



Constitution

Formal constitutional document

Prepared for internal party review and adoption

Registered office: 176 Ridgway Street, Whanganui

Constitution of Balance New Zealand

Introduction

Balance New Zealand is founded on the belief that our nation must move beyond division and toward balanced, principled decision-making that serves all New Zealanders. We advocate for practical, common-sense policy grounded in evidence, free from ideological bias, and focused on delivering enduring outcomes for both people and the economy.

At the core of our approach is a commitment to do no harm, ensuring that no policy imposes undue cost on individuals, businesses, or the environment without careful and measured mitigation. We recognise that sustainable progress requires balance, where no single priority is advanced at the expense of another beyond reasonable limits.

Our decisions are guided by objective analysis, integrity, and accountability, with a clear responsibility to foster economic strength, ethical practice, and long-term national prosperity. We uphold the rights and freedoms of all New Zealanders as enshrined in law, and we reject divisive, tribal politics in favour of cooperative, forward-thinking solutions.

Through our Foundational Principles: Harmony, Integrity, Knowledge, Prosperity, and People, we are committed to building a stronger, more resilient New Zealand for current and future generations.

Foundational Principles

1. Harmony

Primum non nocere, meaning first, do no harm, is the central guiding principle of Balance New Zealand. All policies promoted by the Party must be assessed against this principle and must not impose undue harm on people, the economy or the environment without proper justification and proportionate mitigation.

2. Integrity

The Party will seek to maintain balance in decision-making, so that no one interest, objective or priority is advanced at an unreasonable cost to another.

3. Knowledge

All policies and legislative positions adopted by the Party must be based on evidence, objective analysis and sound judgment. Decisions must be free from bias, extreme ideology and improper external influence.

4. Prosperity

The Party recognises responsibility to both individuals and businesses. Decisions should promote sustainability, economic growth, ethical conduct and the long-term prosperity of New Zealand.

5. People

All legislation supported by the Party, and all conduct undertaken in its name, must respect the rights and freedoms protected by New Zealand law, including the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993.

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1. Interpretation

1.1 In this Constitution, unless the context otherwise requires:

Annual General Meeting means the annual general meeting of the Party held as part of the Convention.

Board means the governing body of the Party established under section 9.

Board Secretary means the person appointed or elected to perform the secretarial and administrative functions of the Board and, where the context requires, includes the Secretary General if the same office is combined.

Branch means a branch of the Party established under section 16.

Candidate means a person seeking selection or selected to stand as an electorate candidate or a list candidate for the Party.

Constitution means this Constitution, including the Introduction and Fundamental Principles.

Convention means the annual gathering of the Party at which the Annual General Meeting is held and at which other Party business may be conducted.

Electorate means an electorate established under New Zealand electoral law.

Electorate Committee means a committee established within an electorate for Party purposes.

Electorate Voting Delegate means a person entitled under this Constitution or by decision of the Board to vote on behalf of an electorate at Convention.

Financial Member means a Full Member whose subscription for the current financial year has been paid, or who is otherwise deemed by this Constitution to be financial.

Full Member means a member admitted under section 5 and recorded on the Party Membership Register.

In writing includes communication by post or email sent to a person's last known postal or email address.

Judicial Officer means a person appointed by the Board to assist in resolving disputes, disciplinary matters or constitutional issues.

Leader means the Leader of the Party.

Life Member means a member elected as a life member under section 5.

List Ranking Committee means any committee appointed under section 18 to assist with the selection and ranking of list candidates.

Member means a person admitted to membership of the Party in accordance with this Constitution.

Month means a calendar month.

Parliamentary Division means the members of Parliament elected or returned to Parliament as representatives of the Party.

Party means Balance New Zealand.

Party Membership Register means the official register of members kept by or on behalf of the Party.

President means the President of the Party elected under section 10.

Secretary General means the officer responsible for the Party's legal, regulatory and administrative compliance, and includes the Board Secretary if the offices are combined.

Special General Meeting means a meeting called in accordance with section 12.

Treasurer means the Party Treasurer appointed or elected under this Constitution.

Voting Delegate means a person entitled to vote at Convention under this Constitution.

Working Day means a day other than a Saturday, Sunday or public holiday.

Young Balance New Zealand Member means a Member aged between 18 and 30 years.

