

New Zealand Loyal Constitution

1) Name and Colours

- a) The official name of the Party is New Zealand Loyal.
- b) The Party's designated colours are Gold and Black.
- c) The logo belongs to the New Zealand Loyal Party.

2) Definitions

- a) **Administrative Wing:** The Board of NZL, as well as Regional and Electorate Committees.
- b) **AGM:** The Annual General Meeting of the Party.
- c) **Annual Financial Report:** Financial reports submitted to the AGM by the Party Treasurer.
- d) **Annual Report:** The end-of-year report on the business of the Party, which may also include regional and electorate reports.
- e) **Attend:** Includes participation in person or via telephone or electronic technology during business meetings.
- f) **Balance Date:** The end of the Party's financial year, as determined by the Board.
- g) **Board:** The Party's governing body, consisting of no fewer than four and no more than 11 members, including the Leader, Deputy Leader, Party President and Party Secretary.
- h) **Board Member:** Any person elected or co-opted to the Board.
- i) **Candidate:** A Member selected as the Party's representative to stand on behalf of the Party, whether in an electorate or on the Party List, in accordance with these Rules, as a candidate for a seat in the New Zealand House of Representatives.
- j) **Committees of the Party:** Includes regional, hub, electorate committees, Young New Zealand Loyal, or any other committee created by the Board or General Meeting
- k) **Constitution:** This document, including the Preamble.
- l) **Convention:** The Party's conference and Annual General Meeting.

- m) **Current Year:** The period between two consecutive Conventions.
- n) **Deputy Leader:** The Deputy Leader of New Zealand Loyal.
- o) **Electorate:** A constituency as defined by the Representation Commission.
- p) **Election:** A general election or by-election.
- q) **Electoral Act:** The Electoral Act 1993 and any Act of the House of Representatives amending or replacing that Act.
- r) **Electorate Candidate:** A Member chosen in accordance with this Constitution to stand as the Party's candidate in an electorate at a general election or by-election.
- s) **Electorate Committee:** One or more Members responsible for the Party's affairs in an electorate.
- t) **Electorate Chair:** A member elected by their electorate committee as the person responsible for building a working team in the electorate.
- u) **Gender:** Words importing the plural include the singular and vice versa, and words importing the masculine include the feminine and vice versa.
- v) **General Meeting:** Either an Annual General Meeting or a Special General Meeting of the members.
- w) **Hub Committee:** Group of Electorate Committees acting as one committee.
- x) **Leader:** The Leader of New Zealand Loyal.
- y) **Financial Year:** Runs from 1 April to 31 March.
- z) **In Writing:** Includes email communication.
- aa) **Judicial Officer:** The person appointed under Section 31.
- bb) **List or Party List:** The List of Candidates compiled by the list ranking committee for the purposes of section 127 of the Electoral Act (or any replacement provision) as the Party's list of candidates for election to the House of Representatives under the list seats provisions of the Mixed Member Proportional (MMP) system of representation.
- cc) **List Ranking Committee:** A committee established to rank candidates for the Party List.
- dd) **Local Committee:** Refers to hub or electorate committees.
- ee) **Member, Full Member, or Party Member:** Anyone qualified as a member and who is a financial member of the Party in accordance with these Rules.
- ff) **Month:** A calendar month.
- gg) **Parliamentary Division or Parliamentary Wing:** Consists of candidate members of the Party elected to the New Zealand House of Representatives. The Party Leader is the Chair of the Parliamentary Wing. If a member of the

Parliamentary Wing ceases to be a member of the Party, they shall also cease to be a member of the Parliamentary Wing.

- hh) **Party:** The New Zealand Loyal political party.
- ii) **Party Financial Records:** Official financial records maintained and returned by the Board Secretary, with assistance from the Party Treasurer, for recording subscriptions, donations, and expenses in accordance with the Electoral Act sections 206I and 207M.
- jj) **Party Membership List:** The list of full members kept by the Membership Secretary, excluding those removed.
- kk) **Party Secretary:** The Secretary of New Zealand Loyal.
- ll) **Party Treasurer:** The Treasurer of New Zealand Loyal.
- mm) **Permanently Reside or Permanent Residence:** The location where the member is enrolled to vote, according to the official electoral roll.
- nn) **President:** The President of New Zealand Loyal.
- oo) **Regional Committee:** A committee of Party Members responsible for the affairs of the Party in a geographic region determined by the Board, which may align with electorate boundaries set by the Electoral Commission.
- pp) **Regional Manager:** The chair/convenor of a Regional Committee.
- qq) **Registered Office:** The address in New Zealand for the Party, as determined by the Board from time to time and required by the Electoral Act.
- rr) **Rules:** The rules set out in this document.
- ss) **Subscription:** The required membership fee determined by the Board.
- tt) **Subject Matter Expert (SME):** A person, either a member or non-member, brought in by the Board or Parliamentary Division to advise and assist the Party.
- uu) **Working Day:** Any day that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or public holiday.

3) Office

- a) The Party's office shall be located at an address determined by the Board from time to time.
- b) Any changes to the official Party address or phone number must be reported to the President.

4) Objectives

- a) The Party is established to fulfil the following objectives and functions:

- i) To advance and oversee the goals of New Zealand Loyal, including the selection and support of candidates for election to the New Zealand House of Representatives.
- ii) To provide facilities, amenities, and opportunities for the benefit and enjoyment of Party members.
- iii) To acquire real and/or personal property through purchase, lease, exchange, hire, or other means as necessary for the Party's purposes or in connection with its objectives.
- iv) To manage, sell, lease, mortgage, dispose of, or otherwise handle real and personal property for the benefit of the Party.
- v) To construct and maintain Party offices, buildings, and facilities essential to achieving its objectives.
- vi) To accept gifts of property, whether subject to specific trusts or not, in support of the Party's objectives.
- vii) To undertake fundraising activities, including personal or written appeals, public meetings, and other efforts to secure financial contributions for the Party.
- viii) To publish newspapers, periodicals, books, leaflets, and electronic media to promote the Party's interests.
- ix) To borrow funds as needed, including through overdrafts or other means, and to provide security over Party property when required.
- x) To invest Party funds not immediately required for its activities in a manner determined by the Board.
- xi) To establish and support committee structures that promote the Party's principles.
- xii) To acquire rights, licenses, privileges, patents, or other assets beneficial to the Party's activities.
- xiii) To collaborate with individuals, incorporated societies, or other legal entities, either independently or jointly, in pursuit of the Party's objectives or related activities.

