

By-Laws of the Brazos Progressives

Dues and Dues Term

1) *Individual membership dues* shall be \$10 for any person eligible for membership (see II.A). A dues-paid member's dues term shall begin when the member pays dues and will be good through 30 June. If individual membership dues pose an economic hardship, then the individual may request a dues waiver from the Steering Committee. The dues waiver must be approved by consensus of the Steering Committee and is valid only for the current year's dues. After the initial year of the dues waiver has passed, an individual may request that the waiver be renewed for the next year.

2) *Group membership dues* shall be \$50 for any group eligible for membership (see II.A). A group member's dues term shall begin when the group pays dues and will be good through 30 June. If group membership dues pose an economic hardship an organization, then the group may request a dues waiver from the Steering Committee. The dues waiver must be approved by consensus of the Steering Committee and is valid only for the current year's dues. After the initial year of the dues waiver has passed, a group may request that the waiver be renewed for the next year.

3) *Business membership dues* shall be \$30 for any business eligible for membership (see II.A). A business member's dues term shall begin when the business pays dues and will be good through 30 June. If business membership dues pose an economic hardship, then the individual may request a dues waiver from the Steering Committee. The dues waiver must be approved by consensus of the Steering Committee and is valid only for the current year's dues. After the initial year of the dues waiver has passed, a business may request that the waiver be renewed for the next year.

Voting

Each dues-paid member organization and dues-paid member business has one vote. Each individual dues-paid member has one vote. Voting privileges are extended to dues-paying members who have attended at least one previous meeting during the calendar year.

Officer Elections and Terms of Office

Officers shall be elected by a simple majority of those dues-paid members present at the May meeting. Officers may serve two consecutive one-year terms (see Section C, Article III of the Constitution.) If a regular meeting is not scheduled for May (according to the bi-monthly meeting schedule), then a special meeting will be called for the purpose of electing officers. New officers will begin serving their terms on 1 July.

Conflict of Interest

No member of the Steering Committee may use his or her position for personal financial gain or be paid for activities while serving as a representative of the Brazos Progressives, except for reimbursement of expenses. Violation of conflict of interest clause is subject to immediate removal from the Steering Committee.

Committees

The Brazos Progressives shall maintain two types of committees: standing committees and special committees.

Standing Committees

Standing committees are permanent committees in the Brazos Progressives. Though the membership and leadership of standing committees may change, the committees themselves are standing committees until the Steering Committee deems them unnecessary. The standing committees are as follows: Steering Committee, Membership Committee, Communications Committee, Forward Fest Committee, and the Nominating Committee.

- **Nominating Committee**
A Nominating Committee, a standing committee of the Brazos Progressives, will be formed to nominate individual dues-paying members for the offices of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Communications Coordinator, Events Chair, and Membership Coordinator. The Nominating Committee shall consist of at least three members approved by the Steering Committee. In order to be eligible for nomination, an individual must pay his or her dues before the elections. The Nominating Committee shall convene its first meeting three months in advance of the elections and will nominate candidates for office at the meetings where elections take place. Additionally, individual dues-paying members and dues-paying groups may nominate dues-paying individual members for office.

Special Committees

Special Committees are those ad hoc committees formed to fulfill a particular charge (see Article III, Section B of the Constitution). When the charge is fulfilled, the Steering Committee can dissolve the special committee.

Conducting Business at Regular Meetings

At least 10% of the total voting membership must be present in order to conduct business (this includes electing officers). Voting business shall be restricted to items present on an agenda, which will be made available to the membership prior to the regular meeting.

Attendance Requirement for Steering Committee Members

A Steering Committee member may be removed from the Steering Committee if the officer misses three consecutive Steering Committee meetings.

Agenda Items for Regular Meetings

Individual, group, and business members may submit agenda items for regular meetings to the Chair. In order for the item to be added to the meeting agenda, the member must submit the item to the Chair at least one week prior to the scheduled general meeting.

Requests for Brazos Progressives' Action

Requests for Brazos Progressives' action (e.g., proposals for sponsorship and funding requests) must be presented to the Steering Committee for consideration and approval by consensus. If the Steering Committee does not unanimously approve the action, then the Steering Committee may take the request for action to the membership.

Additional Officer Responsibilities Not Outlined in Constitution

Membership Coordinator

The Membership Coordinator tracks membership data, which shall be available to the Steering Committee.

Amendments to By-Laws

The Steering Committee shall be responsible for approving and amending the by-laws by consensus. Periodically, a By-Laws Committee will be formed when the by-laws need to be revised.

Donations to Brazos Progressives

All monetary and in-kind donations to the Brazos Progressives will be used to further the goals and mission of the Brazos Progressives.

The Steering Committee reserves the right to decline a donation if a simple majority of Steering Committee members vote to decline the donation. If a donation is declined, any part of that donation already received shall be returned to the donor.

Chair Authorization of Expenditures

The chair is authorized to make spending decisions up to \$100 (not to exceed \$300 per month without approval). All expenditures should be communicated to the Steering Comm. monthly and to the Treasurer immediately.

Steering Committee Decisions by E-mail

Decisions of the Steering Committee that must be made between meetings, including but not limited to financial decisions, can be made by e-mail only by unanimous approval of all but two members.

Special Meetings of the Steering Committee

Special meetings of the Steering Comm. can be called with 48 hours notice. Decisions at such meetings can be made if 2/3 of the members vote either in person or by proxy.

Membership Data Policy

Brazos Progressives will not sell or share the data it collects from its members with any outside or for-profit organization. However, to promote its goal of helping progressive organizations in our area, Brazos Progressives will occasionally share its membership information with member organizations in good standing for the purpose of direct mailings. For the purpose of information sharing, an organization would typically be defined as "in good standing" if it has been an active dues-paying member for at least one

year. It would typically be the case that BP would not authorize such data sharing more than 2 times per year. Requests for such information sharing will be evaluated carefully by the Steering Committee and granted infrequently. The information will be given to the requesting organization in the form of mailing labels; no electronic data will be shared. Any member who wishes that their mailing information not be shared on this limited basis can opt out simply by contacting the Brazos Progressives Secretary, via email at secretary@brazosprogressives.org or via US Mail at Brazos Progressives, P.O. Box 10782, College Station, TX 77842.

The above statement (in the preceding paragraph) shall appear on all Brazos Progressives individual membership forms (both electronic and paper) so that individuals will have the opportunity to opt out of the data-sharing policy when they apply for membership.