1.2 Unless the context requires otherwise:

- (a) Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa;
- (b) References to a person include an individual, committee or body corporate, where applicable;
- (c) Headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation; and
- (d) References to legislation include any amendment, replacement or re-enactment of that legislation.

2. Name and Colours

2.1 The name of the Party is **Balance New Zealand**.

2.2 The Party colours are **orange, black and white**.

3. Registered Office

3.1 The registered office of the Party shall be at such place as the Board determines from time to time.

3.2 At the date of adoption of this Constitution, the Party's registered office is **176 Ridgway Street, Whanganui**.

3.3 Any change to the Party's official address or contact details must be recorded by the Board.

4. Classes of Membership

4.1 The classes of membership are:

- (a) Foundation Member;
- (b) Full Member;
- (c) Life Member; and
- (d) Young Balance New Zealand Member.

4.2 A **Foundation Member** is any person who became a financial member of the Party as member number 1 through to member number 550.

4.3 A **Full Member** is a person whose application for membership has been accepted by the Party, whose name has been entered on the Party Membership Register, and who has paid the required subscription.

4.4 A **Life Member** is a person granted life membership in recognition of exceptional service to the Party. A Life Member is deemed to be a Financial Member and is not required to pay an annual subscription.

4.5 There may be no more than 30 Life Members at any one time unless the Convention resolves otherwise by special resolution.

4.6 A **Young Balance New Zealand Member** is a Member aged between 18 and 30 years.

4.7 Unless otherwise stated, all references in this Constitution to Members include members in each class of membership.

5. Membership

5.1 Any natural person may apply to become a Member of the Party.

5.2 Applications for membership may be made through the Party's website or in writing, including by an approved electronic form.

5.3 An applicant must provide the information reasonably required by the Party and must pay the membership fee set under section 6.

5.4 The Board may accept or decline any application for membership in its discretion.

- 5.5 Before determining an application, the Board may make any enquiries it considers appropriate.
- 5.6 If an application is accepted, the Secretary General must ensure that the applicant's name is entered on the Party Membership Register and, where applicable, that the Member is allocated to the appropriate electorate or Branch.
- 5.7 A Member may not be recorded in more than one electorate or more than one Branch at the same time.
- 5.8 Members may renew membership online or in writing by payment of the applicable subscription.
- 5.9 Members must keep their contact details current.
- 5.10 If an application is declined, any membership fee paid must be refunded.
- 5.11 Only Financial Members who are eligible to enrol as electors may participate in the selection of candidates for the Party list, unless the Board determines otherwise to comply with law.

Life Membership

- 5.12 Life membership may be awarded at Convention.
- 5.13 Only a Full Member may be nominated for Life Membership.
- 5.14 A nomination for Life Membership must:
- (a) Be in writing;
 - (b) Be signed by a proposer and a seconder who are both Full Members; and
 - (c) Be submitted to the Board at least one month before the Convention.
- 5.15 A nomination must first be approved by at least 90 percent of the Board before being put to a Convention.
- 5.16 A nominee is elected as a Life Member only if approved by at least three-fifths of those entitled to vote and voting at Convention.

6. Subscriptions

- 6.1 The annual subscription payable by Members shall be set by the Board and submitted to the Convention for ratification.
- 6.2 Once ratified, the subscription remains in force until altered in the same manner.
- 6.3 If the Convention does not ratify the Board's proposed subscription, the proposal must be referred back to the Board for reconsideration. The Board may present a revised recommendation to the same Convention or defer the matter to the next Convention. If the revised recommendation is also not ratified, the existing subscription remains unchanged.
- 6.4 The annual subscription falls due on 1 April each year.

6.5 Renewal notices may be sent by post, email or personal delivery.

6.6 A Member may pay the subscription whether or not a renewal notice has been received.

6.7 The Board may offer Members the option of paying by monthly or quarterly instalments on terms determined by the Board.

6.8 If a Member fails to pay the annual subscription by the due date fixed by the Board, that Member ceases to be a Financial Member until payment is made, unless the Board resolves otherwise in special circumstances.

6.9 If the subscription remains unpaid by 31 March of the following financial year, the Member may be removed from the active membership register until a new subscription is paid.

