

Policies and Procedures for ADP Caucuses and ADP Councils
(Revised 9/25/19 to reflect ADP Bylaws adopted September 21, 2019)

PREAMBLE

Note that many ADP Caucus and Council processes are designed to coincide with the ADP biennial organization schedule. The next Biennial Organization Meeting is scheduled for January 2021. Thus, this policy document includes accommodations for the interim period (“INTERIM MODIFICATIONS”), as appropriate.

I. ROLE OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

The ADP Executive Board (EB) shall adopt and execute policies and procedures for Caucuses and Councils that are consistent with the ADP Bylaws. The EB shall make efforts to facilitate the successful establishment and operation of these groups. The EB may designate a person or group within the ADP to assist with the oversight and support of Caucuses and Councils.

II. GENERAL DEFINITIONS AND PURPOSE

An **ADP Caucus** is a subgroup of the State Committee membership that represents, acts on behalf of, or advocates for a specific constituency/identity group and the issues that impact it.

An **ADP Council** is a subgroup of the State Committee memberships that represents, acts on behalf of, or advocates for a specific issue or cause.

ADP Caucuses and ADP Councils will have a stated mission, activities, goals and purposes consonant with those of the ADP and the DNC. A Party caucus or council will be a statewide organization.

III. INITIAL APPLICATION

A. Definitions

1. ADP Caucuses.

Groups eligible to apply as an **ADP Caucus** will meet these criteria:

- Represent a constituency (identity group) that shares inherent and/or immutable traits which define the Caucus.
- Demonstrate that the constituency (identity group) includes State Committeepersons from least four (4) different counties.
- Represent a significant constituency of the ADP that is currently, or has been historically, underrepresented.

To demonstrate eligibility, the application will include a **Constituency Declaration** containing the signatures, clearly printed names, date, and county of residence for constituent State Committeepersons from at least four different counties.* The signature of each State Committeeperson on such Declaration will affirm that **they share the common identity which defines the Caucus.**

*INTERIM MODIFICATION FOR CAUCUS CRITERION: If a constituency group wishing to establish an ADP Caucus does not currently include State Committeepersons from four counties, this requirement will be modified. The Caucus will be required to meet the full requirements by 2021.

2. ADP Councils.

Groups eligible to apply as an **ADP Council** will meet these criteria:

- Represent and advocate for an issue or cause that is of importance to the Democratic Party.
- Demonstrate support from at least 10% of the State Committee membership, with representation from at least four (4) counties.

To demonstrate Council eligibility, the application will include a **Council Declaration of Support** containing the signatures, clearly printed names, date, and county of residence of at least 10% of the full membership of the State Committee with representation from at least four (4) counties, affirming by signature their support for the establishment of such an ADP Council.

NOTE: The Council Declaration of Support **is not a membership roster**. See section IV., below.

B. Application process

1. Application requirements. Applications should be submitted electronically to the ADP Secretary within two weeks of a Biennial Organization Meeting.*

The application shall include:

- Proposed name of the Caucus or Council (e.g. The ADP xxx Caucus; The ADP YYY Council)
- Demonstration of eligibility (see above definitions and Declarations descriptions)
- The mission statement
- A description of proposed goals and activities for the next 24 months*, with a timeline
- An outline of anticipated collaborative support required from ADP
- Names of the Leader and Co-Leader
- An initial membership roster, meeting the membership requirements (below).

2. Review. Applications shall be reviewed and decided upon by the Executive Board or its designee no later than 30 days following each Biennial Organization meeting. The Executive Board has the final authority regarding eligibility to organize a Caucus or a Council.

*INTERIM ACCOMODATIONS FOR APPLICATIONS:

- Applications will be accepted October 2019 through March 2020.
- Proposed goals and activities shall be proposed for the period through December 2020.
- Applications will be reviewed and decided upon by the Executive Board or its designee no later than 4 weeks after receipt.

IV. MEMBERSHIP

A. Eligible members

ADP Caucus Members and ADP Council Members shall be State Committeepersons. Groups may choose to include “associates” who are not considered Members; they shall be PCs or other Democrats who are not State Committeepersons. Associates may attend meetings and participate in Caucus or Council activities. Associates shall not have voting rights.

B. Requirements for number and composition of membership

Each Caucus* or Council shall maintain a membership of at least twenty-five (25) State Committeepersons, including persons from at least four (4) different counties.

*INTERIM ACCOMODATION FOR CAUCUS MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS: To allow for constituency group members to be included and active within a Caucus in the interim period, the Caucus may include up to 12 PCs who are not State Committeepersons to reach 25 members.

C. Membership Roster

A complete roster of members containing name, county of residence, LD (if applicable), precinct number, phone number, email address, and record of meeting attendance shall be created and kept current. For Caucuses, the roster may also denote which members identify with the caucus constituency.

V. LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT

A. Leadership

Each ADP Caucus and ADP Council shall select a Leader and a Co-Leader who are State Committee Members residing in different counties. Leadership terms shall be two (2) years* and will correspond with the Biennial Organization Meeting. The Leader and Co-Leader shall not be officers of the ADP, nor shall they be officers of any political action committee.

The Leaders will schedule and conduct meetings, and correspond with ADP leadership and staff, as appropriate. They, or their designees, shall correspond with members, maintain meeting minutes, and track nominal income and expenditures.

*INTERIM ACCOMODATION: In 2019 or 2020, terms of less than two years will begin with the formation of a Caucus or Council and end with the 2021 Biennial Organizational Meeting (at which time new terms begin).

