

BERNIE SANDERS NETWORK BYLAWS

The Bernie Sanders Network Bylaws shall hereinafter be referred to as “bylaws.”

ARTICLE I

NAME

1.01 Name

The name of this organization shall be “The Bernie Sanders Network.” The activities of the organization may also be conducted as “Bernie Sanders Network,” “The Bernie Sanders Network of the Capital Region,” or “BSN.”

The Bernie Sanders Network shall hereinafter be referred to by its full name or as “Network.”

ARTICLE II

PURPOSE

2.01 Purpose

The Bernie Sanders Network is a volunteer-led organization operated to advocate for progressive politics in the Capital Region of New York. Its activities primarily involve activating and strengthening community engagement, education, and support for progressive agendas at every level of government; placing true progressives in political positions; and forging strong and mutually supportive alliances with a broad spectrum of progressive-minded organizations to create a network that has local, regional, state, federal, and even global reach.

ARTICLE III

EXECUTIVE STEERING COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEES

3.01 Executive Steering Committee Makeup

The membership of the Executive Steering Committee, hereinafter referred to as “Committee,” comprises nine (9) individuals:

Jay Bellanca

Anasha Cummings

Doug Bullock

Martha Devaney

Thomas Goodfellow

Sudhir Khetan

Josephine Moore

Dustin Reidy

Zackery Smith

3.02 Maximum Size of Committee

The number of individuals making up the Committee is not to exceed twenty (20) at any given time.

3.03 Resignation or Expulsion from Committee

Any individual may resign from the Committee at any time by notifying the Committee by e-mail. No reason or notice is required for resignation; however, resignation is final upon receipt of the notice by the remainder of the Committee.

Should a Committee member fail to attend four (4) consecutive meetings (general and committee combined), the Committee shall vote on the removal of that member at the next meeting of the Committee. A majority vote of a quorum shall result in the removal of that member.

3.04 Addition of Members to the Committee

Any individual may be nominated to join the Committee by self-nomination or nomination by a current Committee member. For acceptance to the Committee, the nominee must (1) be approved by at least three additional Committee members and (2) be opposed by no more than one-fourth of current Committee members. Notice of nomination must be made to all sitting members of the Committee electronically and shall have seven (7) calendar days to issue an opinion on the nomination. Membership on the Committee shall commence at the start of the next Committee meeting.

3.05 Subcommittees

The following subcommittees are active to promote different aspects of BSN's Purpose (Section 2.01). Indicated in parentheses are the initials of the steering committee member(s) leading the subcommittee.

1. Communications Subcommittee (SK)
2. Electoral Subcommittee (ZS & DR; formerly "Candidates Subcommittee")
3. Issues Subcommittee (ZS)
4. Action Subcommittee (CW & KG; formerly "Events Subcommittee")
5. Outreach Subcommittee (TG)

All subcommittee chairs should be Committee members.

3.06 Confidentiality

Confidential information discussed at Committee meetings or among its members includes candidates for electoral support, issue campaigns, potential or in-planning actions, and new Committee or Advisory Board members and if identified as confidential by the initiator. All such communication is confidential regardless of medium, e.g., in-person or phone discussion, e-mail, written correspondence, etc. Any Committee member who breaches confidentiality in a reckless or continual manner will be subject to expulsion via Committee vote; a majority vote of a quorum at a meeting shall result in the removal of that member.

3.07 Committee Accountability

The Committee needs to be a committed, active, and accountable committee for the Bernie Sanders Network to be successful. As such, the following are expected of all Committee members:

- Service: Every Steering Committee member needs to actively serve in at least one of the following capacities:

- In a leadership position on a subcommittee on a subcommittee (preferably as a chair or other leadership position)
 - as a Committee co-chair
 - as a Committee officer
 - NYPAN Executive Committee member (see 4.b)
- Events: Committee members are expected to make a concerted effort to be present at all BSN meetings and most if not all BSN-sponsored events. (Events are scheduled with the intention of accommodating as many schedules as possible.)

If any Committee member is unable to be an active member, it is the responsibility of the member to discuss their contribution with the Committee and ascertain if a different role within the BSN organization would be a better fit for them and BSN at that time.

3.08 Committee Meeting Procedures

All Committee meetings will be conducted following Roberts Rules of order (a .pdf cheat sheet is located in the SC google shared folder).

Parliamentarian: One co-chair, to be decided by the co-chairs, will serve as the Parliamentarian. If neither co-chair is available for a meeting, the members present will decide who will serve as Parliamentarian.

ARTICLE IV

OFFICERS

4.01 General

The officers of BSN shall consist of two (2) Co-Chairs, one (1) treasurer and one (1) secretary. The treasurer and secretary shall serve on calendar year January 1- December 31. The Co-Chairs shall serve terms of one (1) calendar year staggers with one Co-Chair to be elected every six months. The term of office of the first treasurer emplaced under these bylaws shall end on December 31, 2017. The first slate of Co-Chairs to emplaced by under these bylaws shall consist of one Co-Chair who serves 12 months and one Co-Chair who serves 18 months in order to implement the staggered terms required above.