5) Non-Profit Status and Nature

- a) The Party is a non-profit organisation established to engage in political activities.
- b) Any income, benefit, or advantage received by the Party shall be used solely to further its objectives and for the exclusive benefit of the Party.

- c) No member shall personally profit from the Party's property or operations, except when engaged as an employee under a contract of service, as a contractor under a contract for services, or through the supply of goods and/or services in accordance with standard commercial practice.
- d) No member or any person associated with a member shall be involved in or unduly influence any decision regarding payments, benefits, or advantages made by the Party to or on behalf of that member or associated person.

6) The New Zealand Loyal Charter

- a) The New Zealand Loyal Party is committed to securing parliamentary representation by:
 - i) Preparing for elections and conducting well-organised campaigns whenever required.
 - ii) Expanding membership by actively engaging with and encouraging New Zealanders to join the Party.
 - iii) Raising funds to support the Party's administration, committee functions, and campaign efforts.
 - iv) Recruiting, supporting, and selecting high-quality candidates to represent New Zealand Loyal in any election the Party contests.

7) Rules of Order

- a) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with this Constitution and any special rules of order the Party may adopt.

8) Classification of Members

- a) **Full Member:** A person becomes a full member upon acceptance of their membership application, payment of the annual subscription fee, and inclusion in the Party's official membership list.
- b) **Life Member:** Life membership is granted in recognition of exceptional and distinguished service to the Party, as outlined in Section 10. Life members are considered full members but are exempt from paying the annual subscription fee. The number of life members shall not exceed 20 at any given time.
- c) **Young New Zealand Loyal Member:** Any member under the age of 30.

9) Members

- a) Any natural person may apply to become a member of the Party.
- b) To join the Party, an applicant must complete a membership application (online or offline) and provide the following details:
 - i) Full name.
 - ii) Address.
 - iii) Date of Birth.
 - iv) Email address.
 - v) Phone number.
 - vi) The electorate in which they will vote.
- c) The application includes signing a pledge to the Statement of NZL Party Principles, Code of Conduct, and Terms of Service.

10) Life Members

- a) Life Members shall be elected at the Party Convention. Only a full member is eligible for nomination.
- b) Nominations for Life Membership must be submitted in writing, signed by a proposer who is a full member, and countersigned by a seconder who is also a full member. The nomination must be submitted to the Board no less than 28 days before the Convention.
- c) Before being presented at the Convention, a nomination for Life Membership must first be approved by a vote of more than 80% of the Board.
- d) A nominee will be granted Life Membership only upon receiving at least 80% of votes from members at the Convention.

11) Membership Subscription

- a) The 1-year, 2-year, and 3-year subscription fees for members shall be set by the Board and ratified by members attending the AGM. Once ratified, the fee will remain fixed until the Board recommends a new rate for approval at a future AGM.
- b) If the Convention does not ratify the Board's initial recommendation for the subscription fee, the matter will be referred back to the Board for further review. The Board may then present a second recommendation at the same AGM or defer the matter to the following year's AGM.

- c) If the Board's initial recommendation is not ratified, the Board may submit a revised recommendation.
- d) If the Convention does not approve the Board's second recommendation, the subscription fee shall remain unchanged.
- e) Any amount paid exceeding the annual subscription fee shall be treated as a donation to the Party.
- f) If a member fails to pay their subscription by the due date, they will no longer be considered a member. During this period, the expired member will not be entitled to exercise any membership rights until they rejoin.
- g) Enrolment or eligibility to enrol as an elector is not a requirement for Party membership.

12) Membership Applications

- a) Membership application forms must be submitted to the Membership Secretary via email, post or the Party's website.
- b) Payment of the membership fee is required for all members.
- c) The Board reserves the right to approve or decline membership applications for any reason it sees fit.
- d) If a membership application is declined, the Party Secretary will arrange for the membership fee to be refunded.
- e) Once an application is approved, the Membership Secretary will ensure the member's name is recorded on the Party's membership list and that the appropriate Electorate Committee is notified to engage with the new member, inviting them to Party meetings and events.
- f) A member may only be affiliated with one Electorate and one Region at any given time.
- g) Members are responsible for keeping their contact information up to date with the Party.

13) Termination of Membership

- a) Membership will automatically terminate upon the death of a member or if they become permanently incapacitated.
- b) A member's membership in New Zealand Loyal will automatically be revoked if they seek or obtain membership in another political party in New Zealand.
- c) A member may voluntarily terminate their membership by submitting a written resignation or an email to the Party Membership Secretary.

