

Bylaws of ACT

We the people of ACT, in order to make real our beliefs, facilitate effective participation in the political process, promote Justice for all, ensure Tranquility of our neighborhoods, our cities, our nation, and our world, provide for the common defense of all peoples against tyranny and oppression in any guise, promote the general welfare and harmony of people and protect the natural resources of our planet, and secure the Blessings of Liberty for all people do ordain and establish these articles for the members of ACT.

Further, we the members of ACT recognize that the achievement of our ideals begins as we approximate these ideals in our strivings. We re-assert one of the basic tenets of democracy -- that truth has a unique power of its own and that the lasting test of such truth is its ability to survive honest scrutiny. These principles in no way diminish the necessity of knowledgeable assessment of power relationships or some of the lessons of "practical politics". These latter values can be essential servants of our highest ideals.

In keeping with the principles that we as members of ACT have set forth, we would like to recommend these goals:

1. To promote and assist causes and candidates who appeal strongly to the philosophy of this organization.
2. To provide an open forum for all interested candidates so that issues of interest to the membership can be discussed.
3. To provide means of communication to the membership through a newsletter.
4. To establish monies for the use of the organization.
5. To serve the community through a series of community forums and workshops, thereby attracting new members.

I. Authority

- A. All powers of ACT shall reside in the General Membership.
- B. Only members may vote at any meeting.

II. Membership

- A. Membership shall be determined by payment of dues. Dues shall be set by the Steering Committee.
- B. A membership form shall be submitted by or for each person or household requesting to be a member or members. A separate check or other form of separate payment shall be submitted with each new membership.

C. The membership term shall be one year and shall run from January 1 through December 31 with a three month grace period for renewal.

III. Meetings

A. General Membership meetings shall be held at least twice a year. Additional meetings shall be called by the Steering Committee as necessary, or upon petition by 15% of the General Membership.

IV. Administration

A. The administration of ACT shall consist of a Steering Committee composed of officers, committee chairpersons, and past presiding Chairpersons.

B. The General Membership, at a regularly scheduled meeting, shall elect officers: no more than three nor less than two presiding chairpersons, and at least one secretary and at least one treasurer.

C. The terms of office for members of the Steering Committee shall be for two years. Elections shall be held within three months following statewide general elections.

D. A recall election shall be held upon petition of 20% of the General Membership.

E. The Steering Committee may appoint temporary officers in the event of a vacancy, until the next General Membership meeting, at which time a successor will be elected for the remainder of the term.

F. Committee Chairpersons shall be appointed by the Steering Committee.

V. Powers and Responsibilities of the Steering Committee

A. Steering Committee Meetings shall be held monthly. Meetings shall be advertised and open to the membership. All ACT members present at Steering Committee meetings may vote on all questions except endorsement recommendations made by the Steering Committee, recommendations of candidates / issues, and money distribution.

B. The Steering Committee shall establish committees as it deems appropriate.

C. The Steering Committee shall be authorized to make policy decisions on consensus issues among ACT members where time or other factors do not permit consultation with the General Membership. Consensus issues, for the purpose of these bylaws, shall be said to exist when 3/4 of the Steering Committee present at a regularly scheduled meeting, or when 3/4 of the total Steering Committee at a Special Meeting, or when polled, agree. The Steering Committee shall inform the General Membership of such decisions in the next newsletter.

D. The Steering Committee shall authorize expenditures for routine administrative functions, including fund raising and program events. Further, the Steering Committee is authorized to spend funds as it deems necessary on consensus issues among ACT members between General Membership meetings. The Steering Committee may establish a contingency fund.

E. Nine members of the Steering Committee shall constitute a quorum.

VI. Endorsements and Organizational Support

A. There is no quorum requirement.

B. ACT may offer its organizational support to causes or candidates upon a 60% majority in an endorsement ballot. Organizational support shall consist of access to all files and materials and such monies as voted by the Steering Committee.

C. If 3/4 of the Steering Committee present at a regularly scheduled Steering Committee meeting, or 3/4 of the total Steering Committee at a special meeting, agree that there are more than three candidates whose philosophies are consistent with those of ACT and who have substantial support among ACT members, then the Steering Committee may, before the balloting, reduce the required percentage for organizational support to 50% plus one of those voting.

D. All ballots may or may not be accompanied by a recommendation of the Steering Committee for each race or issue. Balloting shall be conducted by mail and/or at a special election meeting.

E. The General Membership shall be notified as feasible of Steering Committee meetings or other committee meetings at which action on endorsements or endorsement procedures will take place.

F. Upon petition of 20% of the membership the Steering Committee shall issue a special endorsement ballot.

VII. Election Procedures

The membership of ACT recognizes that ACT is a democratic organization dependent on the good will of its members. Towards this end, the following rules shall govern the election procedures for ACT endorsements. The purpose of these rules is to prevent the manipulation of the endorsement process, to safeguard the voting privileges of members and to further the democratic principles and procedures of ACT.

A. A new member who wants to vote on ACT endorsements must become a member by the meeting of the Steering Committee at which recommendations for endorsements are made to the General Membership.

B. Members must be eighteen years of age or older in order to vote in ACT endorsement elections.

C. No proxies or duplicated ballots may be used in ACT endorsement elections.

D. The Election Procedures Committee shall devise a system to stamp, emboss or sequentially number each ballot and ballot envelope with the goal of ensuring the integrity and privacy of the ballot.

E. Each completed ballot sent in by mail shall be submitted in the ACT ballot envelope. Each voting member in the household must sign the outside of the ACT ballot envelope.

F. Each members who casts his or her ballot at a General Membership Meeting at which an election is held to vote on endorsements must sign a voter roster and submit his or her ballot to the Election Procedures Committee member present not more than ten minutes after the last speaker. The person chairing the General Membership meeting shall announce the specific deadline for submission of all ballots.

G. The counting of ballots for any ACT election shall be conducted by the Elections Procedures Committee. No persons other than the Co-Chairs of ACT or representatives of candidates being considered for ACT's endorsement may observe the counting of ballots. Such observers will be permitted to view the ballot counting process only if they remain silent and do not physically interfere with the persons counting the ballots.

H. Any challenges to specific ballots shall be decided by a majority of the Co-Chairs of ACT.

VIII. Access to ACT General Files and Computer Data

A. Except for those circumstances outlined below, no access to the ACT files and computer data (herein known as files) shall be granted without the formal endorsement of the General Membership acting in accordance with the procedures for endorsement set forth in these By-laws.

B. The Steering Committee shall have the authority to permit access to ACT files in advance of formal endorsement of the requesting party if and only if:

1. Written notice of the intention to make the request at a regular meeting of the Steering Committee is received by the Steering Committee members at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting. (If notice is mailed at least twelve (12) days prior to the meeting, this shall constitute a presumption that the required seven (7) days notice requirement has been satisfied.)

2. A quorum of the Steering Committee is present at the time of voting on the request.

3. Three-fourths (3/4) of the members of the Steering committee present and voting approve the request. (No telephone polling or proxies of any kind shall be permitted.)

VIII. Amendments to the Bylaws

A. The General Membership may amend these bylaws by a simple majority of those voting on the amendment. Amendments shall be proposed upon petition by 20% of the General Membership or by the Steering Committee.

B. Proposed changes in the bylaws shall be published one month prior to a General Membership meeting when the changes will be voted upon. All changes not accepted shall be referred to committee.

Adopted 1973.

Amended June 18, 1975.

Amended October 15, 1975.

Amended November, 1979.

Amended January 26, 1982.

Amended January 28, 1988.

Amended July 6, 1989.