom.

Above all else, our unwavering commitment is to protect the individual rights and liberties of all Americans.

1.3 PURPOSE

The purpose of AFPNM shall be to move society and public policy toward the ideals embodied in the Statement of Principles by nominating, supporting, and electing candidates for public office; by engaging in educational and informational activities; by general advocacy, community organizing, and by other means deemed appropriate by AFPNM.

1.4 EMBLEM

The emblem of AFPNM and of constituent organizations' political subdivisions shall be the Lion emblazoned with four stars to represent our Core Values.

1.5 USE OF NAME AND EMBLEM

A. The names "Patriot Party" and "College Patriots" shall not be used by any person, group, or convention except in strict conformance with this constitution and the laws of the State of New Mexico.

B. The AFPNM State Party Committee is empowered to initiate legal action on behalf of AFPNM upon determination that any individual, slate of candidates, group, or convention is using the name or emblem of AFPNM in any manner not consistent with this Constitution or the laws of the State of New Mexico.

Article II - MEMBERSHIP

AFPNM is divided into 2 groups: A) registered AFPNM Voting Members and B) Active Party Members. Active Party Members are divided into 3 groups: 1) Contributing, 2) Participating and 3) Ranking Members.

2.1 CATEGORIES AND DEFINITIONS OF MEMBERS

A. VOTING MEMBER. A Voting Member is any registered voter within the State of New Mexico who has indicated "America First Patriot" as his or her party affiliation on the affidavit of voter registration.

B. ACTIVE PARTY MEMBER. An Active Party Member is 1) legally registered within the State of New Mexico as "America First Patriot" and 2) has either contributed, participated or holds rank in AFPNM.

1) A CONTRIBUTING Active Party Member is a legally AFPNM registered voter and has contributed money to AFPNM within the last consecutive 12 months.

2) A PARTICIPATING Active Party Member is a legally AFPNM registered voter and

a) has paid regular monthly or annual dues (\$10/month or \$120/year minimum. Qualification is enabled when the first monthly pledge is received and will continue until pledges are 90 or more days in arrears.),

b) has attended 3 of the last 6 monthly meetings and/or

c) has participated in AFPNM activities (includes but is not limited to: community events, intellectual contributions, serving as a Precinct, County, State or National Committee Official, Employee or Volunteer) within the last 3 months and

d) has signed the PATRIOT PACT: See Addendum 1: Patriot Pact.

3) A RANKING Active Party Member is an AFPNM Participating Active Party Member in good standing who has been elected or appointed to a County, State or National office.

a) Active Party Members are required to provide the following information for the use of AFPNM for communication purposes: Full mailing address, valid phone number and a valid email address. Active Party Members are encouraged to provide a cell phone number for receipt of SMS/TXT messages.

2.2 MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS AND RESTRICTIONS

A. RANKING COUNTY MEMBERS will be elected in the County or Precinct in which they live by majority vote of the Participating Active Members of that County or Precinct. All recognized Precinct Representatives and elected Party Officers are deemed Ranking Members and shall serve and vote on the County and State Central Committees.

1) AFPNM registered Voting Members shall be entitled to vote in the New Mexico primary and general elections according to applicable state and federal laws. AFPNM Active Members of all three categories shall be entitled to vote, according to all applicable rules in the State and relevant County Constitutions and Bylaws, in the AFPNM election of the County and Precinct in which they live.

2) Active Party Members shall receive the state newsletter and other such publications and benefits as determined by the State Party Committee.

Article III - ORGANIZATION and ADMINISTRATION

Two State Committees handle statewide AFPNM business: the State Party Committee (SPC) and State Central Committee (SCC). The SPC consists only of elected party officers. The SCC consists of the elected State Party Officers plus the Ranking Active Party Members. For purposes of clarity, references to SPC gatherings will be called meetings and SCC gatherings will be called conventions.

