

BYLAWS OF
PARTNERSHIP LAKELAND
OF LAKELAND, TENNESSEE

A Citizen Political Action Committee

BYLAW I
NAME

The name of the Committee shall be Partnership Lakeland (the Partnership).

BYLAW II
MISSION

To promote and support the candidacy for elected office of qualified individuals with a reputation for high integrity who will actively and harmoniously represent all citizens and respond to community issues within the framework of the City Manager – Commissioner Charter.

BYLAW III
PURPOSES AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the Partnership is to promote the welfare of the residents, property owners and the business community in the City of Lakeland (City) by actively promoting and supporting the election of qualified candidates for elected office in the City. A qualified candidate will be one who exhibits a positive outlook aimed at fostering a spirit of greater community within the City, and one who demonstrates that he/she is qualified for office.

To attain this overall purpose, the membership will perform the following functions:

- (a) Evaluate candidates in the context of the platform that a candidate offers the voters.
- (b) Promote consistency and fairness in the evaluation of candidates.
- (c) Endorse not more than one candidate for each vacant position in an upcoming election.
- (d) Decide by means of a vote of the membership which candidate(s) will be endorsed by the Partnership in such election.
- (e) Provide active support for the candidates that are endorsed.
- (f) Disseminate through print and/or electronic means information pertaining to the Partnership's support of candidates that are endorsed.
- (g) Do those things necessary to promote the welfare of the larger community by supporting qualified candidates.
- (h) Ensure that the Partnership remains active in all City elections.
- (i) Undertake the above tasks in a non-partisan manner divorced from any affiliation to a political party or any other special interest.
- (j) To further promote communication with those seeking [or holding] such other elected office as may have a direct bearing on the welfare of the residents, property owners and business community in the City.

BYLAW IV
MEMBERSHIP

- (a) There will be two classes of membership.
 - 1. A Voting Member shall be a registered voter in the City of Lakeland.
 - 2. A Non-voting Member shall be a non-resident member of the Lakeland Chamber of Commerce, or any other non-resident who has been issued a business license in the City.
- (b) A Member shall so remain as long as he/she is current in payment of dues.

BYLAW V
OFFICERS

- (a) Chair. The Chair shall preside over all Meetings of the Partnership, shall exercise general supervision of the affairs and activities of the Partnership, and shall serve as a member *ex officio* of all standing committees.
- (b) Vice-Chair. The Vice-Chair will assume the duties of Chair during the Chairperson's absence.
- (c) Secretary. The Secretary shall keep the minutes of all meetings of the Partnership, which shall be accurate and shall serve as the official record of all business transacted. The Secretary shall be custodian of all Partnership records.
- (d) Treasurer. The Treasurer shall receive and disburse Partnership funds and keep them in a bank approved by the Board of Directors (Board). Checks written for disbursement shall require two signatures: that of the Treasurer, plus one Director duly appointed for this task by the Board.
- (e) Vacancies. A vacancy in any office position shall be filled by a majority vote of a Board for the unexpired term of said office.

BYLAW VI
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- (a) General Powers. The affairs of Partnership Lakeland shall be managed by the Board of Directors, subject to these Bylaws. Any resolution passed at a General or Special Meeting by a majority vote shall be considered as binding on the Board.
- (b) Board of Directors. The Board shall consist of all four (4) elected Officers, as specified by Bylaw IV, plus an additional five (5) Directors elected by majority vote of a quorum of the Voting Membership.
- (c) Board of Director positions shall be filled from the Voting Membership of the Partnership.
- (d) Regular Meetings. The Board shall meet in open session at least once a year, at a time and place to be selected and announced by the Board of Directors.
- (e) Vacancies. The unexpired term of office created by a vacancy on the Board of Directors shall be filled by a majority vote of the Directors
- (f) A quorum for a Board meeting shall be a majority of the Board.
- (g) If a Director or Officer of the Partnership decides to run for an elected office in the City, he/she will resign from the Partnership Board as soon as he/she has submitted paperwork to the Shelby County Election Commission indicating their intention to run for Lakeland office,.
- (h) If a Director or Officer of the Partnership has or should establish a close political relationship with a candidate for office (e. g., candidate's spouse, campaign manager for the candidate, etc.)then he/she will immediately make such relationship known to the

Board in writing and will become ineligible to vote on candidate-related issues brought before the Board. Any exception shall require a unanimous vote by the full Board.

