

**Montana National Association of Social Workers
Political Action for Candidate Election
Bylaws**

I. PREAMBLE

Social workers traditionally have been committed to improving American life through voluntary association of a sociopolitical nature. The involvement of social workers in social movements and political processes has taken many forms and concentrated on various elements needing improvement in American society and government, depending on many factors within the profession's development.

In recent years, social workers from the National Association of Social Workers have sought to renew and strengthen their organizational and professional focus in the political process by forming a national voluntary association for collective action, which is the Political Action for Candidate Election (PACE). To secure the benefits of similar participation in chapter political processes, the following charter is established to define a political action group for professional social workers in the NASW Montana Chapter.

II. NAME

1. The political action committee for social workers in the NASW Montana Chapter shall be formally called Montana National Association of Social Workers-Political Action for Candidate Election.
2. The common designation for this group shall be the label Montana NASW-PACE.

III. PURPOSES

The purposes of PACE are:

1. To help elect candidates to public office who support legislation and policies consistent with the goals of the social work profession and the needs of those who are served by the social work profession in the NASW Montana Chapter.
2. To promote NASW legislative policies through political action and/or through support of candidates.
3. To promote political education and full participation in the electoral political process among members of the social work profession.

4. To take such other and further action as may be necessary to accomplish the foregoing.

As a voluntary association without political party affiliation dealing with support and opposition to candidates and issues, Montana NASW-PACE shall abide by the laws governing such groups as are defined in present or future laws for the State of Montana.

Pursuant to the objectives of social workers organized on a national level for political action through PACE, Montana NASW-PACE will seek to achieve its objectives in coordination with the national PACE unit on national issues and in federal elections.

IV. STEERING COMMITTEE ORGANIZATION

1. Montana NASW-PACE will be organized through a Committee.
2. The Committee will be composed of no less than *five* NASW members, at least *three* of whom shall represent different geographic areas of the chapter consistent with the units defined by the chapter of NASW and two members who shall be chapter board representatives. (Size and composition of the committee may vary according to characteristics of the chapter. The two most important elements are that it is representative of the membership and includes some overlap with the NASW Chapter Board.)
3. The appointment of PACE Committee members shall be conducted as follows:
 - A. All charter members to the Committee will be appointed by the President of the Montana NASW with the approval of the NASW chapter board.
 - B. All initial appointees to the Committee will hold two-year terms of office.
 - C. At the conclusion of the first two years, the President, with chapter board approval, will reappoint fifty percent of the members of the Committee and will make necessary additional new appointments.
 - D. New appointments to the Committee will be made annually by the President, with approval by the NASW chapter board.
 - E. No Committee member may be appointed to more than two successive terms.

- F. Appointments to the Committee of Montana NASW-PACE will be made according to NASW's affirmative action principles.
4. The officers of the Committee will be Chairperson and Secretary/Treasurer and will be elected by the members of the PACE Committee.
 - A. The Chairperson shall call and chair all meetings and carry out any other duties voted upon by the Committee.
 - B. The Secretary/Treasurer will maintain all records of the Committee and prepare all reports necessary to maintain the organization's accountability.
 5. *The president, with approval of the chapter board, may remove a Committee member before the end of his/her term if the member does not fulfill appropriate duties or acts counter to the mission of PACE. Consultation with national PACE staff will occur prior to the removal of a member of the Committee.*
 6. The Committee will meet at least annually and at such other times as may be called by the Chairperson.
 7. Unless otherwise stated, all votes during meetings of the Committee shall be carried by the majority of those present at the time of the vote, except for amendments, under Article IX.
 8. A quorum for all meetings of the Committee shall be a majority of the members appointed.
 9. Should a Committee member be unable to complete his or her term, the Chapter President will appoint a replacement, with chapter board approval, to fill the unexpired term.

