



CONSTITUTION OF THE NEW ZEALAND PROGRESSIVE PARTY

1. Name of Organisation

This is an unincorporated society called the "Progressive Party", in short form "Progressive".

2. Date

This constitution was ratified at the Annual General Meeting of the Progressive Party.

3. Aims and Objectives

The Progressive Party aims to:

- 3.1 achieve economic and social justice by creating a progressive, partnership economy with economic and social policy based on full employment, universal access to health care and education, environmental sustainability and the public ownership of our strategic assets;
- 3.2 continue to foster a partnership between Maori and other New Zealanders that is based on developing Maori economic base through policies of regional and economic development and the unique nature of the foundation of our society;
- 3.3 build a democratic, co-operative and nationwide organization;
- 3.4 maximise our parliamentary representation in a long-term social democratic government by building on New Zealand's diverse communities.

4. Annual Conference.

- 4.1 The Annual Conference will be the Annual General Meeting of the Progressive Party.
- 4.2 The Annual Conference is the ruling body of the Progressive Party.
- 4.3 The Annual Conference can be either one single conference or, where the Executive has agreed, a minimum of 3 Regional Conferences with the same agendas, in any one year.

- 4.4 The Executive will determine the date and venue of the Annual Conference, or where applicable the dates and venues of the Regional Conferences that make up the Annual Conference, and shall formally notify each member and shall provide a minimum of three months notice.
- 4.5 The Leader, Deputy-Leader, President and ordinary members of the Executive will be elected at the Annual Conference, with all endeavours made to recognize gender, ethnicity and regional balance in the make-up of the Executive.
- 4.6 At each Annual Conference in addition to any actual vacancies, the positions of four of the longest serving ordinary members of the Executive will become vacant.
- 4.7 Where there is any doubt as to which ordinary member positions are vacant then a short straw exercise will be conducted.
- 4.8 Nothing prevents any member of the Executive standing for re-election.
- 4.9 All vacancies arising on the Executive, including the positions of the Leader, Deputy Leader and President, will be subject to a ballot by simple majority of the conference delegates.
- 4.10 Nominations may be received only from properly constituted and recognised branches for any position on the Executive, and may be accepted for voting upon at the Annual Conference provided the General Secretary received the nominations at least 1 month prior to the Annual Conference.
- 4.11 Each properly constituted and recognised branch will be entitled to five conference delegates for branches with up to 50 members and 1 extra delegate per 20 members after the initial 50 members.
- 4.12 Remits from branches and/or the Executive that propose to amend the constitution may be accepted for debate and vote at the Annual Conference provided, the remits have been circulated to all branches at least 2 months prior to the Annual Conference.

5. Executive

- 5.1 The Executive will consist of the Leader, Deputy-Leader, President and eight ordinary members.
- 5.2 The President will chair the Executive meetings and in his/her absence the Executive will appoint a temporary chairperson.
- 5.3 The Executive must elect or appoint a General Secretary and a Treasurer at its first meeting following the Annual Conference.

- 5.4 The Executive will have the power to form and dissolve any sub-committees and to co-opt any individual to the Executive it deems fit.
- 5.5. The Executive will be the senior decision making body of the Progressive Party between Annual Conferences and will have full authority to act on all matters for the organisation including:
 - 5.5.1 Executive's meetings,
 - 5.5.2 making rules for the membership, organisation and campaigns,
 - 5.5.3 all policy decisions between annual conferences,
 - 5.5.4 rules for the nomination of and selection of candidates, and
 - 5.5.5 changes to the constitution.
- 5.6. All rules for selection and nomination of electorate and list candidates must be made in accordance with Electoral law and circulated to the membership.
- 5.7 Rules made by the Executive must not conflict with this constitution.
- 5.8 All rules made by the Executive must be ratified at the first Executive meeting following the Annual Conference.
- 5.9 Remits from branches that propose to appeal any decision of the Executive, must be sent to the Executive and may be accepted for debate and vote at the Annual Conference provided, the remits have been circulated to all branches at least 2 months prior to the Annual Conference.

