



ONE BERMUDA ALLIANCE CONSTITUTION

PREAMBLE

One Bermuda Alliance represents all Bermudians and will make decisions and take actions to uphold the standards and fairness that Bermudians are known for. We do not believe that Bermudians want to be divided and we reject that approach.

One Bermuda Alliance is founded on the principles of **Opportunity, Responsibility, Integrity, Transparency, Fairness, Inclusiveness and Service (“our Principles”)**.

Opportunity. If you work hard and play by the rules then you should have the opportunity to succeed. Opportunity comes from ensuring:

Safety & Security – Our communities must be strong and secure, our families protected and our children’s future bright. Ensuring a safe environment for everyone in Bermuda is vital to the long-term strength and stability of our country.

A Strong Economy – Success for all Bermudians depends on Bermuda’s economic strength and financial independence. Economic stability and making sound fiscal decisions are foundations of a healthy and strong democracy.

Quality Public Education – By constantly working to improve educational performance in the classroom, we ensure a healthier and more prosperous Bermuda for current and future generations.

Responsibility. Government has a responsibility to live within its means and must always be held accountable for its actions. But Government cannot do this alone. We must pursue policies and programmes that encourage Bermudians to take responsibility for their own actions and for the care of their families. We will be committed stewards of Bermuda’s assets and resources.

Integrity. One Bermuda Alliance has zero tolerance for fraud and corruption in government. We will not tolerate the abuse of public power for private gain. We will ensure that no conflict arises, or could reasonably be perceived to arise, between public duties and private interests, financial or otherwise.

Transparency One Bermuda Alliance is committed to transparency, open government and reform. We will maintain the highest ethical and moral standards and always act in the manner that provides the greatest good for all of Bermuda.

Fairness. One Bermuda Alliance serves the many, not the few. Fairness to all will form the basis of our actions as the Government or the Opposition. We are guided by the principles of non-discrimination and equal rights, and the overriding principle that all people are equal before the law.

Inclusiveness. One Bermuda Alliance embraces the diversity of the Bermudian community – a community that is tolerant of differences and demonstrates mutual respect for all. We maintain an environment in which all people feel free to share ideas and information. We are open minded and respectful of the views of others and are collaborative in the best interests of Bermuda.

Service. Political power belongs to the people and must only be entrusted to those prepared to serve Bermuda. We work for the benefit of all Bermuda’s people.

Members of One Bermuda Alliance will, at all times, put the best interests of Bermuda first. We will enhance our democracy by making our parliamentary system more inclusive, more transparent, and more collaborative for the public and parliamentarians. We will uphold the highest ethical and moral standards and ensure that elected and appointed representatives lead by example and are accountable. We will draw from the widest possible membership for government appointments and ensure that those appointed understand their responsibilities and put Bermuda first.

Article 1: Name and Objectives

1.1 The official name of the organisation will be One Bermuda Alliance (the “OBA”).

1.2 The OBA’s objectives (“our Objectives”) are to:

- (i) Address crime, violence, gangs and misuse of drugs and ensure Bermuda has a modern justice system that is fair, sensible and accessible to all.
- (ii) Practice financial prudence in government and ensure government lives within its means and strives to reduce debt and the tax burden on individuals and businesses.
- (iii) Grow and diversify our economy to provide opportunities for current and future generations of Bermudians, while enhancing international and local business and rejuvenating tourism.
- (iv) Ensure a level playing field and give a step up to those who need help to compete in Bermuda’s economy.
- (v) Improve the public education system to provide our children and young adults with the skills and training they need to compete in the 21st century.
- (vi) Make healthcare more affordable and accessible and improve the quality for seniors and our community, while ensuring sustainability for future generations.

- (vii) Pursue environmental sustainability for present and future generations.
- (viii) Engender a society that is inclusive, embraces diversity and equal opportunity and protects everyone's human rights.
- (ix) Put Bermuda first to move Bermuda forward.
- (x) Transform the way politics is practiced and the way in which Bermuda is governed.
- (xi) Appeal to and include Bermudians from all walks of life who desire continuous improvement in the way politics is conducted.
- (xii) Operate as a broad church – open to all who wish to join and abide by our Principles and our Objectives.