In each County, two County Committees handle county wide AFPNM business: County Party Committee (CPC) and County Central Committee (CCC). The CPC consists only of elected County Party Officers. The CCC consists of the County Party Officers plus the Precinct Officers.

A statewide Judicial Committee will resolve all questions of legality, constitutionality and conduct that may arise.

3.1 STATE PARTY COMMITTEE

A. COMPOSITION. The State Party Committee shall be composed of the executive officers of AFPNM:

Chair, Vice Chair, Vice-Chair of Legal Affairs, Secretary and Treasurer. A quorum of the State Committee shall consist of a three-fifths (3/5) majority of the committee.

1) The State Party Committee will not come into existence until such time as more than one half (1/2) of the counties have selected Interim Precinct Representatives (see 3.4 F.) and elected their own County Party Committee (see 3.4 A.). This State Central Committee minimum will then elect a SPC that will serve until the next regular party election. In the interim period until the SPC is elected, the AFPNM Steering Committee will continue to direct the process, resolving issues and conflicts that arise.

B. PURPOSE: To oversee routine Party, committee(s) and convention(s) activities, handle any immediate emergencies in a manner consistent with the purposes and aims of the AFPNM party until a State Central Committee can be convened (if needed).

C. POWERS. The AFPNM State Committee is empowered to:

1) Call special conventions to nominate candidates for special elections or for other urgent purposes and to set the date, time, and place for such conventions;

2) Authorize electronic meetings of the State Central Committee when there exists business of an emergency or urgent nature;

3) Perform such other duties as may be delegated by the State Party Committee or State Central Convention.

D. QUALIFICATIONS. To qualify for the State Party Committee, a member must be in good standing at the time of election to Executive Office. Membership is defined in Article II of the Constitution and Bylaws.

E. DUTIES. Any executive officer who fails to execute his or her duties may be impeached and removed as provided in this constitution.

The duties of executive officers are:

1) **CHAIR.** The Chair shall serve as the chief administrative officer of AFPNM; preside over State Party Committee meetings and State Central Committee conventions, serve as spokesperson for AFPNM, and perform such other duties and functions as specified in this constitution or as delegated by the State Central Committee.

2) **VICE CHAIR.** The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair, assume the duties of the Chair when the Chair is unable to perform such duties, and perform such other duties and functions as delegated by the Chair, the State Party Committee or the State Central Committee.

3) **VICE-CHAIR OF LEGAL AFFAIRS.** The Vice-Chair of Legal Affairs will, in addition to general Executive Committee duties, arrange for legal advice to the State Committee and shall be the Chair for the Judiciary Committee.

4) **SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall keep minutes of State Committee meetings and Central Committee conventions, initiate such correspondence as directed by the Chair, the State Party Committee, or the State Central Committee, and manage all records of AFPNM except financial records.

5) **TREASURER.** The Treasurer shall receive monies paid to AFPNM, keep and disperse AFPNM funds as directed by the State Party Committee, shall maintain, update and publish quarterly AFPNM's annual budget projections and expenditures which shall be kept as public

documents, maintain all FEC filings and records as required by law, keep the financial records of AFPNM, make monthly financial reports to the SPC, and manage the property of AFPNM.

F. ELECTION AND TERMS OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS. Executive officers shall be elected by a majority vote (51% or more) of the Ranking Members voting at the first State Central Convention following a regular congressional election.

1) If more than two candidates seek an office and no candidate obtains a majority of the votes, the one receiving the lowest number of votes shall be eliminated and the Convention Members shall vote again choosing among the remaining candidates.

a) This shall be repeated until a candidate wins a majority of the votes, or if there are two candidates remaining, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes between the two shall be elected.

2) If only two candidates seek an office, the candidate receiving the highest number of votes between the two shall be considered elected.

3) The term of an elected executive officer shall be two years, and no members may serve more than two consecutive terms in a particular executive office.