- d) If the Board determines that a member's conduct has been offensive, undesirable, inconsistent with the Party's welfare and interests, or in violation of the Constitution, the Board will review the member's continued membership. This may occur upon receiving a written complaint or at the Board's own discretion. A hearing will be scheduled to address the issue.
- e) Within 14 days of the Board's decision to review a member's membership, the member will be notified in writing (by personal service, mail, or email) of:
 - i) The nature and details of the complaint.
 - ii) The date, time, and location of the hearing.
 - iii) The member's right to be present and heard in person or, at their discretion, via telephone or electronic means.
- f) The hearing must occur within 14 days of the Board's notification.
- g) The member may not be represented at the hearing but may be accompanied by a full member for support, though this individual will not participate directly in the hearing.
- h) The hearing will be conducted privately and in accordance with the principles of natural justice, as outlined in this Constitution.
- i) If the Board determines that the member's conduct was sufficiently offensive, undesirable, inconsistent with the Party's welfare or interests, or violated the Constitution to the extent that it harms the Party's reputation or best interests, the Board may, by majority vote of the members present, impose one or more of the following penalties:
 - i) Issue a written censure.
 - ii) Suspend the member from some or all of their membership rights and privileges for a period determined by the Board, as specified in a written notice sent by personal service, mail, or email. If no start date is specified in the notice, the suspension will commence on the date the notice is sent.
 - iii) Permanently terminate the member's membership of the Party as of the specified date (not retroactively), with the termination date indicated in a written notice sent by personal service, mail, or email. If no date is specified, the termination will take effect on the date the notice is sent.
- j) If a Board member submits a written complaint under paragraph 13.d), they will be excluded from participating in the hearing and from voting on the matter.

- k) If a member's membership is terminated under this section and that member is a New Zealand Loyal Member of Parliament, they will immediately cease to be a member of the New Zealand Loyal Parliamentary Division and caucus upon receiving notification of the termination.
- l) A member who has resigned or been expelled from the Party will cease to hold themselves out as a member of the Party and will return to the Party all material produced by the Party, including any membership certificate, handbooks, and manuals.

14) Board Composition

- a) The Board shall consist of:
 - i) The President.
 - ii) The Party Secretary.
 - iii) The Treasurer.
 - iv) The Leader.
 - v) The Deputy Leader.
 - vi) Membership Secretary.
 - vii) Press Secretary.
 - viii) Up to four regular members.
- b) A Board member's position will be vacated if:
 - i) They resign in writing to the Party President or Party Secretary.
 - ii) The member ceases to be a member of the Party.
 - iii) The member passes away.
 - iv) The member is permanently incapacitated or, unless the Board waives this, is temporarily incapacitated for more than three months.
 - v) The member resides overseas for more than three months (unless waived by the Board).
 - vi) The member misses three consecutive Board meetings without apology.
 - vii) They are removed from office by a vote of 75% of the other Board members.

15) Management of the Party

- a) The governance and oversight of all Party affairs (excluding the Parliamentary Division) shall be the responsibility of the Board. The Board holds the authority to perform any actions deemed necessary to achieve the Party's

objectives and manage its affairs, in alignment with this Constitution. This includes the power to:

- i) Manage and allocate the Party's funds and property, including investment decisions, and incur liabilities to support the Party's purposes.
- ii) Hire, dismiss, and define the duties of employees and contractors, as well as set their compensation.
- iii) Create, modify, or repeal resolutions and rules, in accordance with this Constitution, to ensure the Party's well-being.
- iv) Delegate responsibilities, while retaining overall accountability, including the use of outsourced providers.
- v) Co-opt a board member in the event of a vacancy, apart from the President, Leader or Deputy Leader, based on a joint recommendation from the Leader and President. Co-opted board members must be elected at the next general meeting.
- vi) Hire a General Manager under a service contract to oversee operational functions such as managing Party communications, marketing, information technology, volunteers, employees, or contractors, or handling other duties as directed by the Board. The General Manager does not have any voting rights.

16) Proceedings of the Board

- a) The President shall serve as the Chair of the Board, or a Board member elected to chair in the President's absence. The President will act as the spokesperson for the Board.
- b) The Board will meet at times and locations set by the President, including at least quarterly (either in-person or by conference call) between successive Conventions. The Board shall also meet during the annual Convention.
- c) The Board shall determine its own procedures for meetings.
- d) The Board may create committees as needed, with the role of these committees being to carry out the Board's instructions.
- e) The quorum for Board meetings is at least 50% of Board members. Decisions of the Board are made by majority vote, except as otherwise provided for in the Constitution.
- f) Board members may participate in person, by telephone, or other electronic means.

- g) Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) may be appointed or consulted to fill specific skills or experience gaps. These members may attend, speak at, and participate in Board meetings, but do not have voting rights.
- h) Board Members must treat all information relating to commercial and political arrangements entered into by the Party as strictly confidential and must not disclose any information regarding those arrangements or any other confidential or sensitive information relating to the Party, to any third party without the prior approval of the Board.

17) Board Election and Tenure

- a) All Board positions are democratically elected by a majority of voting members at a General Meeting, except for the Deputy Leader.
 - i) The deputy leader is appointed by the Leader.
 - ii) If a new leader is elected they have the power to replace the existing deputy leader.
- b) Members of the Board shall serve for a term of three years, at which point they cease to be a member of the Board unless they are re-elected at an AGM or SGM prior to the expiry of that term.
- c) All board positions, except Deputy Leader, are open for election at the General Meeting immediately following a General Election.

18) Removal of Board Members

- a) Members have the power to remove any Board member by a two-thirds majority of voting members at a General Meeting.

19) Board Roles

- a) President:
 - i) The President shall provide leadership and guidance to the party administration.
 - ii) The President shall foster the growth of regional and electorate administrations.
 - iii) The President may engage with other organisations or officials on behalf of the party or board to promote NZ Loyal's interests.
 - iv) The President (or Secretary in the President's absence) shall preside over the General Meetings of the Party.

