

The Wildrose Alliance Constitution

WILDROSE ALLIANCE POLITICAL ASSOCIATION

BYLAWS

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Wildrose Alliance Constitution	1
ARTICLE I – NAME	1
ARTICLE II – PRINCIPLES	2
ARTICLE III – MEMBERS	3
ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS	4
ARTICLE V – LEADER	6
ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS	7
ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	9
ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES	10
ARTICLE IX – PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES	11
ARTICLE X – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY	11
ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS	11
ARTICLE XII – CAUCUS	12
ARTICLE XIII – CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS	13

WILDROSE ALLIANCE POLITICAL ASSOCIATION BYLAWS

ARTICLE I – NAME

- (a) The name of this Society shall be the Wildrose Alliance Political Association (hereinafter referred to as “the Society”)

ARTICLE II – PRINCIPLES

The principles and values underlying all Party policies and procedures shall be:

- a) To ensure that the Party Leader remains internally accountable to members of the Party and the Caucus, and that the Party's MLAs remain accountable to their party and constituents.
- b) Provincially, to reflect, strengthen and efficiently serve the common-sense values of Albertans: those being civic responsibility, the lowest possible taxation, a strong and enterprising work ethic, stable families and a growing population, self-directed communities, prudent provision for the province's future, sensible assistance for the sick and disabled, respect for the rule of law, the traditional fundamental freedoms, and secure ownership of and benefit from private property.
- c) Federally, to encourage and support earned prosperity among all provinces, equal treatment of all provinces by the federal government, and the full exercise of Alberta's constitutional rights and responsibilities.
- d) We believe in the inherent value and dignity of each individual citizen; that all citizens are equal before the law and entitled to fundamental justice; and that all citizens have certain fundamental and immutable rights and freedoms, including: the right to life, safety, liberty, and privacy; the freedoms of speech and expression and the freedom to advocate, without fear of intimidation or suppression, public policies which reflect their deeply held values; freedom of religious belief and practice; freedom of peaceful assembly and choice of association; freedom of mobility; and the freedom to own, enjoy, and exchange private property in a free market.
- e) We believe in democratic processes including: free and fair elections, fixed election dates, free votes in the Legislature, and the power of citizens to recall elected representatives and initiate binding referendums.
- f) We believe that government must be fiscally prudent: namely balancing budgets, limiting taxation, and minimizing the size and growth of the public sector and that they should treat public moneys as funds held in trust.
- g) We believe that elected representatives are to serve honestly, ethically, and with concern for all; that their duty to their electors supersedes their obligations to any political party; and that government must be open and accountable to the people.

- h) We believe that the government, elected officials and civil servants are to serve the people; and that all citizens should be treated equally without prejudice from receiving the services offered by government.
- i) We believe in universal public access to education.
- j) We believe in universal public access to health care.
- (k) We believe in being environmentally responsible through conservation and renewal of the environment for present and future generations.
- l) We believe Alberta should play a leadership role in a unified and democratic Canada.
- m) We believe that functions of government should be delegated to the level of government closest to the people and best able to fulfill the function; and that the division of powers among the levels of government must be respected.
- n) We believe the legislature is subject to judicial review as judges protect our constitutional rights, however; judges are to interpret laws, not make them.
- o) We believe in freedom of the press and other media.
- p) We believe in the preservation of Alberta's heritage.
- q) We believe the family is the building block of society and the means by which citizens pass on their values and beliefs; therefore, the family should be protected from unnecessary intrusions by government.
- r) We believe that the government should provide for the basic needs of those who are genuinely unable to do so themselves.
- s) The Wildrose Alliance Party and its representatives shall be guided by these principles and shall ensure that its policies conform to these principles.

ARTICLE III – MEMBERS

- (a) Membership in the Party shall consist of all members in good standing who are natural persons who are at least sixteen (16) years of age, who personally authorized an application for membership in the Society. To qualify for membership, a person shall be ordinarily resident in Alberta, have paid the prescribed membership fee, and either hold an official membership card of the Party issued in his or her name, or be on the official party membership list.

- (b) A member may resign his or her membership by submitting a written resignation to the Secretary, and such resignation shall be effective upon receipt.
- (c) A member may be suspended or expelled from membership by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee in accordance with these Bylaws and the disciplinary procedures as contained in the parliamentary authority.