4) Any member who misses two consecutive meetings or any three meetings during his or her term of office without providing a proxy for the absence is automatically removed from the State Party Committee. In this context, a convention is counted as a meeting.

G. VACANCIES.

1) When the office of Chair becomes vacant, the Vice Chair shall automatically become Chair and shall appoint a replacement to the Vice Chair position. This appointment shall be ratified or rejected by the State Party Committee with a simple majority vote.

2) When other executive offices become vacant, such vacancy shall be filled by appointment of the Chair with the ratification of the State Party Committee with a simple majority vote. The SPC has seven (7) days to deliberate and reach a decision regarding a replacement or else the appointment stands.

H. DEFUNCT CONDITIONS. AFPNM ceases to be a valid political party when more than one half (1/2) of the state's precincts have no Precinct Representative and more than one half (1/2) of the counties no longer have valid County Party Committees for a consecutive period of 180 days.

3.2 STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

A. COMPOSITION. The State Central Committee shall be composed of the State Party Executive Officials, the Congressional District Chairs, all County Party Executive Officials, all County Precinct Representatives and any Affiliate County or State Chairs.

1) The Congressional District Chairs shall be elected at the State Central Committee convention or, in an interim emergency, appointed by the State Party Chair and ratified by the State Party Committee.

B. PURPOSE AND POWERS. The purpose of the State Central Committee shall be - and power is hereby granted to the SCC -

- 1) to elect State Party Committee officers,
- 2) hold a primary election of candidates (until such time as AFPNM becomes a major party in New Mexico and in the event there are 2 or more candidates for any one State level office),
- 3) to amend the Constitution or resolve other legal issues,
- 4) to remove state party officers,
- 5) to veto any specific action of the SPC brought before the SCC,
- 6) to join or leave a national party which will require a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote of the SCC, or
- 7) any other matter that requires the SCC's attention.

C. CONVENTIONS. The State Central Committee shall convene at least once each year for the State Party election with any other conventions being contingent upon need.

1) All Counties shall hold their County Central Committee election convention no later than 40 days after the November general election. The State Central Committee election convention shall be held no later than 70 days after the November general election.

2) All County Central Committee primary elections must be held by June 15th and the State Central Committee election primary must be held by June 30th.

3) Conventions may be called by majority vote of the SPC or Judicial Committees or by a call by 50 Ranking Members. Once the purpose for convening the SCC is determined to be legitimate and clearly defined, the SPC Chair shall organize the convention.

4) The Secretary shall notify each member of the State Central Committee of the date, time, place and agenda of the convention, in writing, at least thirty days prior to the convention except as otherwise provided in Section 3.1 C. 2.

5) Conventions shall be conducted in a fair, judicious manner according to the time allotted in the agenda for each item and as otherwise provided in this Constitution or in the AFPNM Bylaws.

D. QUORUMS. When thirty-days written notice has been properly executed, a quorum of the State Central Committee shall consist of at least 51% of all Ranking Members plus a quorum of the State Party Committee.

E. VACANCIES. Vacancies on the State Central Committee shall be filled by appointment by the County Party Committee of the County/Precinct with the vacancy.

F. VOTES BY ELECTRONIC MAIL OR TELEPHONE. From time to time, an issue of emergency nature may require vote by electronic mail and/or telephone by the State Central Committee.

1) If the use of virtual meeting seems unnecessary, two-thirds (2/3) of all present SCC Members may strike down and cancel the meeting until a physical convention can be held.

2) The vote shall be carried out by the State Chair after it is requested.

3) All efforts should be made to assure maximum SCC Member participation and debate on the issue being voted on.

4) Additionally, the standard for passage of any proposal voted on by this method shall be a simple majority of all present SCC Members voting in favor.

5) If all current SCC Members participate and the vote is tied, the State Chair may break the tie by voting.