- v) The President (or Secretary in the President's absence) will provide a full report on the Party's operations at each AGM.
 - vi) The President is an ex-officio member of all Party committees and has the right to attend any Party meeting.
- b) Party Secretary:
 - i) The Secretary shall organise Board meetings, prepare agendas, handle correspondence, take minutes and document Board decisions, as well as any other tasks assigned by the Board.
 - ii) The Party Secretary shall maintain the Party's relationship with the Electoral Commission, ensuring all required filings and legal obligations under the Electoral Act 1993 and other applicable electoral legislation are met.
 - iii) A Member of Parliament may not be appointed as Party Secretary.
- c) Treasurer:
 - i) All book-keeping and accounting shall be done by the Treasurer of the Party. They shall keep all necessary accounts and books and shall produce monthly statements showing bank balance and income and expenditure, and these shall be presented monthly at Board meetings for its consideration and approval by the members present at that meeting.
 - ii) The Treasurer shall produce a compiled set of financial statements and balance sheet at the Annual General Meeting for its consideration and approval by the members.
 - iii) The Treasurer shall arrange for the annual accounts to be properly audited and those audited accounts be furnished to the Party Secretary for the Annual Report and for filing to the Electoral Commission as required.
- d) Leader:
 - i) The leader shall formulate campaign strategy for the next election and advise the board in its decisions.
 - ii) The leader shall represent the interests of candidates on the board.
 - iii) The leader shall be responsible for arranging the ranking of list candidates.
 - iv) The leader may request the board allocate funds towards any campaign cost.
- e) Deputy Leader
 - i) The deputy leader shall assist the leader with their role.

- ii) The deputy leader will fill in for the leader if they are unavailable.
- f) Membership Secretary
 - i) Membership Secretary shall assist the Board and committees with matters related to membership, such as processing member applications, maintaining the central membership list, responding to membership related inquiries and performing other tasks as required by the Board.
- g) Press Secretary
 - i) The Press Secretary shall write press releases for the party and edit press releases prepared by other Board members.
 - ii) The press secretary shall post party press releases to social media accounts, the Party's Website and email press releases to members, supporters and journalists.
 - iii) The Press Secretary may speak to media outlets on behalf of the party.
- h) Regular Board members
 - i) Represent the interests of party members on the Board.

20) Nominations for Board

- a) A notice calling for nominations for the Board, including approved nomination forms and declaration forms, will be distributed to Party electorate committees at least 50 days before the annual Convention.
- b) The Board may exclude nominees for board positions who could harm the Party if they have been sentenced to more than 2 years prison, are bankrupt, or are disqualified as a director under the Companies Act.
- c) Nominations must be submitted to the Party Secretary no later than 28 days before the first day of the annual Convention.
- d) To be eligible for election to the Board, a candidate must have been a full Party member for at least six months at the time of nomination and must not be a Member of Parliament, unless the board waives this requirement.
- e) Nominations must be submitted in writing and signed by at least two full members.
- f) The nomination form must include the candidate's full name, current address, and signature to indicate consent to the nomination

21) Disqualification

- a) The following persons are ineligible for election or appointment to the Board (other than the Leader and Deputy Leader)
 - i) Members of Parliament;
 - ii) A paid employee of the Party.

22) Common Seal

- a) The Party's Common Seal shall display its name and be kept under the care of the Party Secretary.
- b) If the Board decides, the seal may be affixed to any document, deed, or instrument in the presence of two Board members as witnesses, one of whom must be either the President or the Party Secretary.
- c) The witnesses must sign and provide their names and titles on the document to confirm their witness of the affixing of the seal.

23) Finances

- a) The Board shall select the bank and branches to hold the Party's accounts.
- b) The Party Secretary, Treasurer and one additional Board member will be the signatories on all Party accounts. The Board may authorize further signatories as needed.
- c) Any funds not immediately required by the Party may be invested in lawful trustee investments, such as:
 - i) Mortgages on real estate in New Zealand
 - ii) Fixed deposits in the authorized bank
 - iii) Government securities in New Zealand
 - iv) All membership subscription fees raised under Paragraph 7 will be paid to the electorate committee of the member who made the payment.

24) Auditor

- a) A licenced Auditor, who is neither a Board member nor a Party member, will be appointed by the Party Treasurer and notified to Party Members at the AGM.
- b) If no auditor is appointed the Board must appoint one within one month.

- c) The Board will approve the reasonable costs associated with the annual auditor's audit.
- d) The auditor shall review the Annual Statement of Accounts and Balance Sheet and will have access to the Party's books and records as necessary for the audit.
- e) The Secretary will provide auditor reports to the Electoral Commission as required.

25) Indemnity and Party Property

- a) Board members may request reimbursement from the Party for reasonable expenses and losses incurred while carrying out their duties in good faith. The Board may approve or deny such reimbursements at its discretion.
- b) Board members shall not be personally liable for the Party's debts or other liabilities unless they have acted negligently, improperly, or dishonestly.
- c) Board members may request insurance to cover liabilities incurred while serving, but the Board is not obligated to provide such coverage.
- d) All property, including money, gained from any Party activities, shall belong to the Party and must be handed to the Party Treasurer upon request, always subject to the Board's control.

26) Power to Sell Property and Borrow

- a) The Party has the authority to borrow money for its purposes and secure the loan with bonds, debentures, or a mortgage on its property.
- b) The Party may sell, lease, or dispose of its real property.
- c) The Party may only exercise its power to sell or secure loans with property if:
 - i) i) Two-thirds of the Board members approve by resolution during a meeting called for that purpose.
 - ii) The Party consults with its solicitor or other professional advisers.
 - iii) The proceeds or funds are used solely for the Party's purposes.

27) Eligibility for Office

- a) Unless specifically stated in the Constitution, only full Party members are eligible to hold office or serve on Party committees.
- b) National, Regional and Electorate office holders must be a full Party member for at least six months, unless the board waives the 6-month requirement.

- c) Members may only be elected to offices in the electorate or region where they reside, unless the board approves otherwise.
- d) A member may only hold office in one electorate and one region unless the Board approves otherwise.

28) Judicial Officer

- a) The Board may appoint a Judicial Officer, who may be a Party member or not, provided they are a lawyer or have been a lawyer as defined by the Lawyers and Conveyancers Act 2006
- b) The Judicial Officer serves at the Board's discretion.
- c) The Judicial Officer provides legal advice to the Board but may seek additional advice from external legal professionals with the Board's approval.