Article 2: Activities and Membership

2.1 In furtherance of our Principles and to achieve our Objectives, the OBA:

- (i) Will take part in democratic electoral processes.
- (ii) May work together with other organisations for particular purposes consistent with our Objectives.
- (iii) Will raise funds and invite and receive contributions from any persons whatsoever by way of subscription, donation or otherwise.
- (iv) Will publish, with or without charge, any items the OBA sees fit.
- (v) May employ and pay people to supervise, organise and carry out our Objectives.
- (vi) May purchase, lease or rent property necessary to carry out our Objectives and make arrangements for the management of any such property.
- (vii) May invest any monies of the OBA not immediately required.
- (viii) May do all other lawful things necessary for the attainment of our Objectives.

2.2 Membership of the OBA is open to all persons who agree with our Principles and who

will pursue our Objectives. The minimum age for membership is sixteen. The OBA shall not otherwise discriminate in its membership.

- 2.3 Membership is by application to the Executive Committee (the "Executive"). An applicant for membership will complete and sign an application confirming that the applicant agrees with our Principles and will pursue our Objectives. Upon receipt of the application and payment of the subscription amount set by the Executive, then, unless the application is refused under Clause 2.5 of this Constitution, the applicant will become a member of the OBA and will be listed on the Roll of Membership. The process for subscriptions will be set out from time to time by the Executive. Membership will run from 1st January to 31st December each year and must be renewed annually, although any Member may request automatic renewal.
- 2.4 Subject to Clause 3.4 of this Constitution, OBA Members will be able to vote at General Conference or Special Conference pursuant to procedural rules proscribed by the Executive from time to time. OBA Members will receive other benefits as decided by the Executive from time to time.
- 2.5 Membership may be refused, suspended, or withdrawn by the Executive on any one or more of the following grounds:
- (i) Disagreement, evidenced by conduct, with our Objectives.
 - (ii) Because admission or continued membership would likely bring the OBA into disrepute.
 - (iii) Membership of another political party in Bermuda.
- 2.6 Any person aggrieved by a refusal, suspension or withdrawal of membership, will have a right of appeal to the Discipline Committee. Any member of the Discipline Committee who took the decision to refuse, suspend or withdraw membership will not determine the appeal.
- 2.7 OBA Members are in "good standing" if their subscriptions are up to date and their membership has not been suspended or withdrawn.

Article 3 - General Conference and Special Conference

- 3.1 The OBA may hold a General Conference annually as determined by the Executive. General Conference may be open to non-OBA Members, but only OBA Members in good standing may vote at General Conference.
- 3.2 The business of General Conference will be to receive reports from the OBA Officers, to receive the OBA's accounts and, every two years, to vote on OBA Chair and OBA Deputy Chairs and, every four years, to vote on the OBA Leader and OBA Deputy

Leader. Business at General Conference may also include the consideration of motions on the OBA's policy and strategy. General Conference will also decide other matters as determined from time to time by the Executive.

- 3.3 All motions at General Conference will be passed by a simple majority of those voting. Rules for submitting nominations, motions and electoral procedures at General Conference will be determined by the Executive from time to time. Any Member may view these rules upon request.
- 3.4 Voting for election of the OBA Leader, the OBA Deputy Leader, the OBA Chair and the two OBA Deputy Chairs will be by secret ballot. Only OBA Members registered on the Parliamentary Register at least seven days before the last date for the receipt of ballot papers can vote in elections for OBA Leader and OBA Deputy Leader.
- 3.5 Motions carried will have immediate and binding effect unless the motion says otherwise.
- 3.6 The Executive may vote to summon Special Conference for specific purposes. Special Conference may be open to non-OBA Members, but only OBA Members in good standing may vote at Special Conference. All motions at Special Conference will be passed by a simple majority of those voting. Rules for submitting nominations, motions and electoral procedures at Special Conference will be determined by the Executive from time to time. Any member may view these rules upon request.
- 3.7 Notices of General Conference and Special Conference will be published in a local newspaper at least fourteen days in advance.
- 3.8 A quorum for purposes of holding a vote at General Conference or Special Conference will require the presence of no less than ten percent of OBA Members in good standing.
- 3.9 Internet voting may be permissible with rules determined by the Executive from time to time. Any member may view these rules upon request.
- 3.10 All resolutions at General Conference or Special Conference will be minuted by the OBA Secretary and the minutes will be circulated to OBA Members within thirty days and approved at the next General Conference.