3.3 JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

A. A Judicial Committee shall be formed for the purposes of

1) censuring, suspension or expulsion of any AFPNM Member,

2) removing or impeaching any County, State or National Ranking Member, and

3) settling disputes arising from the interpretation of this constitution or acts of any State or County Committee or Affiliate Group.

B. The Judicial Committee shall consist of the Vice-Chair of Legal Affairs plus four (4) members of the SCC in good standing; excluding any parties to the issue to be decided by the Judicial Committee.

C. Judicial Committee disciplinary decisions for censure, suspension, removal, or impeachment of any member shall be sent to the SPC for a confirmation vote. Decisions on questions of interpretation of this Constitution shall be sent to the SCC for a two thirds (2/3) vote for approval.

D. Grievances.

1) Standing. Only registered AFPNM Members have standing to file a grievance with the Judicial Committee.

2) Baseless or excessive grievances filed with the Judicial Committee may result in discipline or even expulsion of the complainant Member.

3) Rulings of the Judicial Committee may be appealed to the State Central Committee. Appellant will pay all costs for the convention though costs may be assigned to the Appellee in the event Appellant wins the appeal.

E. The Judicial Committee shall also review and consider revisions to the Party Constitution(s) and submit recommended drafts to the appropriate County or State Central Committee for approval or rejection.

3.4 COUNTY AFFILIATES

A. A county party becomes a valid AFPNM Party Affiliate when more than one half (1/2) of the county's Precincts are represented by a Precinct Representative and those Precinct Representatives have elected a County Party Committee consisting of at least a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

B. A Constitution, consistent with this Constitution and the laws of New Mexico and the United States of America, has been filed with the County Clerk of the respective county; and

C. The Chair of AFPNM (or the Steering Committee if that is still in effect) has been notified in writing that the above requirements have been met.

D. The County Central Committee shall consist of all County Party Committee officers and all seated Precinct Representatives.

1) A convention quorum shall consist of a quorum of the CPC as well as 51% of all seated Precinct Representatives.

2) A CCC convention can be called by the State Judicial Committee, a majority of the CPC or by 20% of the seated Precinct Representatives.

E. The initial County Chair shall serve until the regular election cycle is complete at which time the County America First Patriot Party shall hold a convention and the County convention shall properly elect officers and ratify the County Constitution.

F. If the County Patriot Party has more than one half (1/2) of its precincts no longer represented by a precinct officer for a consecutive period of 180 days or fails to meet the requirements of recognition enumerated above, the County Chair shall stand relieved and the Chair of AFPNM is empowered to appoint a new County Chair.

G. Interim Precinct Representatives

An Interim Precinct Representative may be any volunteer who 1) lives in the Precinct he or she represents and 2) signs an affidavit of intent to register as AFPNM once the AFPNM Party is recognized by the New Mexico Secretary of State. Once a County Party Committee is established, Precinct Representatives will be subject to the regular requirements and will be elected in and by their own precinct at the regular elections. In the event a Precinct Representative leaves the office for any reason, the CPC may, upon taking recommendations from the Precinct, appoint an Interim Precinct Representative who will serve until the next regular election.

1) The responsibility and role of the Precinct Representative is to know the Precinct he or she represents, to make recommendations to the County Party and to vote in the County and State Central Committee Conventions.

2) When necessary, a Precinct Representative may represent other Precincts in addition to his or her own Precinct but will only have one vote and this representation does not count toward the minimum number of Precinct Representatives needed to become or remain a County AFPNM Party Affiliate.

3) In the event that AFPNM grows to a point where it will financially compensate its ranking members for their work, the Precinct Representatives shall be given first consideration and compensation.

H. ADMINISTRATION: Once a County Patriot Party is recognized, it shall be administered by the County Party Committee in a manner identical to the administration of AFPNM State Party Committee, except that the CPC will have a minimum of three members, County Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, but shall not elect more than 5 officers of the same purpose and function as the SPC.

I. County Patriot Parties shall not have their own Judicial Committee: the AFPNM Judicial Committee shall serve as the judiciary body of the County Patriot Parties as well as AFPNM to ensure consistency.