ARTICLE IV – OFFICERS

- (a) The officers of the Party shall be a President, a Vice-President - Membership, a Vice-President - Policy, a Vice-President - Fundraising, Vice - President - Communications, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and six (6) representatives to be referred to as Provincial Directors, three from each of two (2) Regional Zones who are residents within one of the Constituency Associations within that Regional Zone. These officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these Bylaws and by the parliamentary authority adopted by the Party. Candidates for officer positions and all officers must be members in good standing of the Party.
- (b) Not less than ninety (90) days prior to any Annual General Meeting of the Party, the Executive Committee shall create the Nominating Committee, consisting of three (3) members. It shall be the duty of this committee to nominate candidates for the officer positions to be filled at the Annual General Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall report to the Executive Committee prior to the notice of the Annual General Meeting being sent to all members, and such report shall be included in the notice of the Annual General Meeting. Nominations may also be made by any member up to sixty-five (65) days prior to the date of the Annual General Meeting, and such nominations shall also be included in the notice of the Annual General Meeting.
- (c) The Officers shall be elected by ballot at each Annual General Meeting of the Party to serve until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the Annual General Meeting at which they were elected. Directors shall be elected by members in good standing of the Party from the Regional Zone in which the Director resides.
- (d) The President shall have general responsibility as the Chief Executive Officer of the Party, and shall preside over all provincial meetings of the Party at which the President is in attendance.
- (e) The Vice-President – Membership shall be the first vice-president, and shall be first to act for the President in the President’s absence or the President’s inability or refusal to act. The Vice-President – Membership shall be responsible for the growth of the Party, the maintenance of the membership lists and renewals, and for Constituency development and organization.

- (f) The Vice-President – Policy shall be the second vice-president, and shall act for the President and the Vice-President – Membership in the President’s and the Vice-President – Membership’s absence or the President’s and the Vice-President – Membership’s inability or refusal to act. The Vice-President – Policy shall be appointed to and serve as the Chair of the Resolutions and Bylaws Amendments Committee, and shall have primary responsibility to organize and manage all meetings and processes related to the consideration and adoption of principles and policies of the Party.
- (g) The Vice-President – Fundraising shall be primarily responsible for raising funds for the Party.
- (h) The Vice - President – Communications shall be responsible for all communications, advertising and promotional programs of the Party.
- (i) The Secretary shall:
 - i) Have custody and maintain or cause to be maintained all records of the Party except financial records, including the taking of the minutes at the society meetings.
 - ii) Have custody of the seal of the Society and, whenever used, it shall be authenticated by the signatures of the Secretary and the President or other Officer as designated by The Executive Committee.
 - iii) Register all approved Special Resolutions to amend the Bylaws with the Societies Registrar, pursuant to section 15(2) of the *Societies Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c. S-14, and amendments thereto (“the *Societies Act*”).
 - iv) Make available to any member of the society the minutes of the society at a reasonable time and place, and make available a record of the Executive Committee to the members of the Executive Committee only, unless the Executive Committee grants permission to a member of the society to inspect them, or unless the society by a two-thirds vote (or the vote of a majority of the total membership, or a majority vote if previous notice is given) orders the Executive Committee’s minutes to be produced and read to the society’s assembly.
- (j) The Treasurer shall:
 - i) Be responsible for all accounting and budgeting activities including the preparation of financial statements and reports, and shall have custody and maintain or cause to be maintained all financial records and documents of the Party, and
 - ii) Shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Party, and work with the Auditor in the verification and presentation of the Society financial statements.
 - iii) Comply with all enactments respecting the financial affairs of the Party, including, but not limited to the *Societies Act*, the *Election Act*, R.S.A. 2000 c. E-1, and amendments thereto (the “*Election Act*”, and the *Election Finances and Contribution Disclosure Act*, R.S.A. 2000, c.E-2, and amendments thereto (“the *Election Finances and Contribution Disclosure Act*”))

- (k) The following individuals shall not be eligible to be elected or appointed to be voting members of Executive Committee:
 - i) Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta, except the Leader
 - ii) Members of the Parliament of Canada from either the House of Commons or the Senate
 - iii) Employees of Members of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta
 - iv) Employees of Members of Parliament or Senators; and
 - v) Full-time employees of the Party, the Society or any other political party.
- (l) Any member of the Executive Committee may be removed from the Executive Committee by a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee.
- (m) The term for each Executive Committee member shall be no more than six (6) consecutive years.