6.10 Foundation Members are required to pay only the initial membership fee unless the Board resolves otherwise.

7. Political Affiliation and Party Name

7.1 No Member may stand in any local authority election using the name Balance New Zealand, whether in whole or in part, as a party affiliation without the prior written approval of the Board.

7.2 The Board may take any lawful action it considers necessary to protect the Party's name, branding, reputation and identity.

8. Termination and Discipline

8.1 A Member may resign from the Party at any time by written notice or email to the Secretary General or membership secretary.

8.2 Membership ends automatically on the death or permanent incapacity of a Member.

8.3 Membership also ends automatically if a Member seeks or obtains membership of another political party in New Zealand.

8.4 If the Board considers that a Member has acted in a way that is offensive, prejudicial to the Party, inconsistent with the Party's interests, or contrary to this Constitution, the Board may determine whether that Member should remain a Member.

8.5 Before any disciplinary decision is made, the Member must be given written notice of:

(a) the nature and particulars of the complaint;

(b) the date, time and place of any hearing; and

(c) The Member's right to attend and be heard in person or by electronic means.

8.6 The Member may be accompanied for support by another Full Member, but that support person may not participate unless permitted by the Board.

8.7 Any hearing must be conducted in private and in accordance with the principles of natural justice.

8.8 If, after hearing the matter, the Board finds the complaint established, it may:

- (a) Censure the Member in writing;
- (b) Suspend the Member from some or all rights and privileges of membership for a stated period; or
- (c) Terminate the Member's membership.

8.9 Any Board member who has made or supported the complaint must not take part in the hearing or vote on the outcome.

8.10 If a Member whose membership is terminated is also a Party member of Parliament, that person ceases to be a member of the Parliamentary Division and caucus, subject to any legal requirements.

9. Governance and Management of the Party

Board

9.1 The governance and management of the Party, excluding the affairs of the Parliamentary Division, are vested in the Board.

9.2 The Board may do all things necessary, incidental or expedient to carry out the purposes of the Party, including:

- (a) Appointing officers of the Party;
- (b) Managing Party funds and property;
- (c) Employing or engaging staff and contractors;
- (d) Making, amending and revoking policies, rules and resolutions consistent with this Constitution; and
- (e) Delegating any of its powers or functions while retaining overall responsibility.

Proceedings of the Board

9.3 The President is the Chair of the Board. In the President's absence, the Board may appoint another Board member to chair a meeting.

9.4 The Board must meet as often as reasonably required for the conduct of Party business and at least twice between each Convention, in addition to any meeting held in conjunction with Convention.

9.5 A meeting of the Board may be called by the President, the Board Secretary or the Leader.

9.6 A quorum for a Board meeting is 50 percent of the Board, provided that either the President or the Leader is present.

9.7 Board meetings may be held in person or by electronic means.

9.8 Subject to this Constitution, the Board may regulate its own procedure.

9.9 The Board may establish committees, define their functions and appoint their members.

Composition of the Board

9.10 The Board consists of:

- (a) The President;
- (b) The Treasurer;
- (c) The Board Secretary; and
- (d) Three elected Board members.

9.11 At least two Board positions must be held by the Party's co-founders, being **Juan Coffey** and **Harrison Stirling**, unless this requirement is removed or amended by constitutional amendment.

9.12 A Board member may resign by written notice to the Board Secretary.

9.13 A Board position becomes vacant if the holder:

- (a) Ceases to be a Member;
- (b) Dies;
- (c) Becomes permanently incapacitated;
- (d) Is absent from three consecutive Board meetings without prior approval; or
- (e) Is otherwise disqualified under this Constitution.

9.14 If an elected Board position becomes vacant, the Board may appoint an eligible Full Member to fill the vacancy for the balance of the term.

10. Officers and Governance Structure

President

10.1 The President is elected annually at Convention and is eligible for re-election.

10.2 The President, or in the President's absence, the Leader, presides at Convention and any Special General Meeting.

10.3 The President must present a report to the Convention on the activities of the Party during the preceding year.

10.4 The President is entitled to attend any Party meeting.

Treasurer

10.5 The Treasurer is responsible for the receipt, banking, accounting for, and authorised disbursement of Party funds and must ensure proper financial records are maintained.