B. Financial management

1. *Reporting.* Monthly financial activity, if any, shall be reported to the ADP Secretary and the ADP Treasurer.

2. *Management of funds.* No Caucus or Council shall maintain its own bank account. Funds shall be collected, maintained and distributed by the ADP.

3. *Dues.* Collection of dues is encouraged and may be applied to offset meeting room rental costs at State Committee meetings and other operating expenses of the Caucus or Council.

4. *Existing Funds.* Any former caucus or council (currently designated as a PAC) has options pertaining to funds in a bank account. It can choose from among these options:

- a. keep the funds within the PAC for use within the PAC, independent of the ADP (and submit appropriate, timely reports to the Secretary of State’s office)
- b. keep a portion of the funds within the PAC and donate another portion of funds to the ADP for activities that could include financial support to a newly eligible ADP Caucus or ADP Council (and submit appropriate, timely reports to the Secretary of State’s office)
- c. dissolve the PAC and donate all funds to the ADP for activities that could include financial support to a newly eligible ADP Caucus or ADP Council

VI. ADP CAUCUS AND ADP COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

ADP Caucuses and Councils “have a stated mission, activities, goals and purposes consonant with those of the ADP and the DNC.”

A. Recommended activities

Community Outreach

- Propose and help implement voter outreach activities such as voter registration, Get out the Vote, and the recruitment of PCs and other volunteers.
- Propose and help organize Democratic candidate forums or other educational events to inform and engage communities of interest.

Party Building

- Propose and help implement activities to make the ADP more welcoming and relevant to the electorate, to Democratic PCs, and to State Committee members who identify with the goals of the Caucus or Council.
- Build the State Committee membership with people in the Caucus constituency or who are advocates or experts in the Council’s focus area.
- Build the Party leadership, at the state and local level, with people in the Caucus constituency or who are advocates or experts in the Council’s focus area.
- Formulate proposals for consideration by the ADP Resolutions Committee.
- Contribute to the activities of the ADP Platform Committee.
- Propose ADP bylaws or policy changes that will support the goals of the Caucus or Council.

Candidates

- Encourage Democratic candidacy for public office among people in the Caucus constituency or who are advocates or experts in the Council’s focus area.

Fundraising

- Sponsor and organize ADP fundraising events that highlight speakers or specific issues of importance to the Caucus or Council.
- Organize an ADP fundraising event for the purpose of supporting a specific project of the Caucus or Council.

B. Expectations

Within each renewal cycle, Caucuses and Councils are expected to conduct activities within at least 3 of the 4 categories noted above.

VII. MEETINGS

A. Meeting frequency

Each Caucus and Council shall meet in the context of each State Committee Meeting. The Caucus or Council will hold additional meetings, including remotely, as required to pursue its mission and implement its goals.

B. Attendance

Attendance must be taken at every meeting of a Caucus or Council. Members are strongly encouraged to attend all meetings held in concert with the State Committee Meetings.

VIII. REPORTS

A. Submission and frequency

All reports shall be submitted electronically to the ADP Secretary. Interim progress reports are due two weeks after each State Committee Meeting. Biennial Reports are due two weeks after each ADP Biennial Organizational Meeting.

B. Content

1. *All Reports.* All reports, including Biennial Reports, will include:

- Name of Caucus or Council
- Name of Leader and Co-Leader
- Current mission statement
- Date of approval of application or of most recent renewal
- Current roster of members
- Attendance lists for all meetings held since previous report
- Summary of activities, progress and challenges since the last report
- Metrics demonstrating advancement (e.g., voters registered, funds raised, events held, PCs recruited)

2. *Biennial Reports.* Biennial Reports shall also include a review of activities and progress since the last Biennial Report (or since Caucus or Council establishment, when applicable).

IX. RENEWAL

A. Renewal Applications

Renewal applications should be submitted to the ADP Secretary no later than 2 weeks after a Biennial Organization Meeting.

The application shall include:

- A Biennial Report with all its required contents (see above, VII)
- The mission statement (it may be revised for the renewal)
- A description of proposed goals and activities for the next 24 months, with a timeline
- An outline of anticipated collaborative support required from ADP
- Names of the Leader and Co-Leader for the next term
- *For Caucuses only:* A current Constituency Declaration, based on the current group of State Committeepersons (see III.A.1, above).

B. Review

Applications for renewal will be reviewed and decided upon by the Executive Board or its designee no later than 4 weeks following each Biennial Organization meeting. In the intervening period, the Caucus or Council is encouraged to continue operating as usual.

X. STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Executive Committee membership may be available to Caucuses and Councils. When an ADP Caucus or Council is approved for renewal and its Biennial Report is found to demonstrate substantive contributions to the goals and purposes of the ADP (as determined by the Executive Board or its designee), the Caucus shall be entitled to select one of its Members to serve on the Executive Committee of the ADP. (Thus, the earliest EC membership would begin in February 2021.)

XI. REVOCATION EVENTS

The Executive Board has the final authority regarding dissolution of a Caucus or a Council. Dissolution of a group may occur if an ADP Caucus or ADP Council does any of the following:

- a. fails to remain in compliance with eligibility or membership requirements.
- b. fails to comply with current policies and procedures.
- c. fails to follow the bylaws of the ADP.
- d. makes a public statement that conflicts with a position, rule, or procedure of the ADP.
- e. endorses any candidate for public office during the pre-primary or primary period.
- f. endorses or devotes effort on behalf of candidates other than Democratic candidates.