ARTICLE V – LEADER

- (a) The Leader shall be elected by the members of the Party by ballot, and must receive a majority. If no candidate receives a majority after the first ballot, the balloting shall be repeated as many times as necessary to obtain a majority vote for a single candidate. The candidate receiving the lowest number of votes will be removed from the next ballot.
- (b) The Leader shall be limited to holding the office of Leader of the Party for the longer of two terms of the Legislative Assembly or eight years.
- (c) To be entitled to vote in a Leadership Vote one must have been a member in good standing of the Party for the fourteen (14) days immediately prior to the date of the vote.
- (d) At every Annual General Meeting, each attending member shall be asked, "Do you want a Leadership Vote to be called?" Voting shall be by secret ballot. The number of votes cast for and against the question, and the total valid votes cast, shall be announced to the Annual General Meeting before the end of the afternoon session on the same day.
- (e) If the membership votes in favor of a leadership vote as provided in Article V(d), or a written declaration demanding a Leadership vote is signed by three-quarters of the Caucus and also by three-quarters of the Executive Committee, or the office of Leader becomes vacant, and if not yet vacant the office of the Leader shall immediately become vacant and the Executive Committee shall, within fifteen (15) days announce when a Leadership Vote will be held. Notice shall be given to all members of the Party by the Executive Committee within a further twenty-one (21) days of the announcement. The Leadership Vote must be held not sooner

than three (3) months and not later than nine (9) months from the date of the event giving rise to the Leadership vote. An interim Leader shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Such interim leader shall not be eligible to be a candidate in the Leadership Vote.

- (f) In the event the Leader announces his or her intention to resign the position of Leader of the Party, a Leadership Vote must be called by the Executive Committee within fifteen (15) days from the date of the announcement, and notice shall be given to all members of the Party within thirty-six (36) days of the announcement. The Leadership Vote shall be held not less than three (3) months and not more than nine (9) months from the date of the announcement.
- (g) The Executive Committee shall establish the and mechanisms, including appropriate telephonic and computer technology, not inconsistent with the provisions hereof, whereby the Leadership Vote shall be conducted.
- (h) In order for a person to be considered as a candidate for the leadership of the Party, the individual must:
 - i. be a Member in good standing of the Party ;
 - ii. complete and submit an application form as specified by the Executive Committee, and agree that some or all of the contents of the application form as completed and submitted can be disclosed to all members of the Party and the public at large;
 - iii. provide at least one hundred (100) signatures of eligible Leadership voters;
 - iv. meet any requirements of qualification per the Alberta Elections Act;
 - v. pay all application fees as specified by the Executive Committee; and
 - vi. agree to abide by the rules and procedures for the conduct of the Leadership Vote as specified by the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VI – MEETINGS

- (a) The General Meetings of the Party, including Annual and Special, shall be a meeting of members of the Party.
- (b) An Annual General Meeting shall be held at least every two years at a time and place in Alberta to be fixed by the Executive Committee.
- (c) Special General Meetings, as referenced in Section 9(4) of the *Societies Act* as Special Meetings, may be called by the Executive Committee and shall be called upon the written request of one-quarter of all recognized Constituency Associations, where said Associations have held a Special General Meeting of the Constituency Association for the stated purpose of debating this matter and the request has been approved by a majority vote. The said Special General Meeting shall be held not later than 120 days after the receipt by the Secretary of the

written requests. The purpose of the special meeting shall be stated in the call of the meeting.

- (d) The quorum for all General Meetings shall be the lesser of a majority or one hundred (100) members in good standing of the Party. The Executive Committee may provide that members though not present at the place of the General Meeting, may communicate with those present through the use of appropriate satellite, telephonic and computer technology and shall be deemed present at the place of the General Meeting and shall be included in the quorum.
- (e) At least sixty (60) days written notice of the holding of any General Meeting shall be sent to all members of the Party who have been members in good standing of the Party for at least fourteen (14) days before the date of such notice. In the event of interruption of postal service, the required written notice shall be sent by courier, email or telecopier to the President of each recognized Constituency Association.
- (f) In preparation for an Annual General Meeting, The Executive Committee shall appoint the following Committees, the members of which must be members in good standing of the Party:
 - i. a General Meeting Arrangements Committee whose duties are to organize the General Meeting;
 - ii. a Nominations Committee whose duties are to review all nominations for party office and to ensure that at least one candidate stands for each elective office;
 - iii. a Resolutions and Bylaws Amendments Committee whose duties are to prepare a call for and accept Resolutions and Bylaws Amendments; to review and comment on all resolutions and Bylaws amendments submitted for consideration by the members at the General Meeting. The Resolutions and Bylaws Amendments Committee will ensure that all resolutions submitted to it are provided to all members.
 - iv. a Credentials Committee whose duties are to make final decisions as to voting status of all members and other persons attending the General Meeting; and
 - v. such other Committees as may be required to accomplish the purposes of a particular General Meeting;
- (g) Upon payment of the registration fee, any member in good standing of the Party shall have the right to attend and speak at all General Meetings and any member in good standing of the Party for at least fourteen (14) days before the date of such meeting shall have the right to vote on all matters properly brought before the membership for consideration.