BYLAW VII COMMITTEES

The Board of Directors may create such committees as are deemed necessary for the effective operation of the partnership. These committees may include, but may not be limited to:

- (a) a nominating committee
- (b) a fund raising committee
- (c) an interviews committee
- (d) a public relations committee
- (e) a membership committee

Each Director shall be appointed by a vote of the Board to serve as liaison to at least one Committee.

BYLAW VIII MEETINGS OF MEMBERS

(a) General Meetings of the Members shall be held at a time and place determined by the Officers with notification by the Chair by means of mail, email or through a newsletter.

(b) Annual Meeting. A General Meeting held during first quarter of the calendar year will be designated the Annual Meeting for the purpose of electing Officers and Directors, presenting reports, and the transaction of other business.

(c) Special Meeting. Special meetings of the Members may be called by the Chair or a majority of the Board.

(d) Notice of Special Meetings. Notice in writing or print form stating the place, day and hour of an special meeting of Members shall be communicated to the membership not less than three (3) days before the date of such meeting.

(e) Quorum. A quorum shall be the number of Members present, and not less than twenty (20), at any meeting of Members called according to these Bylaws.

BYLAW IX VOTING

(a) In matters pertaining to the operations of the Partnership, each Member of four (4) months standing shall be entitled to one vote.

(b) Any other votes at Annual and Special Meetings shall be cast in person by ballot, voice or show of hands.

(c) The Board is authorized to establish further regulations for voting.

BYLAW X ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

(a) Voting for the Officers and Directors shall take place at the Annual Meeting.

(b) Officers and Directors shall serve for two-year terms .

(c) Officers and Directors may serve consecutive terms.

(d) The elected officers of the partnership shall be voted into office by a majority of a quorum of the voting Members and will include a Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.

(d) Other offices/officers may be established by a majority vote of the voting Members of the Partnership at any Regular Meeting.

(e) The elected Directors shall be five (5) in number and shall be voted into office by a majority of a quorum of the voting Members.

(f) Every attempt shall be made to achieve city-wide representation on the Board of Directors.

(g) All elected Officers are automatically appointed as members of the Board.

BYLAW XI
TERMS OF OFFICE

In odd numbered years the following shall be elected:

(a) Two officers (Vice-Chair and Secretary) to two-year terms.

(b) Three directors to two-year terms.

In even-numbered years the following shall be elected:

(c) Two officers (Chair and Treasurer) to two-year terms.

(d) Two directors to two-year terms.

BYLAW XII
DUTIES OF MEMBERS

(a) Members will be involved in questioning candidates for elected office with a view to making decisions about whether the Partnership will support any given candidate.

(b) Members will discuss at Regular or Special meetings whether they consider a given candidate to be qualified in accordance with the official Partnership guidelines for endorsement as specified by these Bylaws.

(c) Voting Members will vote, either at a duly called Meeting or by mail, on which candidates they believe are deserving of an endorsement from the Partnership in an upcoming election.

(d) Voting Members may endorse not more than one candidate for each position open for election and such candidate must receive two-thirds (2/3) vote of the full Membership as determined by adding votes cast at said Meeting and those cast by mail.

(e) Mail voting: Following a duly called Meeting at which candidates have presented their views to the Membership, candidate statements will be mailed to those Voting members not present together with a ballot that must be returned within ten (10) days of the date of mailing .

(f) Members will be expected to actively support the candidates endorsed by the Partnership.

(g) A decision on which candidate(s) to endorse, if any, shall be voted upon and announced not later than two months before the date of a City-wide election.

(h) In the event that a candidate fails to receive a two-thirds vote of the Membership, but receiving more than 50% of the votes cast, the Board may at its discretion vote by majority to endorse said candidate.