6. Branches

- 6.1 A Progressive Party branch must be formed with the supervision and prior approval of the Executive.
- 6.2 When the membership of any Electorate, constituency or natural area has combined to form a branch in accordance with clause 6.1, a Branch Executive Committee must be elected consisting of not more than a total of 10 members including the positions of Chair/Co-Chairs, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 6.3 Branch activities must conform to generally accepted meeting procedure and accounting practice.

- 6.4 All monies and property raised or obtained under the name of the Progressive party belongs to the Progressive party as an entity and not individual members.
- 6.5 All branches must abide by all decisions of this Constitution, the Annual Conference, and the Executive.

7. Membership

- 7.1 The membership of the Progressive Party will consist of Members who:
 - 7.1.1 pay the annual membership fee;
 - 7.1.2 abide by this constitution; and
 - 7.1.3 are approved as members by the Executive.
- 7.2. All persons over the age of 13 are eligible to be Members.
- 7.3 Financial membership is for a period of 12 months from January to December upon payment of the annual membership fee. The fee will be \$5 unless altered by the Executive.
- 7.4 Membership may be renewed upon payment within 3 months of expiry of the annual membership fee set by the Executive. In this event, the original date of renewal will remain the date of continued membership, not the date of receipt of payment.
- 7.5 All persons accepted as members are entitled to full participation in all the business and affairs of the organisation, subject to the usual rules of any meeting and the authority of the chair.
- 7.6 Membership may be refused or revoked by the Executive where the Executive is satisfied there are reasonable grounds for believing that the membership is not compatible with the objectives of the Progressive Party.
- 7.7 All applicable decisions of the Executive on acceptance, refusal or revocation of membership shall be communicated in writing to the member or applicant concerned and a fair process shall be followed to allow all relevant information to be placed before the Executive for its consideration.

- 7.8 Any member of the Progressive Party who stands for election to Parliament representing any other political party, or as an independent candidate, against an official Progressive Party candidate shall be deemed to have resigned from the Progressive Party.
- 7.9 For the purposes of any campaign, including parliamentary by-election campaigns, the Executive may by way of general letter to all branches or members, appeal to all members for special Campaign Dues. The timing, level and purpose of such dues will be set by decision of the Executive. Non-payment of any Campaign Due will not affect the rights of any member to participate in the affairs of the organisation.

8. Grievance or Dispute Resolution Procedures.

- 8.1 Resolution of any dispute between any member, branch or other body of the Progressive Party must be attempted between parties at the first instance.
- 8.2 If resolution fails the dispute must be placed in writing and forwarded to the President.
- 8.3 The President must consult with the General Secretary and other members of the Executive that the President deems appropriate.
- 8.4 Only after resolution cannot be achieved should the dispute be forwarded to the General Secretary for addressing by the Executive.
- 8.5 Subject to clause 5.9, the process of resolution taken by the Executive and any decision of the Executive is final.

9. Policy

To advance the objectives of the Progressive Party, the Party will pursue progressive policies towards sustainable economic development, a fair economy, full employment, free health and education and a fair basis of taxation to support an effective and co-operative government.

- 9.1 The basis of Progressive Party policies are the policies:
- 9.1.1 formulated for the previous general election; and
 - 9.1.2 policies advocated and voted on since by Progressive Members of Parliament with Executive approval.

- 9.2 The Executive will form a Policy sub-committee that will liaise with MPs, spokespeople and members to ensure that policy is updated between annual conferences.
- 9.3 Policy remits from branches and/or the Executive may be accepted for debate and voting upon at the Annual Conference, subject to confirmation by the Policy sub-committee and the Executive.
- 9.4. Remits from branches and/or the Executive that propose to amend the policy may be accepted for debate and vote at the Annual Conference provided, the remits have been received by the General Secretary and circulated to all branches at least 2 months prior to the Annual Conference.

10. Party Finances

- 10.1 All financial contributions, membership fees and donations shall be dealt with in accordance with rules to be established by the Executive but which in any case meet 'Generally Accepted Accounting Practice'.
- 10.2 The Treasurer must supply a balance sheet to the Executive upon a regular basis and to the Progressive Party membership at the annual conference.
- 10.3 Payments to Members.
 - 10.3.1 No member of the organization or any person associated with a member shall participate in or materially influence any decision made by the organization in respect of the payment to or on behalf of that member or associated person of any income, benefit, or advantage whatsoever. Any such income paid shall be reasonable and relative to that which would be paid in an arms length transaction (being the open market value). The provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from this document, and shall be included and implied into any document replacing this document.