Article 4 - The Executive Committee

- 4.1 The Executive is the governing committee of the OBA and will comprise of the following nine posts: OBA Chair, two OBA Deputy Chairs, OBA Treasurer, OBA Secretary, (those five together the "OBA Officers"), OBA Leader, OBA Deputy Leader and two OBA Regional Chairs elected by a simple majority vote of the OBA Regional Chairs. The two OBA Regional Chairs elected to the Executive may not be MPs,

Senators or Adopted Candidates.

- 4.2 The Executive is chaired by the OBA Chair (or by the OBA Chair's nominee). The Executive controls the day to day operations of the OBA and adheres to the following goals:
- (i) Promotion of discussion in the Caucus of the interests and views of OBA Members.
 - (ii) Open and accountable fundraising and financing, which are coordinated with other OBA activities and Regional activities designed to meet our Principles and our Objectives.
 - (iii) Maintain a policy development process to encourage participation of all OBA Members to develop the OBA's Platform.
 - (iv) Communicate all relevant decisions to OBA Members, the Caucus, the Regions and all standing and temporary committees.
- 4.3 Membership of the Executive will be restricted to OBA Members in good standing. Members of the Executive will not be paid employees of the OBA, and will receive no fees or other compensation for their services, other than reimbursement of direct expenses incurred as approved by the Finance Committee.
- 4.4 The OBA Leader, OBA Deputy Leader, OBA Chair and the OBA Deputy Chairs will be elected by OBA Members in good standing with the election held pursuant to rules set by the Executive and subject to the nomination process set by the Executive. Any member may view these rules upon request.
- 4.5 The OBA Secretary and OBA Treasurer will be selected by simple majority of the OBA Leader, OBA Deputy Leader, OBA Chair and OBA Deputy Chairs. The offices of OBA Leader, OBA Deputy Leader and the five OBA Officers may only be held singly unless otherwise approved by the Executive and then only on a temporary basis.
- 4.6 Four of the nine members of the Executive must be present for a quorum. All votes of the Executive will be by simple majority of those present and voting save for where provided for by Clause 4.13 and Clause 6.3 of this Constitution. Discussions at the Executive are confidential.
- 4.7 Any three or more of the nine members of the Executive may requisition an emergency meeting of the Executive by calling on the OBA Secretary to summon one as soon as practicable. The requesting members must state the business to be discussed and any related motions to be put to the Executive, and the agenda for the emergency meeting will comprise this business and matters arising and no other.

- 4.8 The Executive will establish standing committees and may establish temporary committees for the administration and promotion of the OBA, the development of OBA policy, and other OBA business. All committee chairs will report to the Executive as often as deemed necessary by the Executive.
- 4.9 The Executive may from time to time appoint *ex-officio* members to the Executive or to any of its committees. *Ex-officio* members will not have a vote, nor count towards the quorum, at any meeting.
- 4.10 Other than the OBA Leader and the OBA Deputy Leader, who shall each serve a four year term, all other Members of the Executive will serve for a term not exceeding two years and will be eligible for election/re-selection at the completion of the two year term. The term of the Executive may be extended by the Caucus passing a motion by simple majority to enable all members of the Executive to stay in post in order to fight a General Election, provided the General Election is no later than sixty days after the completion of the current term.
- 4.11 The resignation of a member of the Executive will either be evidenced in writing and sent or given to the OBA Chair, or (if given orally at a meeting of the Executive) be minuted at that meeting and those minutes will be signed at that meeting by the OBA Chair (or in the absence of the OBA Chair by the chair of that meeting of the Executive) next to the entry relating to the resignation.
- 4.12 If at any time the OBA membership of a serving member of the Executive shall be suspended or withdrawn, that member of the Executive shall automatically be suspended or withdrawn (as the case may be) from the Executive and shall not be entitled to participate on the Executive until after the restoration of OBA membership.
- 4.13 Referral of a member of the Executive to the Discipline Committee may be undertaken only by a resolution to that effect passed by at least two-thirds of the members of the Executive present at the meeting. These measures are in addition to the automatic suspension/withdrawal from the Executive pursuant to Clause 4.12 of this Constitution. Grounds for referral by the Executive will be any one or more of the following:
- (i) Public opposition outside the Executive to measures duly approved by the Executive, if it is considered that such public opposition has caused or is likely to cause the OBA or its leadership to be brought into public disrepute.
 - (ii) Breaching the confidentiality of the Executive or the OBA.
 - (iii) Persistent non-attendance at meetings of the Executive without good cause.