29) Disputes

- a) Any dispute arising within the Party, including disputes regarding the selection process of parliamentary candidates or the interpretation and application of the Constitution or Party rules, shall be resolved by the Board in conjunction with the Judicial Officer.
- b) Upon receiving a formal complaint or written request for dispute resolution from a member, branch, electorate, the Board, or the Convention, the Party Secretary shall:
 - i) Notify all relevant parties involved in the dispute that the resolution process has begun, providing details of the procedure, including the dates, locations, and methods to be used for resolving the dispute.
 - ii) In consultation with the Judicial Officer, decide on the most appropriate procedure to resolve the dispute; aim to resolve it through conciliation, ensuring the process aligns with natural justice principles and the Constitution.
 - iii) If conciliation is unsuccessful, investigate the dispute and make a recommendation to the Board and the involved parties.
- c) The Board shall issue a ruling on the dispute as per the process outlined in a).
- d) The Board's decision, along with the Judicial Officer's input, shall be communicated in writing to the parties involved and will be final and binding on all parties to the dispute.

30) Mediation

- a) Upon receiving notice of a dispute, the Judicial Officer may request the President to appoint a mediator. If mediation does not result in a resolution within the timeframe set by the Judicial Officer, the mediator shall notify the Judicial Officer, who will then continue with the dispute resolution process.
- b) Each constituency, as defined by the Representation Commission, shall be recognized as an electorate under this Constitution.

31) Political Affiliation

- a) A member shall not stand as a candidate in any local government election or any other election using the name "New Zealand Loyal" or any part of it as their party affiliation without prior approval from the Board.
- b) The Board shall take any necessary action, including legal action, to protect the name "New Zealand Loyal" whenever it believes the name has been, is being, or is likely to be misappropriated, misused, or misrepresented by any individual.

32) Annual General Meeting and Convention

- a) The Board will determine the date, time, and location of the Convention.
- b) The Party Secretary will give at least 50 days' notice to members, branches, and electorates regarding the Convention details.
- c) The Annual General Meeting and Convention shall be held on a date and location selected by the board.
- d) The Convention shall begin with the Annual General Meeting, during which the following will take place:
 - i) To confirm the minutes of the last AGM and any general meeting held since that meeting.
 - ii) The President's Annual Report will be presented and discussed.
 - iii) The Party Secretary's report on the Party's state will be presented and discussed on the activities of the Party since the last AGM.
 - iv) The presentation of the financial report.
 - v) To debate and vote upon remits approved by the Board;
 - vi) The meeting may also transact any special business determined by the Board of which notice is given in accordance with these rules.

- vii) Election or endorsement of the Party Leader, Deputy Leader, President and Party Secretary and Board members for the ensuing year.
 - viii) The selection of candidates in the lead up to a General Election.
 - ix) Regional Presidents shall be appointed by the Board.
 - x) The subscription will be set.
 - xi) The election of Board members typically occurs at the AGM after a parliamentary general election, policy proposals are considered in the second year after an election, and campaigning issues in the year of a parliamentary election.
 - xii) Address any other business placed on the agenda by the Board or electorate committees at least 28 days before the Convention.
- e) Following the AGM, the Convention may hear addresses from the Leader and, by invitation, other members or guests.

33) Remits

- a) Remits for the Convention must be submitted through and approved by Electorate Committees, or by the responsible regional committee if no local committee exists.
- b) Remits must be concise, clearly state the purpose (amendment of the Constitution, policy proposals, or other matters), and follow the approved remit form.
- c) Approved remits must be submitted to the Party Secretary at least 28 days before the first day of the Convention. Late remits may be accepted at the discretion of the Board. .
- d) The Board will review remits for the upcoming Convention and to ensure their relevance and clarity. The board may consolidate related remits and prioritize them for consideration.
- e) The Board also has discretion to remove frivolous Remits.

34) Special General Meetings

- a) Special General Meetings (SGMs) may be called to address specific business. Only matters on the Agenda will be discussed.
- b) SGMs may be convened:
 - i) By the Board.

- ii) If at least 50 full members submit a written request, specifying the business for the meeting.
- c) An SGM must be convened within 60 days of receiving the Board's order or the member's written request.

35) Rules for General Meetings

- a) A quorum of at least 50 voting members is required for an AGM or SGM to conduct business.
- b) Attendance at AGMs and SGMs can be in person or by electronic teleconferencing technology.
- c) The Party President will chair the meeting (or the Secretary in their absence).
- d) If a quorum is not met within one hour of the scheduled start time, the meeting may:
 - i) Be dissolved if members present decide, or
 - ii) Be adjourned to a new time and place set by the Chair.
- e) At all such meetings, each member (including Board members and members of the Parliamentary Division) is entitled to one vote, with no individual casting more than one vote except for the chairman.
 - i) In the event of a tie, the Chairperson will cast the deciding vote.
- f) Voting will be conducted by voice vote, show of hands or, if requested by a majority of members present, by secret ballot.
- g) Election of Board Members will be by secret ballot.

36) Amendment of Constitution and Rules

- a) Changes to the Constitution and Rules may be initiated by the Board or from electoral committees. Proposed rules or amendments shall thereafter be submitted to the Board. The Board may adopt or reject the recommendations or refer them back to the Electoral Committees for further consideration, to the intent that the process should be iterative with such number of referrals between the Board and the Electoral Committee as may be required to produce changes which the Board considers to be suitable for submission to a general meeting.
- b) Where the Board decides to adopt changes, it shall refer the proposed changes to the next AGM, or to an SGM, and if adopted the changes shall take effect from the close of the meeting.