4.02 Responsibilities

Treasurer – The treasurer shall be responsible for the fiscal functions of the steering committee and the chapter pursuant to the NYPAN bylaws.

Secretary – The secretary shall be responsible for keeping minutes at Committee meetings and uploading the completed minutes to the shared Committee online folder. The secretary shall also remind individuals of action items established at Committee meetings, and create and circulate a draft of the agenda for the following Committee meeting.

Co-Chairs – The Co-Chairs shall act as the designated business officers for BSN as well as act as spokes persons for the organization in concert with the Chair of the Communications Committee and their designees. The Co-Chairs shall be responsible for organizational strategic planning and development with the advice and consent of the Committee. Co-Chairs shall further serve as Secretary and Parliamentarian as described under “Committee Meeting Procedures.” In the event of a tied vote in any proceeding of BSN, the Co-Chairs shall constitute the tie breaking votes.

4.03 Qualifications

Officers shall be elected from those “Members” as defined by BSN for the purpose of representation to the New York Progressive Action Network (NYPAN).

The treasurer shall meet all qualifications defined in the NYPAN bylaws.

Pursuant to “Committee Accountability”, it is preferred that the Co-Chairs have previously successfully served as a subcommittee chair or as an officer. The strategic development and oversight functions of the co-chairs require substantial institutional knowledge and memory; thus, it is critical that candidates have a proven record of commitment to progressive values, attendance at BSN functions, including active participation with the BSN subcommittee activities, leadership within BSN, follow through and punctuality in their duties.

ARTICLE V

ADVISORY BOARD

5.01 Purpose and Scope

Individuals comprising the advisory board will serve as informal consultants to the Bernie Sanders Network. They do not have voting rights, nor does their presence at Committee meetings contribute to quorum.

5.02 Advisory Board Makeup

The current membership of the Advisory Board comprises five (5) individuals:

Carol June-Washington

Jim Kaufman

Joe Seeman

Phil Steck

Larry Wittner

The Advisory Board will be further populated in accordance with section 5.04 below.

5.03 Resignation or Expulsion from Advisory Board

Any individual may resign from the Advisory Board at any time by notifying the Committee by e-mail. No reason or notice is required for resignation; however, resignation is final upon receipt of the notice by the Committee.

Members of the Advisory Board are not subject to any Committee or other meeting attendance requirement, as they will be contacted directly by the Committee or its member(s) if any need for consultation arises; however, are subject to the same confidentiality requirements as the steering committee. In extreme cases, e.g., extended non-responsiveness to contact, the Committee reserves the right to vote on the expulsion of that member at any Committee meeting. A majority vote of a quorum shall result in the removal of that member.

5.04 Addition of Members to Advisory Board

The process by which individuals are added to the Advisory Board is equivalent to that for addition to the Committee, as described in Section 3.04.

ARTICLE VI

FREQUENCY OF COMMITTEE AND GENERAL BODY MEETINGS

6.01 Frequency of Executive Committee Meetings

The Committee will seek to meet with a lapse of no more than six (6) weeks between meetings. The dates and locations for meetings will be chosen pursuant to the availability of Committee members and venue.

6.02 Frequency of General Body Meetings

General body meetings will take place with a lapse of no more than twelve (12) weeks between meetings. The dates and locations for meetings will be chosen pursuant to the availability of Committee members and venue.

ARTICLE VII

QUORUM

7.01 General

For purposes of approval of expenditures, general body meetings, nominations, amendments to by-laws, and other decisions regarding external stakeholders or any other matter, a quorum of the Committee shall be one-half of the total Committee membership rounded to the nearest whole number. Teleconferencing and video conferencing shall constitute presence at the meetings.

7.02 Amendments to Bylaws

Amendments to by-laws are subject to the same rules as in Section 7.01, except that they require two-thirds approval by attending committee members.

ARTICLE VIII

ENDORSEMENT POLICY

<Addition of endorsement policy language pending Committee discussion>

ARTICLE IX

CODE OF ETHICS

The decentralized executive structure of the Bernie Sanders Network necessitates that Committee members all participate and mutually enforce the code components below.

9.01 Personal attacks on other Committee member(s) by any Committee member will not be tolerated, with potential consequences including but not limited to ejection from the current meeting, or, if found to be necessary by the Committee through a majority vote, the Committee Actions constituting an attack include but are not limited to the use of inappropriate profanity, aggressive questioning, or ad hominem remarks.

9.02 All members are expected to maintain a high standard of transparency in discussing relevant news, events, partner organization initiatives, and so forth. Any member obtaining such information is encouraged to circulate it to the entire Network (via posting to either the unmoderated or moderated e-mail listserv or posting on the Network's Facebook Group Page) to prevent "silo-ing" of information between subsets of Network membership.