11. Candidates for Election

Any member is eligible to apply to the Executive to be a candidate for election, by a process that will be set out in candidate selection rules approved and promulgated by the Executive. (refer rule 5.6.)

12. Caucus

Caucus is the body of party members elected as Members of Parliament responsible for the conduct and implementation of party activity and strategy in the parliamentary arena.

12.1 The Progressive Party Caucus members will consist of:

12.1.2 The elected MPs,

12.1.3 Party president

12.1.4 General secretary; and

12.1.5 Non-members of parliament invited by the caucus to attend any or all of the meetings

12.2 Only the elected MP's and the Party president will have voting rights.

12.2 Caucus will adopt rules and procedures of operation after each general election, subject to clause 12.2 above.

13. Coalition negotiations

13.1 Any coalition arrangements, or arrangements made with other parties in parliament proposed by the parliamentary leader, are subject to ratification by the Caucus, and must be laid before the Executive.

13.2 The Leader allocates all parliamentary or ministerial positions of MPs from the caucus, including spokespersons, shadow positions, ministers and members of the executive in other positions. These allocations are subject to ratification by the Caucus, and must be laid before the Executive.

14. Dissolution

This organisation may be dissolved by a 2/3 vote of all branches or by a 2/3 vote of all members by ballot, and the approval of 2/3 of the Executive. In the event of any dissolution, after the payment of all lawful obligations any surplus funds may be donated by the Secretary to an organisation with objects reasonably compatible with those of the Progressive Party but shall not be paid or distributed among the members of the Progressive Party.

15. Altering the Constitution

Notwithstanding clauses 4.11 and 5.5.5. no addition to or alteration or recession of the constitution shall be approved if it affects the non-profit aims or dissolution clause and the provisions and effect of this clause shall not be removed from the constitution and shall be included and implied into any constitution replacing this constitution.

Progressive Party: Rules for Candidate Selection for General Election

1 Nominees

- 1.1 Nominees for electorate seats and the Party list must be entered into the candidate pool if four financial members complete the approved nomination form and forward it with a curriculum vitae to the General Secretary, or if directly nominated by the Executive.
- 1.2 Nominees are eligible for selection as a Parliamentary candidate for the electorate or electorates, named on the nomination form or for the Party list once their nomination or nomination(s) has been approved by the Executive.
- 1.3 The Executive will inform both the nominee and the appropriate electorate committee, multi-branch committee or where these are not in place the committee approved by the Executive, of its decision as soon as possible after the nomination form having been received.
- 1.4 Nominees may be nominated for more than one electorate on the one form.
- 1.5 Only financial members of the Progressive Party are eligible to be entered into the candidate pool outlined in Rule 1.1

2 Uncontested Selection Meeting

- 2.1 An electorate committee in consultation with the Executive must set a date for selection of candidates.
- 2.2 Every financial member in the electorate must be given reasonable (ordinarily at least seven days) notice of a selection meeting.
- 2.3 The meeting must be chaired by (in descending order of priority):
 - the electorate chairperson or
 - a person otherwise appointed by the electorate committee, or
 - a person nominated by a majority of the members of that branch, or
 - a person nominated by the Executive, or

- in the case of a multi-branch meeting the person nominated by a majority at the meeting.
- 2.4 The meeting must elect a returning officer and the nominee may appoint a scrutineer.
 - 2.5 The nominee may address the meeting for a maximum time set by the chairperson (no more than ten minutes) and must then be available to answer reasonable questions.
 - 2.6 At the conclusion of questions, the chairperson must ascertain by show of hands if a simple majority of members present wish a secret ballot to be held. If not, then the nominee may be declared a nominated candidate for that branch and the nomination sent to the Executive for confirmation. If at least a simple majority of members present wish a secret ballot to be held, the returning officer must conduct a secret ballot of members present with each member receiving one vote.
 - 2.7 The nominee must receive a simple majority of support of the members to be presented to the Executive for final confirmation.
 - 2.8 If confirmed by the Executive the nominee is the duly selected candidate for that electorate, (subject to the authority of the Executive under Rule 4).