- c) The majority necessary to adopt or ratify any changes shall be two-thirds of those present and voting at the general meeting.
- d) The Secretary must provide the Electoral Commission with a copy of the approved changes within one month of their adoption at a general meeting or by the Board, as applicable. If the Board's adopted changes are not ratified and therefore become void, the Secretary shall notify the Electoral Commission accordingly.

37) Regional Structure

- a) The Board will establish Regions, and each Region will have an elected Regional Committee to oversee the Party's operations and administration.
- b) The Board will define the boundaries for each Region, determining which electorates fall within them.
- c) Regions may consist of varying numbers of electorates.
- d) The primary function of regions will include:
 - i) Upholding the objectives of the Party's Committees as outlined above.
 - ii) Establishing electorate committees, or if not possible, hub committees within their region.
 - iii) Enabling the formation of Young New Zealand Loyal groups within their regions.
 - iv) Supporting local committees in expanding membership and fundraising.
 - v) Assisting in Party administration by following the guidance of the Members' Council and the Board.
- e) The Regional Committee Executive will include:
 - i) The Regional Chairman.
 - ii) The Treasurer.
 - iii) The Secretary.
 - iv) A representative from each electorate committee, or if absent, hub or branch committees within the region.
 - v) A representative from Young New Zealand Loyal residing within the region.
 - vi) Any additional co-opted members residing within the region.

38) Electorate Committees

- a) The Party will establish democratic Electoral committees to advance its objectives. These committees shall:
 - i) Increase membership through targeted campaigns and ensure members are actively involved in Party events and decisions.
 - ii) Raise funds for operational expenses, funding candidates during general elections, and contributing to national election campaigns.
 - iii) Recruit volunteers and committee members.
 - iv) Identify and support potential New Zealand Loyal candidates.
 - v) Distribute Party communications, policies, and political information.
 - vi) Engage with the community and organize events and activities.
 - vii) Support Party campaigns and candidates during general elections or other elections authorized by the Board.
- b) The Party aims to have one Electorate Committee in each Electorate.
- c) The Regional Committee will establish and support Electorate Committees within its Region, subject to Board approval.
- d) If an Electorate Committee cannot be established, a Hub Committee may be set up with Board approval.
- e) Committees must consist of at least three full members permanently residing in the area and meet the eligibility requirements.
- f) Committees should typically meet no less than once every two months.
- g) Electorate Committee meetings are open to any Member residing in that electorate unless the Chairman declares the meeting *in camera*.
- h) Funds raised by Electorate Committees may either be retained by the respective Electorates or submitted to the Party Treasurer as Party funds.
- i) Electorate meetings will follow the procedures of the latest edition of Robert's Rules of Order Revised.
- j) The Board may issue directives regarding the structure, management, and powers of any committees, in accordance with the Constitution.

39) Young New Zealand Loyal

- a) Young New Zealand Loyal operates nationwide with an elected national committee to ensure the effective administration of the Party's affairs.
- b) Only Young New Zealand Loyal members are eligible for office.
- c) The primary role of Young New Zealand Loyal is to:

- i) Support the goals of the Party's Committees as outlined above.
 - ii) Represent Young New Zealand Loyal members within the Party.
 - iii) Foster connections among members.
 - iv) Develop policy proposals relevant to younger members of New Zealand.
 - v) Assist Party administration by adhering to the directions of the Members' Council and the Board.
- d) The Young New Zealand Loyal National Committee will include:
 - i) The Chairperson.
 - ii) The Treasurer.
 - iii) The Secretary.
 - iv) A representative from each Young New Zealand Loyal regional and electoral committees.
 - v) Any co-opted members.
- e) The Committee will meet at least once every two months.
- f) The Committee may appoint a substitute from the Executive Committee to temporarily fill any vacant roles until the next AGM.
- g) The Young New Zealand Loyal AGM must be held before the Electorate AGM and the Party AGM.
- h) Committee officers will serve from the end of their election until the next AGM, unless re-elected.
- i) Members may not exercise voting rights in more than one branch committee.
- j) The AGM will also elect the National Committee for Young New Zealand Loyal, all of whom must be full members of the Party.

40) Regional AGM

- a) The Regional Committee will consist of members elected at the Region's Annual General Meeting, as outlined in this section.
- b) The AGM will be held at a location and date set by the Board, and electronic attendance may be permitted.
- c) At least ten days' notice will be given to Party members in the Region for the AGM.
- d) The AGM will elect an Executive Committee for the Regional Committee, which must consist of full Party members. This committee will include a Chair, Deputy Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and Membership Secretary. The

Secretary and Treasurer roles may be filled by one person, or the Chair may also serve as Secretary or Treasurer (but not both).

- e) The Regional Committee is responsible for managing its area according to Board directions and the Constitution.
- f) The Committee may appoint a substitute from the Executive Committee to temporarily fill any vacant roles until the next AGM.
- g) The Regional Treasurer is responsible for managing regional finances, under the direction of the Party Treasurer.
- h) Each Committee will maintain a member roll using the administrative system provided by the Board.
- i) Regional Committee meetings and AGMs will follow the AGM procedures as closely as possible.

41) Electorate AGMs

- a) Each Committee shall hold an Annual General Meeting (AGM) on a date set by the Electorate Committee to elect the Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and any other Committee members.
- b) The Electorate Committee shall provide at least 10 days' notice to Party members living in the meeting area so they can attend the AGM.
- c) Electorate Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer positions are open for election at the AGM.
- d) The Electorate AGM must occur before the Party AGM.
- e) Committee officers serve from the end of the AGM at which they are elected until the end of the next AGM.
- f) A member may not exercise rights (including voting) in more than one Electorate.
- g) Electorate Committees are responsible for managing their electorates in accordance with the Constitution and Board direction.
- h) The Committee may appoint a substitute to fill vacant positions of Chairman, Secretary, or Treasurer until the next AGM.
- i) The Committee Treasurer is responsible for managing Electorate finances according to the Party Treasurer's instructions.
- j) Each Committee must maintain a member roll within its area, using the administrative system provided by the Board.