ARTICLE VII – EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- (a) The Officers, the Leader of the Party, and two members of Caucus who are elected by Caucus and who shall be non-voting members, shall constitute the Executive Committee.
- (b) The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Party between its general meetings, fix the hour and place of meetings, make recommendations to the Party, and perform such other duties as are specified in these Bylaws. The Executive Committee shall be subject to the orders of the Party, and none of its acts shall conflict with action taken by the Party. No Officer, Employee or Member shall have any authority to act for or on behalf of the Party except as specifically provided by the Executive Committee through adoption of a motion or a standing rule of order.
- (c) Special meetings of the Executive Committee may be called by the President and shall be called upon the written request of two (2) members of the Executive Committee.
- (d) The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the President, or at the call of the Leader. Notice of such a meeting shall be given, with not less than seven (7) days and not more than twenty-one (21) days' notice of the meeting. In the event of the neglect, refusal or inability of the President or Leader to call a meeting of the Executive Committee, the Secretary shall call a meeting upon written request to the Secretary of at least two (2) members of the Executive Committee. Notice of such a meeting shall be given, within three days of receipt of the written request by the Secretary, with not less than seven (7) days and not more than twenty-one (21) days notice of the meeting.
- (e) A majority of the Executive Committee shall constitute a quorum.
- (f) Minutes of the Executive Committee meetings shall be provided to Executive Committee members and to Presidents of recognized Constituency Associations.
- (g) A member of the Executive Committee may participate in a meeting of the Executive Committee by means of telephone conference that permits all persons participating in the meeting to hear each other, and the member so participating in a meeting shall be deemed to be present at the meeting and shall be included in the quorum. This provision relating to meetings by telephone conference shall apply to each committee established by the Executive Committee.
- (h) The Executive Committee may, with the approval of two-thirds of its members present and voting, appoint additional persons to be interim members of the Executive Committee in order to fill any vacancy on the Executive Committee between Annual General Meetings, provided that the person appointed shall reside in the Regional Zone in which the vacancy occurred and is a member in good standing of the Party.

- (i) The Executive Committee may:
 - i) appoint an executive director who shall report to and be accountable to the Executive Committee and shall approve any staff positions as required for the organization and administration of the business of the Party,
 - ii) set salaries for the executive director and staff,
 - iii) set terms of reference and powers for the executive director, and
 - iv) by a two-thirds vote approve policies regarding the remuneration of Officers, and the reimbursement of Officers expenses.
- (j) The Executive Committee may approve the borrowing, raising or securing the payment of money pursuant to section 18 of the *Societies Act* and sections 40 and 42 of the *Election Finances and Contributions Disclosure Act*. In the event that debentures are to be issued, notice of the proposed issuance shall be sent by mail to all Party members no less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the next scheduled General Meeting at which the issue is to be considered, and shall require a seventy-five percent (75%) vote to approve.
- (k) The Executive Committee may authorize the drawing, making, accepting, endorsing, discounting, executing and issuing of promissory notes, bills of exchange and other negotiable or transferable instruments.
- (l) The Executive Committee shall recommend an auditor who shall be considered but may not be appointed by the Party at each Annual General Meeting. At each Annual General Meeting, the Party shall appoint an auditor for the next ensuing year. The Executive Committee shall have authority to enter into the engagement with the auditor and approve the auditor's fees. At each Annual General Meeting, the Treasurer shall present the audited financial statements of the Party as signed by the auditor.
- (m) The Executive Committee shall have the authority to file all such notices, returns or resolutions as may be required by law, and may delegate from time to time the signing and verification of such notices, returns or resolutions as may be required and appropriate.

ARTICLE VIII – COMMITTEES

- (a) The Executive Committee shall appoint from time to time such special committees as deemed necessary to carry on the work of the Party. The President shall be ex officio a member of all committees except the Nominating Committee.

ARTICLE IX – PRINCIPLES AND POLICIES

- (a) Any five (5) members in good standing of the Party may propose principles or policies for consideration by the members.
- (b) Notice of the call for proposed Principles and Policies or amendments to existing Principles and Policies shall be sent to all Party members no less than one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the date of the next scheduled General Meeting. All proposed Principles and Policies or amendments to existing Principles and Policies shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Resolutions and Bylaws Amendments Committee of the Party in writing as a Notice of Motion at least ninety (90) days prior to the date of the next scheduled General Meeting. All duly proposed Principles and Policies or amendments to existing Principles and Policies shall be sent to Party members no less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the next scheduled General Meeting.
- (c) Any proposed Principles and Policies shall require previous notice and a majority vote at a General Meeting to adopt and/or amend
- (d) No elected member, which includes a candidate, elected MLA or officer of the party, shall promote or do anything against the stated principles and policies of the Party.
- (e) In the event that a written complaint is received by the Executive Committee, alleging that an elected member has violated the Principles or Policies of the Party, the Executive Committee shall appoint a committee comprising a majority of the Executive Committee and a majority of the presidents of the recognized Constituency Associations, to hold such hearings in executive session as deemed necessary to determine the legitimacy of the complaint and, if the complaint is sustained, order such action or penalties as the committee shall deem appropriate, which may include suspension or termination of membership.