BYLAW XIII
FEES, DUES, AND CONTRIBUTIONS

(a) Annual Dues. The Board of Directors has the power to levy such dues as are approved by a two-thirds vote of the voting Members.

- (b) The Annual dues will be not less than \$5 per Member.
- (b) Members may be requested to make additional contributions to help fund endorsed candidates in election years.
- (c) The Board may decide at its discretion to accept contributions from parties having no perceived interest in future business likely to require endorsement or other forms of consideration or approval from any City Board or Commission.
- (e) Default of Payment of Dues. When any Member shall be in default in the payment of dues for a period of sixty (60) days from the date at which such dues become payable, any such Member shall, for the purposes of voting, not be considered as a Member in good standing and in the case of a Director or Officer must resign such position.
- (f) In the event that the Partnership shall cease to exist all unused funds shall be donated to the City of Lakeland for equipment purchase for City Parks.

BYLAW XIV
CRITERIA FOR EVALUATING CANDIDATES

Candidates endorsed by Partnership Lakeland will:

- (a) demonstrate a basic understanding of the City Charter,
- (b) demonstrate a basic understanding of City government.
- (c) demonstrate a basic understanding of the City's fiscal systems,
- (d) demonstrate an understanding of the current issues confronting the City,
- (e) be clear and concise in their explanation of the manner in which they propose to deal with current and future issues,
- (f) exhibit a commitment to listen, understand and respond to the wants and needs of the community,
- (g) demonstrate a sincere interest and personal concern with civic and governmental activities,
- (h) possess sufficient management, financial, communication and organizational skills and experience to allow them to function effectively in elected office.

BYLAW XV
DESIRABLE TRAITS FOR CANDIDATES

The Partnership will ask candidates to address the following topics in their platform presentations to the Members:

- (a) Proposed fiscal policies that will establish the City's financial security for the present and future.
- (b) Describe their awareness and knowledge of budgeting, cost-revenue projections, expenditures and investments, taxes and City fees.
- (c) Describe their commitment to two-way communication as the best means for solving problems.
- (d) Explain how he/she would improve the informational flow between members of the Board of Commissioners (BOC), between the BOC and other formal boards and commissions, between citizens and the BOC, and between outside City, County and State agencies.
- (e) Support of regular town meetings, a City newsletter and electronic mail and/or a Web site for distribution of information to citizens.
- (f) The extent to which their policy decisions will be guided by the existence of an approved, current overall Comprehensive and Land Use Plans.

(g) Demonstrate that he/she is committed to bettering the quality of life for Lakeland citizens by respecting city ordinances and working toward improving the quality of the environment with particular reference to recycling, tree ordinances, parks, flood control, sign ordinances and City beautification plans.

(h) Define their position regarding placing the needs and wishes of residents above those of outside interests wishing only to exploit the resources of the City.

BYLAW XVI

SUBJECTIVE VOTING GUIDELINES FOR MEMBERS

The candidates that the Partnership votes to endorse will have demonstrated through their past actions that they:

- (a) follow through on commitments,
- (b) are able and willing to listen to and understand carefully-reasoned arguments,
- (c) are able and willing to consider with fairness diverse views on issues,
- (d) are willing to defend and elaborate opinions on controversial issues,
- (e) are willing to make controversial decisions when required to do so, and
- (f) are willing to change their minds on an issue or a position in the face of indisputable evidence.

BYLAW XVII

FISCAL YEAR

The fiscal year of the Association shall be the calendar year.

BYLAW XVIII

AMENDMENTS

- (a) Proposed Bylaw amendment shall be considered at an Annual Meeting.
- (b) The proposed amended Bylaws shall be printed and made available, together with ballots, at said Meeting.
- (c) Such proposed amendments shall be read at said Meeting and discussed and voted upon by the Voting Members present.
- (d) Proposed amendments shall become effective when approved by a two-thirds (2/3) majority vote determined by adding together votes cast at said Meeting.

BYLAW XIX

PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the latest published edition of Robert's Rules of Order shall govern the Partnership in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the Partnership may adopt.