V. STEERING COMMITTEE AUTHORITY

1. The Committee shall have the power to design and promulgate a program of activities deemed as desirable, necessary and lawful in order to carry out the purposes of Montana NASW-PACE.
2. The Committee shall have the power to solicit and disburse funds to candidates seeking election to state and local public office in the chapter of Montana NASW.
3. The Committee shall have the power to:

- A. Publicly endorse or oppose candidates for state or local office.
 - B. Promote lawful political action on behalf of the social work profession and its constituencies.
4. The Committee will vote on all major policies and procedures governing funding solicitations and disbursements to candidates and methods for endorsing or not endorsing candidates.
 5. The Committee may appoint permanent and temporary committees to carry out various activities.
 6. The Committee may obtain administrative services from the NASW Montana Chapter and may charge such services to the cost of Montana NASW-PACE. Administrative services may be provided by the state chapter of NASW as permitted and in compliance with state election laws governing the operation of political action committees.
 7. Members of the Steering Committee and its duly authorized committee appointees shall not be compensated for performing their duties, except as they may be reimbursed for authorized expenses, if any, in carrying out these duties.

VI. STEERING COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The Committee shall designate one or more of its members with responsibility for signing checks, drafts, loans, notes, and other documents on behalf of the Committee.
2. The Committee shall establish appropriate banking accounts for depositing all contributions and shall have a system of documenting deposits and expenditures. All funds shall be maintained in bank accounts that are separate and apart from the funds of NASW.
3. The Committee shall have its records and account appropriately examined at the time of the chapter's required annual audit.
4. The Committee shall submit necessary reports on activities as required by the State of Montana.
5. The Committee may obtain fidelity bonds in such amounts as it may determine are necessary.
6. The Committee shall submit necessary reports to national PACE on contributions, expenditures, and activities.

7. Montana NASW-PACE shall create mechanisms to regularly report activities to the NASW chapter membership and to the public.

VII. FINANCING

1. The fund operated by Montana NASW-PACE shall be based on voluntary contributions from NASW members and contributions from non-NASW members as allowed under State of Montana law.
2. The Committee may develop and adopt programs for solicitation of funds as deemed necessary and proper, and costs of such programs may be paid out of the assets of the fund.
3. No contributor shall have any rights to, or vested interest in, the funds held by the PACE Committee by reason of his or her contribution thereto.

VIII. LIABILITY

1. The Committee members shall be liable only for their individual gross negligence or misconduct in the administration of the Committee's monies, willful breach of trust embodied in this charter, or fraud.
2. No Committee member shall be held liable for any action taken or omitted in good faith, for acts of any agent of the Committee, nor for any act or omission of any other Committee member, prior to the date of becoming a member. The Committee is authorized to provide a member indemnification from liability on any claims or proceedings instituted against him or her and arising out of acts described in this subsection and to hold such persons harmless from any expenses connected with the defense, settlement, or payment of monetary judgments on such claims or proceedings to the maximum extent of the Committee's assets.
3. By vote of the PACE Committee, legal counsel may be employed for the Committee, and these costs may be a proper charge against the Committee's assets.

IX. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

1. Montana NASW-PACE Committee shall continue to exist until such time as the NASW chapter board votes, by a two-thirds majority, to dissolve the Committee.
2. No section of these bylaws shall be construed to authorize or acknowledge any control by the NASW chapter over actions taken by Montana NASW - PACE or to impose any responsibilities or duties on the chapter for actions taken by the Committee or its members during their terms of office. If any

provision of these bylaws is so construed by a court or agency of the State of Montana that provision shall be invalid, and the Committee shall amend these bylaws, in conformity with the requirements of state laws and regulations, to preserve the separate existence of Montana NASW -PACE.

3. The Committee may vote to amend this charter by a two-thirds vote, subject to the concurrence of the NASW Chapter Board.
4. In the event that the NASW Chapter Board terminates the PACE Committee, all remaining assets and property of the PACE fund shall, after payment of all liabilities and necessary expenses, be distributed to such organizations consistent with the purposes stated in these bylaws and subject to statutory or other legal requirements of the state of Montana. Such final distribution shall be made by a majority vote of the PACE Committee.