- (iv) Unbecoming conduct in the course of meetings of the Executive.
- (v) Speaking to or providing documents to the press or any other outside person, party or organisation about OBA internal matters, OBA policies, platforms or any related OBA business without prior authorisation from the OBA Leader, OBA Deputy Leader or OBA Chair.
- (vi) Any other conduct deemed by the Executive to bring the OBA into public disrepute if such conduct were known to the public.

Article 5 – The Regions

- 5.1 The minimum number of Regions will be five and the maximum number will be ten. The number of Regions and the constituencies contained within each Region will be determined by the Executive, but each Region will consist of one or more constituencies. The Executive may from time to time amend the regional structure.
- 5.2 Each Region will have a Regional Committee consisting of OBA Members in good standing.
- 5.3 Each Regional Committee will co-ordinate campaigning and political activities in that Region subject to any direction from the Executive. Each Regional Committee will endeavour to create Constituency Committees to run political activities in each Constituency pursuant to rules to be agreed from time to time by the Executive.
- 5.4 The Officers of a Region will consist of a Regional Chair, a Regional Deputy Chair, a Regional Secretary and a Regional Treasurer. The same person may hold the offices of Regional Secretary and Regional Treasurer. A Regional Officer may also be a serving OBA Officer. The Regional Chair will be responsible for taking to the Caucus issues raised at the Regional and Constituency level.
- 5.5 The Regional Secretary will maintain the records of the Region and the Regional Treasurer will keep proper books of accounts. The Regional Treasurer will present an Annual Report at the Regional Annual General Meeting indicating money raised and sent to the OBA Treasurer. 50% of funds raised by a Regional Committee will be remitted to the Executive.
- 5.6 The Officers of a Region will be elected by the OBA Members in that Region every two years or as soon as practicable thereafter following rules set by the OBA Secretary in consultation with Regional Secretaries.
- 5.7 The Chair of a Region may fill any casual vacancy among the Officers of that Region through appointment of other OBA Members meeting the requirements of Clause 5.2 of this Constitution.

- 5.8 Within fourteen days of the coming into effect of any changes to the Boundaries of the Constituencies, the Executive will determine any changes to the number and extent of the Regions. The decision of the Executive will be final and binding. The Executive will have the discretion to appoint Regional Officers in any Region where a vacancy arises (if not filled by the Regional Chair) until the election of Regional Officers of such Regions.

Article 6 – OBA Leader

- 6.1 The OBA Leader will lead the political direction of the OBA and will serve as Premier when the OBA is in Government. The OBA Leader will appoint an OBA Whip, recommend Senators for appointment by the Governor and may appoint a House Leader. The OBA Leader will appoint Ministers or Shadow Ministers and Spokespersons from OBA Members in good standing. The Ministers or Shadow Ministers will liaise with the Spokespersons who will chair policy Boards. It is the intent that Spokespersons will speak often publicly on behalf of the OBA.
- 6.2 The OBA Leader will be a full member of all committees and sub-committees and working groups set up by the Executive or other groups and will have a vote on each committee save for the Finance Committee on which the OBA Leader may sit, but may not vote.
- 6.3 OBA Members in good standing will elect the OBA Leader with the rules for election to be set by the Executive subject to the requirements in Clauses 6.5 and 6.6 of this Constitution. The OBA Leader's term of office will run for four years. This term may be extended by the Executive passing a motion by a two-thirds majority to enable the Leader to stay in post in order to fight a General Election.
- 6.4 A leadership election will be called in the event of one or more of the following:
- (i) The OBA Leader no longer being a sitting MP.
 - (ii) The death, incapacity or resignation of the OBA Leader.
 - (iii) On the passing of a vote of no confidence in the OBA Leader by the OBA Caucus if this vote is endorsed by a majority of OBA Members in attendance at General Conference or Special Conference of the OBA.
 - (iv) On the completion of the OBA Leader's four year term of office.
 - (v) If two thirds of OBA MP's pass a vote of no confidence in the OBA Leader endorsed by the OBA Caucus.
- 6.5 In order to stand for election as OBA Leader, the candidate must be an OBA Member, an MP, and must not be under disciplinary action. The candidate must have the

support by way of signature of at least three sitting MP's and at least seven non-Parliamentary OBA Members in good standing who will be from at least three Regions. The signatures must be submitted in writing to the OBA Secretary within the time specified by the OBA Secretary.