J. CONSISTENCY OF COUNTY ACTIONS. No County Patriot Party shall take any position or action which is inconsistent with the constitution, principles, or purposes of AFPNM.

ARTICLE IV - PLATFORMS AND POSITIONS

AFPNM will have its own Party Platform and all Candidates will reasonably work to support that platform. To the greatest degree possible, candidates for all public offices will be solicited and drawn from local businesses and community activist groups.

4.1 PLATFORMS

A. AFPNM will determine its own Party Platform (See Addendum 2: Platform) which may differ from the National Patriot Party Platform. If the two Platforms disagree, AFPNM's Platform will control local, county and state issues whereas the National Platform will control national issues, except that AFPNM may, at any state convention, reject any national plank and replace it with a plank consistent with AFPNM's Statement of Principles by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote.

B. CANDIDATE PLATFORMS. Candidates for public office will generally run on the party platform though the candidate may modify planks within reason and in agreement with the applicable County or State Party Committee.

1) All AFPNM candidates will sign a Patriot Pact agreement with the Party and will indicate which planks of the party Platform the candidate will espouse, support and perpetuate. This agreement will be the basis of the candidate's acceptance as an AFPNM candidate.

2) A candidate must secure endorsement from at least 1/2 of the precincts he or she will represent. A precinct may endorse more than 1 candidate as the race will then be decided at the County or State Central Committee primary convention.

3) Any candidate who feels he or she has been unfairly excluded by a County or State Party Committee can appeal the State Judicial Committee.

C. RESOLUTIONS OF POSITION. The State Party Committee is empowered to issue resolutions expressing party positions on various issues throughout the year. However, any Ranking Member may challenge any such resolution that he or she believes to be inconsistent with the Statement of Principles or AFPNM Platform by filing a Statement of Grievance with the Judicial Committee in accordance with the provisions of Section 3.3 D. or call for a State Central Committee convention in accordance with Section 3.2 C. 3.

ARTICLE V – AMENDMENTS AND BYLAWS

5.1 PROVISIONS

A. The Statement of Principles may be amended by a nine-tenths (9/10) vote of the Members voting at any state convention.

B. This Constitution and its Addenda, Patriot Pact and Platform, may otherwise be modified or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members voting at any state convention.

C. The Judicial Committee is empowered to remove any section of this Constitution found to be in violation of Federal or State law.

D. Bylaws may be added or deleted by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Members voting at any state convention.

E. The Secretary is empowered to renumber, within two (2) business days of a state convention, bylaws as bylaws are added or deleted.

5.2 BYLAWS

Bylaw #1 – Any County or State Central Committee Member may designate, in writing, a participating Active Party Member to serve as proxy if he or she must miss a County or State Central Committee convention and that proxy counts toward quorum. However, the proxy vote will not count as attendance for purposes of retention or removal of the absentee member.

Bylaw #2 - College Patriot Clubs may be recognized as affiliates of AFPNM under the same rules and conditions as county affiliates. The Chair is empowered to implement guidelines for the administration of College Patriot Clubs and to vote in the State Central Committee.

Bylaw #3 – In the event the boundaries of any precinct or congressional districts are changed by the State legislature, the affected County Party Committee shall reassign any necessary Precinct Representative positions, keeping as many Representatives in place as is possible. Any displaced Representatives will continue to be recognized as Precinct Representatives in any County or State Party or Central Committee function until the next regular election.

Bylaw #4 – All candidates for Executive Office and Public Office must not have financial ties to a foreign country or special interest lobbyist group. Any candidate or official conducting foreign business or interacting with special interest lobbyists must be referred to the Judicial Committee for appropriate action.

Bylaw #5– Should any circumstance or situation arise that is not clearly and directly addressed by this AFPNM Constitution and Bylaws, then the National Patriot Party Constitution and Bylaws shall govern.