3 Contested Selection Meeting

- 3.1 The electorate committee in consultation with the Executive must set a date for selection of a candidate from amongst the nominees.
- 3.2 Every financial member in the electorate must be given reasonable (ordinarily at least seven days) notice of a selection meeting.
- 3.3 The meeting must be chaired by (in descending order of priority):
 - the electorate chairperson, or
 - a person otherwise appointed by the electorate committee, or
 - a person nominated by a majority of the members of that branch, or
 - a person nominated by the Executive.
- 3.4 The meeting must elect a returning officer and the nominees may each appoint a scrutineer.

In the case of where there are two or more nominees, the successful

candidate shall be selected by a selection panel

The Chair of this panel plus two further panel members shall be appointed by the Executive

The local electorate members shall select three panel members where there are up to 29 members in attendance at the selection meeting. Where there are 30-39 members present the meeting may select an additional panel member. Where there are 40 or more members present, the meeting may select a further panel member, making a maximum of five local panel members in total.

The nominees may address the meeting for a maximum time set by the chairperson (no more than ten minutes each) and must then be available to answer reasonable questions.

- 3.5 At the conclusion of questions the returning officer must conduct a secret ballot of members present with each member receiving one vote.

If there are more than two nominees the ballot must be conducted by First Past the Post vote, with the lowest polling candidate dropping out until one candidate achieves an absolute majority of all votes present. The result of this ballot shall be tabled to the selection panel prior to its vote on the candidate.

All members of the selection panel shall receive one vote each.

Where a selection panel has a tied vote the vote from the meeting shall act as a casting vote.

The nominee who receives a majority of the panel shall be declared the successful candidate and may be presented to the Executive for final confirmation as the duly selected candidate for that electorate.

- 3.6 If confirmed by the Executive the nominee is the duly selected candidate for that electorate, (subject to the authority of the Executive under Rule 4).

4 Executive Oversight of all Candidates

- 4.1 The Executive must approve all nominees before selection, and confirm all nominated candidates from electorates before they become formal candidates for the Progressive Party.
- 4.2 The Executive may directly appoint candidates in electorates which are not functioning appropriately or which have been unable to select

candidates by the time the Executive considers it appropriate and necessary for the conduct of elections.

4.3 The Executive may at any time before Nomination Day, deselect a person from being a candidate where the Executive has reasonable grounds to believe that the person:

- has acted contrary to the objectives of the Progressive Party in regard to that election or
- is not a fit and proper person to be a candidate for the Progressive Party.

5. List Selection Procedures

5.1 A nominee for the Party list must be nominated on an approved nomination form by four (4) financial members as set out in Rule 1.1.

- a) Nominees may reside anywhere in New Zealand .
- b) A Moderating Rank List Committee will be established for the purpose of producing the final national list of Party candidates in rank order.

The Moderating Rank List Committee will consist of the following:

- a) Four (4) Executive members consisting of the President, the General Secretary and the two other Executive members appointed by the Executive.
- b) The Leader and Deputy Leader.
- c) Two (2) members one from the North Island and the other from the South Island appointed by the Executive.

The Chair will be the person nominated by a majority of the Moderating Rank List Committee, and will have the casting vote in the event of a tied vote.

Each member has only one vote.

The Moderating Rank List Committee in compiling the list will have regard to the following matters:

- a) representation of tangata whenua, women, men, ethnic groups such as Pacific Island peoples, aged and youth

- b) the geographic spread of the population
 - c) recognition that many groups of people, previously under-represented in Parliament, have skills which will enhance the Parliamentary process; and
 - d) that a spread of all these groups across the list is optimal
- 5.2 Constituency and list nominations must be called for at the same time.
- 5.3 Sitting MPs will be subject to the same constituency and list selection processes all other candidates.

Candidates may be nominated for either constituency or list selection, or both if they wish.