- 6.6 If there is only one valid nomination for the post of OBA Leader, the candidate nominated will be declared OBA Leader without the need for a ballot. Those eligible to vote for OBA Leader are provided for by Clause 3.4 of this Constitution.

Article 7 -The OBA Deputy Leader

- 7.1 The OBA Deputy Leader will assist the OBA Leader in giving political direction to the OBA. The OBA Deputy Leader will act as the OBA Leader in the OBA Leader's absence or when the OBA Leader notifies the Executive in writing.
- 7.2 The OBA Deputy Leader will be a member of all OBA Committees and will have a vote on each committee save for the Finance Committee on which the OBA Deputy Leader may sit, but may not vote.
- 7.3 The relevant provisions in Article 6 will apply in the same manner to the OBA Deputy Leader.

Article 8 -The OBA Chair and OBA Deputy Chairs

- 8.1 The OBA Chair will chair meetings of the Executive, General Conference and any Special Conference. The OBA Chair will lead the Executive in respect of the administrative side of the OBA. The OBA Chair will chair meetings of the Regional Chairs and will advise the OBA Leader and the OBA Deputy Leader of the political views of the Regions. The OBA Chair will work with the OBA Leader in approving public statements of the OBA's policies and the manner of their communication.
- 8.2 In order to stand for election as OBA Chair, the candidate must have the support by way of signature of at least two Regional Chairs and at least seven OBA Members in good standing from at least three Regions. The signatures must be submitted in writing to the OBA Secretary within the time specified by the OBA Secretary.
- 8.3 If there is only one valid nomination for the post of OBA Chair, the candidate nominated will be declared OBA Chair without the need for a ballot.
- 8.4 The OBA Chair will work with the Regional Chairs in ensuring that all efforts are made to have active and properly constituted Regions and Regional Committees financially able to support a parliamentary election campaign. To that end, the OBA Chair may suggest to the Executive the creation of paid administrative posts and may delegate unpaid roles to other members of the Executive or temporary committees as the OBA Chair sees fit.

- 8.5 An election of the OBA Chair will be called in the event of one or more of the following:
- (i) The death, incapacity or resignation of the OBA Chair.
 - (ii) On the passing of a vote of no confidence in the OBA Chair by the Caucus, if this vote is endorsed by a majority of OBA Members in attendance at General Conference or Special Conference of the OBA.
 - (iii) On the completion of the OBA Chair's two year term of office.
- 8.6 The relevant provisions of Article 8 of this Constitution will apply in the same manner to the OBA Deputy Chairs. The OBA Deputy Chairs shall have further responsibilities and obligations as directed by the OBA Chair.

Article 9 - The OBA Secretary and OBA Treasurer

- 9.1 The OBA Secretary is responsible for:
- (i) Ensuring that the administrative and other arrangements of the OBA comply with all legal requirements.
 - (ii) Maintaining an up to date Roll of Membership for OBA Members and the Constituencies (and thus Regions) in which they reside.
 - (iv) Dealing with all matters relating to membership (including setting of membership fees in consultation with the Executive).
 - (iv) The administration of all internal OBA elections (except when the OBA Secretary is an Adopted Candidate or Approved Candidate in any such election, when the Executive will nominate another of member of the Executive to carry out this task).
- 9.2 The OBA Treasurer is responsible for:
- (i) Managing the OBA's finances.
 - (ii) Preparing annual accounts.
 - (iii) Presenting the OBA's annual accounts for approval to the Finance Committee, the Executive and in summary at General Conference. The OBA Treasurer will carry out any other functions prescribed by statute in relation to the finances and financial reporting of the OBA. The OBA Treasurer will chair the Finance Committee. The OBA Treasurer will maintain a list of OBA donors and

donations received by the Executive and the Regions.