42) Candidates

- a) The Party will select and support both Electorate and List candidates for By-Elections and General Elections as determined by the Board.
- b) Electorate and List candidates will be selected according to these rules.

43) Electorate Candidates

- a) The Party will select and support Electorate candidates in all general elections for electorates approved by the Board.
- b) The Electoral Committee's approval is contingent on the Electorate meeting membership, financial viability, and organizational criteria.

44) Approval as a Candidate

- a) A member nominated as an Electorate candidate must have been a full member for at least six months prior to nomination. A member is also ineligible for selection as a List candidate unless they have been a full member for at least six months.
- b) The Board may waive these requirements at its discretion.
- c) The Board has the absolute discretion to approve or reject any nomination for candidacy. Only approved candidates are eligible for selection.
- d) Anyone seeking candidacy must complete the application form provided by the Board. The Board will determine approval.
- e) Alternatively, members may complete an Expression of Interest form and attend a Candidate's course, as determined by the Board.
- f) Upon completing the Candidate's course, the Board may approve the candidate to stand for Electorate or List selection.
- g) Approval will remain in effect unless revoked by the Board at its discretion.

45) Obligations on Candidates

- a) All candidates must comply with the Constitution and maintain fit and proper conduct as representatives of the Party.
- b) Each candidate must:
 - i) Not be a member of any other political party or incompatible organization as determined by the Board.
 - ii) Support the Party's selected candidates.

- iii) Not withdraw from candidacy without the Board's consent.

46) Nomination of Electorate Candidates

- a) Nominations for Electorate candidates may be called by the Board.
Nominations shall remain open for at least 21 days, and full members must be notified by the Secretary.
- b) Nominations must be submitted in writing by two full members who reside in the electorate. The nomination form must be accompanied by a completed candidate application form and other specified documents.
- c) The Electorate Chair will forward completed nominations to the Party Secretary for Board approval.

47) Selection of Electorate Candidates

- a) The Board will issue a timetable for candidate nominations and selection for general elections or by-elections.
- b) Nominations will be made by two full members from the Electorate on the approved form.
- c) If there are multiple nominations, the Electorate Chair will call a meeting to select the candidate.
- d) All members of the Electorate will be notified of the meeting by the Electorate Secretary.
- e) The Electorate Committee will hear candidate speeches and vote by secret ballot. If no candidate receives over 50% of the vote in the first round, the lowest-polling candidate will be eliminated, and a new vote will occur.
- f) The successful candidate will be announced by the Electorate Chair.

48) Campaigning by Electorate Candidates

- a) The selected candidate will, in consultation with the Electorate Committee, form a Campaign Committee, which will include the Electorate Chair.
- b) The candidate will appoint a campaign manager. The Campaign Committee will establish a campaign account, raise funds, and comply with Board directives while keeping the Electorate Committee informed.
- c) The Electorate Committee will assist the candidate in providing campaign funds and resources.

- d) The Electorate Chair is entitled to attend any meetings of the Campaign Committee.

49) Revocation or Withdrawal of Electorate Candidate

- a) If the Board or Electorate Committee decides that a candidate should be removed, the Electorate Selection Committee will reconvene to discuss the revocation, provided the candidate is unwilling to withdraw.
- b) The candidate will be informed of the reasons for dissatisfaction and given a chance to be heard.
- c) After hearing the candidate, the Electorate Committee will decide whether to revoke or confirm the candidacy by special resolution.
- d) The Electorate and Board will be informed of the decision, and if the candidacy is revoked, the Board will set a new timetable for selecting a candidate. If time is limited, the candidate who came second in the selection process may be declared the new candidate.

50) List of Candidates

- a) The Electorate Secretary must notify the Board of the selected candidate's name within the Electorate.
- b) Each candidate must provide the Board with a curriculum vitae (CV), along with a photograph.
- c) The Board will arrange the candidates in alphabetical order and distribute the list, including the CVs, to the List Ranking Committee.

51) List Ranking Committee

- a) The List Ranking Committee shall consist of the following members:
 - i) The Leader
 - ii) The Deputy Leader
 - iii) The President
 - iv) Party Secretary
 - v) Any other members appointed at the discretion of the Leader.
- b) The Party Secretary is responsible for overseeing the meeting and ensuring an accurate record of the decision.

- c) Any members appointed to the List Ranking Committee must not be a candidate or connected to any candidate, to maintain impartiality. The Board will decide if a nominee is deemed impartial.
- d) All List Ranking Committee members will meet in person at a location chosen by the Party Secretary, in consultation with the President.
- e) The purpose of the List Ranking Committee is to assist the Party Leader to rank candidates for the Party List.
- f) The Board may issue a report providing guidance for the List Ranking Committee to consider while ranking the candidates.
- g) Position 1 on the Party List is allocated to the Leader.
- h) Position 2 on the Party List is allocated to the Deputy Leader.
- i) The Party Leader will have the final determination on the list ranking and will notify the Board of his decision.
- j) The Party List, as decided in accordance with this Constitution, will be final and binding on all candidates and members until the Board determines that a new Party List is required, prior to every general election.
- k) The convention of collective responsibility applies to the List Ranking Committee, and members are prohibited from making individual comments about the Committee's decisions.

52) Withdrawal of a List Candidate

- a) The Board may call a special meeting of the List Ranking Committee to discuss the revocation of a List candidate's candidacy if it is in the Party's interest, regardless of the candidate's status as an Electorate candidate, withdrawal of candidacy, or the completion of any revocation process.
- b) The Board will notify the candidate four days in advance and invite them to the meeting. During the meeting, the candidate will:
 - i) Be informed of the reasons for the dissatisfaction with their candidacy.
 - ii) Have the opportunity to present their case.
- c) After hearing the candidate, the List Ranking Committee will deliberate and decide whether to revoke or confirm the candidacy. The decision will be communicated in writing to both the Board and the candidate. If confirmed, the candidate remains on the Party List, though their ranking may change. If revoked, the candidacy will end immediately.