Secretary General / Board Secretary

10.6 The Secretary General is responsible for the Party's legal, regulatory and administrative compliance, including maintaining the Party's relationship with the Electoral Commission and filing all returns, declarations and other documents required by law.

10.7 The Secretary General is responsible for the orderly administration of the Party.

10.8 If the Party maintains separate offices of Secretary General and Board Secretary, the Board may allocate responsibilities between them, provided that this Constitution and all legal requirements are complied with.

Elected Board Members

10.9 Three elected Board members are elected at Convention and, unless otherwise resolved by Convention, serve for two-year terms.

10.10 A member of Parliament may not serve as President, Treasurer, Secretary General, Board Secretary or as one of the elected Board members.

10.11 Each electorate may nominate one person for President and one person for each Board vacancy.

10.12 Nominations must be called for at least 60 days before Convention and must close no later than 28 days before the first day of Convention.

10.13 To be eligible for nomination, a candidate must have been a Full Member of the Party for at least six months.

10.14 If more than one nomination is received for a position, the election must be conducted by secret ballot.

10.15 Each Voting Delegate has one vote.

10.16 The candidate receiving the highest number of valid votes is elected.

11. Annual General Meeting and Convention

11.1 The Annual General Meeting and Convention will ordinarily be held by 31 August in each year, unless the Board determines otherwise.

11.2 The Board shall determine the date, time and place of the Convention.

11.3 At the Annual General Meeting, the Party must:

- (a) Receive and consider the President's annual report;
- (b) Receive and consider the Secretary General's report on the state of the Party;
- (c) Elect the President and Board members as required; and
- (d) Fix the subscription for the following year.

11.4 The Convention may also:

- (a) Hear addresses from the Leader and invited guests;
- (b) Consider remits, policy proposals and notices of motion; and
- (c) Conduct any other business properly placed on the agenda.

11.5 Members resident in electorates without a functioning Electorate Committee may apply to the Board to be recognised as Voting Delegates.

11.6 The Board Secretary must give at least 60 days' notice of Convention to Members, Branches and electorates.

11.7 Board members and members of the Parliamentary Division are entitled to one vote each at Convention, provided that no person may exercise more than one vote.

11.8 Remits must be submitted through and approved by an Electorate Committee and must reach the Board Secretary no later than 28 days before Convention, unless the Remit Committee accepts a late remit for good reason.

11.9 The Board may appoint a Remit Committee to review, consolidate, edit, prioritise and group remits for presentation to Convention.

12. Special General Meetings

12.1 A Special General Meeting may be called if at least 30 percent of Full Members request it in writing to the Board Secretary, stating the reasons for the meeting.

12.2 So far as applicable, the notice and voting procedures for a Special General Meeting are the same as those for the Annual General Meeting.

12.3 A quorum for a Special General Meeting is 30 percent of those entitled to vote.

13. Finances

13.1 The Board shall determine the bank or banks at which Party accounts are held.

13.2 Unless the Board resolves otherwise, the Treasurer and the Board Secretary are the minimum required signatories on Party accounts.

13.3 Funds raised by electorates and Branches may be retained for local use or paid to the Treasurer as national Party funds, subject to any financial policy adopted by the Board.

13.4 The Party may borrow money for Party purposes if approved by the Board.

13.5 The Board must ensure that proper accounting records are kept and that the Party complies with all applicable financial and electoral laws.

14. Disputes and Mediation

14.1 Any dispute arising within the Party, including disputes relating to candidate selection, interpretation of this Constitution or the operation of Party rules, shall be considered by the Board.

14.2 When a dispute is raised, the Board Secretary must notify the parties directly involved and advise them of the process to be followed.

14.3 The Board, with the assistance of the Judicial Officer where appropriate, may attempt to resolve the dispute by conciliation.

14.4 If conciliation is unsuccessful, the matter may be investigated and determined by the Board.

14.5 The Board may receive and consider recommendations from the Judicial Officer, a mediator or any panel appointed for that purpose.

14.6 Subject to any legal rights outside the Party, the Board's decision is final and binding within the Party.

14.7 The Judicial Officer may recommend mediation and the Board may appoint a mediator or panel to assist in resolving the dispute fairly, transparently and in accordance with natural justice.

15. Electorates

15.1 The Party may contest any electorate established under New Zealand electoral law.

15.2 An electorate may be contested only by a Full Member who is also a Financial Member and who has been selected in accordance with this Constitution.