- 9.3 The OBA Secretary and OBA Treasurer will be selected in the manner proscribed by Clause 4.5 of this Constitution and may be removed from office by a simple majority vote of the Executive.

Article 10 - Standing and Temporary Committees

- 10.1 The standing committees reporting to the Executive will consist of: (i) a Finance Committee; (ii) a Candidate Selection Committee; and (iii) a Discipline Committee. Temporary committees may be created by the Executive from time to time per this Constitution.
- 10.2 The Finance Committee is a standing committee chaired by the OBA Treasurer. The Finance Committee is responsible to oversee the management of the OBA's income, expenditure and finances. The OBA Treasurer will appoint no less than four OBA Members in good standing who will not be Parliamentarians and may include Regional Treasurers. At no time will Parliamentarians be permitted to sign financial documents on behalf of the OBA. The OBA Treasurer will prepare and the Finance Committee will approve the OBA accounts for each period ending 31st December. Such accounts will have an independent financial review, by a member of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bermuda, which will be completed by 31st May of the following year. The OBA Treasurer will present the approved accounts to the Executive and present a summary of the OBA accounts at General Conference.
- 10.3 The Candidate Selection Committee is a standing committee comprised of the OBA Leader, the OBA Deputy Leader and the OBA Chair who between them will unanimously agree and select four additional persons to the Candidate Selection Committee who will be OBA Members in good standing.
- 10.4 The Discipline Committee is a standing committee chaired by the OBA Chair or OBA Deputy Chairs as delegated by the Executive from time to time. The Discipline Committee's responsibility will be to discipline OBA Members in addition to such other duties as may be specified by this Constitution or delegated by the Executive from time to time.

Article 11 -The Candidate Selection Committee and Process

- 11.1 Potential candidates will make a written application to the Candidate Selection Committee and will make full disclosure of any fact, political or personal, that may have a bearing on their suitability for selection as a candidate. Candidates are under a continuing duty to disclose any facts to the Executive or any other committee appointed by the Executive that may have a bearing on their suitability to stand as a candidate.

- 11.2 The Candidate Selection Committee will select candidates who will be eligible to stand for Parliamentary election for the OBA (“Approved Candidates”). Approved Candidates will be ranked by the Candidate Selection Committee and then placed in individual constituencies upon which the Approved Candidates will be called Adopted Candidates. Prior to adoption the Candidate Selection Committee will first consult with the relevant Regional Committee and any relevant Constituency leadership in the proposed adopted constituency. Preference will be given to candidates who live in a particular Constituency or have another connection in that Constituency.
- 11.3 If the OBA membership residing in a particular Constituency is not satisfied with the decision of the Candidate Selection Committee regarding an Adopted Candidate, the OBA membership in that constituency may seek a primary election.
- 11.4 In order for there to be a primary election, at least 100 signatures of those persons on the parliamentary register for that Constituency must be evidenced on a petition seeking a primary between the Adopted Candidate and the Approved Candidate proposed by the OBA Members in that constituency. Rules for the primary will be settled by the Executive. Any member may view these rules upon request. A primary constituency election will take place within three months of the adoption of the Adopted Candidate for that Constituency.
- 11.5 A current list of Approved Candidates will be provided to the Caucus upon request and in any event will be provided to the Caucus annually. The list of Approved Candidates that have been selected by the Candidate Selection Committee will not be changed other than by the death, incapacity, resignation, or disciplinary action in accordance with this Constitution. If an Adopted Candidate is removed by a primary constituency election then that candidate remains an Approved Candidate. If an Adopted Candidate is not elected to Parliament after any general election or by-election, the candidate will cease to be the Adopted Candidate, but will remain an Approved Candidate eligible for adoption in accordance with Article 11 of this Constitution.
- 11.6 A candidate may be suspended from being an Approved Candidate or Adopted Candidate if, by a simple majority vote, the OBA Leader, the OBA Deputy Leader and the OBA Chair consider that there is good reason to do so. A suspended candidate will have the right to an appeal to the Candidate Selection Committee. The Candidate Selection Committee may decide to de-select the candidate. If the candidate is de-selected then that candidate will have the right of appeal to the Discipline Committee.
- 11.7 The Executive will set the rules and procedures of the Candidate Selection Committee and will notify the OBA Members from time to time subject to this Constitution. Any member may view these rules upon request.