ARTICLE X – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

- (a) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order, as revised, shall be used to govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws or any special rules of order the Party may adopt.

ARTICLE XI – AMENDMENT OF BYLAWS

- (a) Amendments to the Bylaws of the Party may be proposed by any Constituency Association.
- (b) Notice of the call for proposed Special Resolutions to rescind, alter, add or otherwise amend the Bylaws shall be sent to all Party members no less than one hundred and twenty (120) days prior to the date of the next scheduled General Meeting. All said proposed Special Resolutions shall be submitted to the Chairman of the Resolutions and Bylaws Amendments

Committee of the Party in writing as a Notice of Motion at least ninety (90) days prior to the date of the next scheduled General Meeting. All duly proposed Special Resolutions shall be sent to Party members no less than sixty (60) days prior to the date of the next scheduled General Meeting.

- (c) Any amendment to these Bylaws shall require a seventy-five percent (75%) vote, pursuant to section 1(d)(I)(b) of the *Societies Act*.

ARTICLE XII – CAUCUS

- (a) A Caucus member must be a member in good standing of the Party.
- (b) If the government is formed by the elected members of the party, all government legislation, resolutions and regulatory change by order in Council, must have majority caucus approval before going into the Legislature or being signed into force.
- (c) Caucus members may, by a majority vote of Caucus, order a secret vote by ballot, on any issue.
- (d) Members of Caucus may only be ordered expelled from Caucus on the initiative of the Leader and supported by a majority vote of Caucus, held by secret vote by ballot.
- (e) Once approved by a Constituency Association, new party candidates may be rejected on the initiative of the Leader, but only after approval by a majority of the Executive Committee, consulted if necessary individually.
- (f) Members of the Leader's staff may be removed from office by a majority vote of Caucus, held by secret vote by ballot.
- (g) Caucus will elect two of its members as non-voting members of the Executive Committee, with the right to speak for the caucus.
- (h) Caucus may request the Executive Committee to call the Leader to account on any matter by a majority vote of Caucus, held by secret vote by ballot.
- (i) Membership fees will be split 50/50 between an established Constituency Association and the Party effective July 1st 2009.

ARTICLE XIII – CONSTITUENCY ASSOCIATIONS

- (a) Members shall be organized according to their residence in the electoral districts of Alberta entitled to elect a member to serve in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta.
- (b) The Constituency Associations shall be placed into two Regional Zones as specified by the Executive Committee, each consisting of an approximately equal number of constituencies representing approximate north/south geographic areas of the province.
- (c) Members may form a Constituency Association in an Electoral District in which at least fifteen (15) members of the Party reside. To obtain recognition as the Constituency Association of the Party, the Constituency Association shall,
 - i. actively support and promote the principles and policies of the Party
 - ii. adopt the Constituency Bylaws as specified by the Executive Committee, and
 - iii. apply in writing to the Executive Committee for recognition, including a copy of the minutes of the meeting in which the Constituency Bylaws were approved and a list of the Officers and Directors of the Constituency Association.
- (d) Subject to Article XIII(c) above and the other provisions of these Bylaws, the affairs of each Constituency Association shall be under the control of its members, acting through the Constituency Association Board of Directors who shall be responsible to ensure that the said affairs are conducted in a manner consistent with the principles and policies of the Party, the Bylaws of the Party and the Bylaws of the Constituency Association, and not prejudicial to the interests or well-being of any other Constituency Association of the Party, or of the Party. Where the number of members of the Party residing in the constituency in which the Constituency Association was formed becomes less than fifteen (15) members, the Executive Committee in its absolute discretion may withdraw recognition of the Constituency Association whereupon it shall cease to be a Constituency Association of the Party, and any funds or other assets of the Constituency Association shall be transferred to the Provincial Office of the Party, to be returned to the Constituency Association upon reactivation.
- (e) Lists of Constituency Association Presidents shall be made available to any President of a recognized Constituency Association who makes a request for such a list in writing to the Provincial Office of the Party.