- d) If revocation occurs after the Party List has been finalized, the total number of List candidates will be reduced, and the rankings will automatically adjust, unless the Board decides otherwise.

53) Prohibition on Canvassing for List Ranking

- a) No member, whether a candidate or not, is permitted to canvass for or attempt to influence the votes of the List Ranking Committee. All candidates must be made aware of this rule.
- b) Any candidate found to have canvassed, based on the judgment of the Board, will be removed from the Party List. This decision is final.
- c) If any member becomes aware of a Party List candidate canvassing for votes, they may file a complaint with the Board.

54) Parliamentary leadership

- a) The Leader has the authority to manage the Party's activities in Parliament and is responsible for:
 - i) Assigning portfolios and spokesperson roles.
 - ii) Appointing key Parliamentary staff, including the Chief of Staff and whips.
 - iii) Establishing committees of Parliamentary Members.
 - iv) Promoting Party policies within the Parliament.
- b) The Leader has the the authority, with the assistance of the Parliamentary Division, to enter into negotiations with other parties, including forming Coalition or Confidence and Supply agreements with other parties
- c) If NZ Loyal has parliamentary representation and the leader become incapacitated or vacates the position:
 - i) The Parliamentary Division has the power to appoint an interim leader from among their own ranks by simple majority
 - ii) The new leader will appoint a new deputy leader from among the Parliamentary Division.
 - iii) The Leader position will be open for election at the next General Meeting of the Party.
- d) The Leader and Deputy Leader are ex-officio members of the Board and all Party committees.
- e) The Leader and Deputy Leader may attend any Party meeting.

- f) The Deputy Leader will assume the Leader's duties in their absence, and in cases of incapacity, as determined by the Parliamentary Division.

55) Parliamentary Division

- a) The Parliamentary Division consists of Party members elected to the House of Representatives and is responsible for fulfilling the roles of Members of Parliament and representing the Party.
- b) The Parliamentary Division must maintain communication with the Party organization, consult members on relevant issues, and support the Board when needed.
- c) The Parliamentary Division shall vote according to Party policy whenever possible.
- d) The Leader will chair meetings of the Parliamentary Division.
- e) If the Parliamentary Division loses confidence in the Leader they may vote to remove the Leader by 80% majority.
- f) If any member of the Parliamentary Division ceases to be a Party member, they will automatically cease to be part of the Parliamentary Division.

56) Policy Development

- a) Party policy developments shall be approved by the AGM or by the Parliamentary Division through democratic processes.
- b) The AGM's role in policy development is to review and make decisions on remits and proposals, focusing on general policy positions and principles rather than detailed statements.
- c) The Parliamentary Division's role is to develop detailed policy positions for public promotion and parliamentary debates, while adhering to the general policy principles set by the Party.
- d) The Board may establish a Policy Council to research and develop policy recommendations. The Council may include Party members, advisers, and members of the Parliamentary Division.
- e) Meetings of the Policy Council may be in person, by teleconference, or through other means, including emails and policy papers.
- f) The Policy Council will work towards consensus when making policy recommendations to the Convention and Parliamentary Division, allowing for dissenting opinions to be presented.

- g) Only the Leader, Deputy Leader, Press Secretary, or relevant Parliamentary Division spokesperson may make public policy statements on behalf of the Party, except during election campaigns when candidates may make authorised policy announcements.
- h) Any policy promoted as Party policy that has not been authorised through proper channels is prohibited.
- i) Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) may be appointed by the Party Leader. The SMEs will develop policies within their chosen field. They may consult with SMEs from outside the Party. Candidates will also report feedback from supporters to the Policy Team. The Party Leader will review, amend, and finally approve all policies before publishing.

57) Constitutional Amendments

- a) Proposed amendments to the Constitution must be submitted to the Board.
- b) Amendments adopted by the Board will typically be referred to the Convention after the next general election for approval.
- c) The Board may refer amendments to any Convention if it believes it is in the best interest of the Party.
- d) Amendments to the Constitution require approval by a two-thirds majority of members present and voting at a Convention or Special General Meeting.
- e) Every member is deemed to be aware of and bound by this Constitution and its amendments.

58) Alliances

- a) New Zealand Loyal will not enter into any alliance or umbrella party.
- b) This section does not prohibit the formation of a coalition or confidence and supply agreement between New Zealand Loyal and any other parliamentary party.

59) Matters Not Provided For

- a) If an issue arises that is not covered by the Constitution or Robert's Rules of Order, the Board will make a determination, which is binding unless overturned by a General Meeting resolution.

60) Transition, Repeals, and Savings

- a) All previous Constitutions and amendments are repealed upon the adoption of this Constitution.
- b) The repeal of previous Constitutions and amendments does not affect the validity of actions taken under those Constitutions and amendments.

61) Winding up and Dissolution of the Party

- a) The Members may decide, by a resolution passed with the affirmative vote of at least 80% of the votes cast by Members voting at a Special General Meeting convened for that purpose, that the Party shall be wound up.
- b) A notice of any resolution passed under a) shall be sent to the Electoral Commission.
- c) Surplus assets after payment of liabilities upon the winding up of the Party shall not be distributed to members but be disposed of by the Board for the benefit of any organisation or organisations whose objects are the same or like that of the Party or otherwise at the absolute discretion of the Board by the Incorporated Societies Act (notwithstanding NZ Loyal is not an incorporated society).
- d) Notwithstanding anything in this rule, such of the said surplus assets referred to herein which are subject to any trust, shall be disposed of in accordance with a ruling of the High Court.

62) Commencement

- a) This version of the Constitution will take effect following the close of the 2025 Special General Meeting at which it is adopted.