Article 12 – The Discipline Committee and Discipline

- 12.1 The Discipline Committee is comprised of the OBA Chair, the OBA Deputy Chairs and four lay members selected by the Executive. The lay members will be OBA Members in good standing who are not Parliamentarians or serving members of the Executive. The lay members of the Discipline Committee serve for a two year term and must resign from the Discipline Committee if elected/selected to the Executive.
- 12.2 The Discipline Committee may appoint a panel of three comprised of the OBA Chair (or an OBA Deputy Chair) and a minimum of two lay members of the Discipline Committee to conduct specific hearings in accordance with the appropriate rules made by the Executive from time to time. Any member may view these rules upon request.
- 12.3 The Discipline Committee may deal with all disciplinary action for all OBA Members. Any OBA member in good standing who has a grievance against another OBA member must refer the issue in writing to an OBA Officer, OBA Leader or OBA Deputy Leader, upon which referral the Executive will meet and decide by simple majority whether to refer the matter to the Discipline Committee for determination.
- 12.4 The OBA Member against whom disciplinary action is taken must be given a reasonable opportunity to make representations and also to question any OBA Member who has made allegations against him or her (which allegations are relevant to the disciplinary action). Action can only be taken if the Discipline Committee, having given the disciplined OBA Member an opportunity to attend, is of the opinion that it would be fair and reasonable to take action.
- 12.5 The OBA Leader (or OBA Deputy Leader in absence of the OBA Leader) and OBA Whip will have disciplinary discretion over Parliamentarians and their decision will be final if it relates to Parliamentary duties. The aforementioned may also refer such disciplinary matters to the Discipline Committee.
- 12.6 The Executive will set the rules and procedure of the Discipline Committee and will notify the OBA membership from time to time subject to this Constitution. Any member may view these rules upon request.

Article 13 -The Caucus

- 13.1. The Caucus is the political debate and political decision making body of the OBA (subject to any decisions of the OBA Members made at General Conference or Special Conference) and will be comprised of the Executive, OBA MP's, OBA Senators, Regional Chairs, Adopted Candidates, and Approved Candidates. The OBA Leader may in consultation with the OBA Chair and OBA Deputy Leader invite others to attend the Caucus, but such persons shall not be entitled to vote.
- 13.2 The Caucus will be chaired by a person elected annually by simple majority of the Caucus (the "Caucus Chair"). The process for the election of the Caucus Chair will be decided by the OBA Secretary. In the absence of the Caucus Chair, the Caucus will by

simple majority elect another Caucus member to chair that meeting of the Caucus. The Caucus will also elect annually a Caucus Secretary.

- 13.3 The Caucus may create sub-committees comprising of members of the Caucus in good standing to assist in political policy recommendations. Sub-committees will meet as often as deemed necessary by the sub-committee members. Sub-committee Chairs will report to the Caucus as often as required by the Caucus.
- 13.4 The Caucus will meet at least twelve times per year. Ten members of the Caucus must be present for a quorum.
- 13.5 All discussions at the Caucus and any sub-committee discussions and documents will remain confidential to the members of the Caucus unless otherwise agreed by a simple majority of the Caucus. Failure to maintain confidentiality will automatically result in a referral to the Discipline Committee.
- 13.6 The Caucus will agree by simple majority its own procedure as suggested by the Caucus Chair.

Article 14 - Campaign Committee

- 14.1 The Executive may appoint a Campaign Director and Campaign Committee, which will include the OBA Leader, OBA Deputy Leader, OBA Chair and OBA Treasurer and which Committee will be responsible for the following:
 - (i) Preparing a budget for every campaign for approval by the Executive. No expense in excess of the approved budget will be incurred by the Campaign Committee, unless approved by the Executive.
 - (ii) Creating a Campaign strategy and managing the OBA election campaign and reporting to the Executive as often as requested by the Executive.
- 14.2 The Campaign Committee may create such subcommittees as are appropriate for campaign purposes.

Article 15 - Constitution: Approval and Amendment

This Constitution may be amended from time to time but subject to the requirement that any amendment must be approved by a simple majority of the OBA membership meeting at General Conference or Special Conference in accordance with the quorum requirements of this Constitution.

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