16. Branches

16.1 The Party may establish one Branch in each electorate unless the Board resolves otherwise.

16.2 A Branch may have the following office holders:

(a) President;

(b) Treasurer;

(c) Secretary;

(d) Administrator; and

(e) Three elected committee members.

16.3 A Branch may also have additional local Members.

16.4 Where appropriate, and with Board approval, a Branch may represent an adjacent electorate if no Branch exists in that electorate.

16.5 Each Branch must operate consistently with the values, Fundamental Principles and Constitution of the Party.

16.6 Each Branch may manage its own finances, subject to law and any Party financial requirements.

16.7 Each Branch must hold internal elections at least once every three years.

17. Candidate Selection Process

17.1 A person seeking selection as a candidate must:

- (a) be a Full Member and a Financial Member of the Party;
- (b) be eligible and enrolled to vote in the electorate in which they seek to stand, where required by law or Party process;
- (c) have been a Full Member and Financial Member for at least six months before selection; and
- (d) support the Fundamental Principles and values of the Party.

17.2 The relevant Branch or Electorate Committee is responsible for overseeing the local selection process, including:

- (a) Calling for nominations;
- (b) Receiving nominations;
- (c) Fixing the date and venue for any candidate forum; and
- (d) Conducting a vote among eligible local Members.

17.3 Any local selection must be forwarded to the Board for ratification.

17.4 The Board may approve or decline any nomination for candidature in its discretion.

17.5 In the early stages of the Party, or where no local Branch or Electorate Committee exists, the Board may conduct or determine the candidate selection process.

18. List Candidate Selection and Ranking

18.1 Where appropriate, and having regard to membership numbers and organisational capacity, the Board may appoint a List Ranking Committee or subcommittee to oversee the selection and ranking of list candidates.

18.2 If no such committee is appointed, the Board shall perform those functions.

18.3 The Board may adopt additional procedures for list selection and ranking, provided those procedures are consistent with this Constitution and applicable law.

19. Responsibilities of Candidates

19.1 All candidates must comply with this Constitution and must conduct themselves in a manner that reflects properly on the Party.

19.2 Each candidate must ensure that they:

- (a) Are not a member of another political party or of any organisation whose objectives are incompatible with membership of the Party;
- (b) Support the Party's selected candidates; and
- (c) Do not withdraw their candidature without the consent of the Board.

20. Policy Development

20.1 All Party policy must be developed consistently with the values and Fundamental Principles of the Party.

20.2 Draft policy must be circulated to Foundation Members for feedback unless the Board resolves that urgency, confidentiality or practicality requires a different process.

20.3 No draft policy becomes official Party policy unless approved by the Board.

21. Amendments to this Constitution

21.1 Any proposed amendment to this Constitution should, where practicable, first be raised through the Member's local Branch.

21.2 Any proposed amendment must then be prepared and submitted as a remit in accordance with the process and timeframes applying to Convention remits.

21.3 Unless the Board determines otherwise, a proposed constitutional amendment must be submitted no later than 90 days before the next Annual General Meeting.

21.4 No amendment takes effect unless approved in accordance with the voting procedures applying at Convention.

22. Parliamentary Division

22.1 The Parliamentary Division consists of Party Members elected or returned to the House of Representatives as representatives of the Party.

22.2 The Parliamentary Division is responsible for carrying out the duties of members of Parliament and for representing Balance New Zealand in Parliament.

22.3 The Parliamentary Division and the Party organisation must keep each other informed on matters relevant to the Party and must work together in good faith.

22.4 It is the responsibility of the Parliamentary Division to maintain regular communication with Party organisations, consult with Members on relevant issues where practicable, and assist the Board where necessary.

22.5 The Leader shall chair meetings of the Parliamentary Division.

23. Auditor

23.1 The Auditor of the Party shall be:

Brent Hood

Spooner Toy & Hood Limited

Chartered Accountants

162 Wicksteed Street, Whanganui

23.2 All previous constitutions and amendments are repealed from the date this Constitution is adopted.

Execution

This Constitution may be adopted and signed by the authorised officers of Balance New Zealand.

President

Secretary General / Board Secretary

Name:

Name:

Signature:

Signature:

Date:

Date: