



# CONSTITUTION & RULES

1st Edition  
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## 1. THE PARTY NAME

- 1.1 The name of the Party shall be “**Vision New Zealand**” (hereinafter referred to as “the Party”)
- 1.2 The name may be abbreviated as “**Vision NZ**”.

## 2. THE PRINCIPLES OF THE PARTY

The principles governing the direction of the Party members are that they:

- Believe there is only one God, who is undivided and inseparable in essence, and within this one essence there are three eternal distinctions, the Father, the Son (Jesus Christ), and the Holy Spirit. They recognize the Holy Bible to be the Word of God, which is infallible and the supreme authority in all matters of faith and morals, upon which governing mandates should be founded and measured.
- Pledge to be faithful and loyal to our Country and to govern in the best interests of present and future generations, upholding principles of truth, integrity, and honour.
- Honour the ‘Treaty of Waitangi’ (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) as a significant foundational document. Moreover, the Treaty is recognized as a ‘covenant’ agreement, which is perpetually relevant and binding.
- Will strive for liberty and opportunity for every New Zealander regardless of race, gender, or status, promoting social harmony and national unity.
- Will pursue economic excellence in an open market economy, supporting the development of local enterprise in pursuit of both local and global significance. Moreover, Vision New Zealand will maintain sound economic practice and judgement vested in the best interests of all New Zealanders.
- Are committed to protecting and maintaining a safe and clean natural environment for all New Zealanders.
- Regard first-class quality services pertaining to health, welfare, and education to be an inherent right of every New Zealander.
- Will uphold the rule of Law, Order and Justice, protect the sanctity of life and the freedom of every New Zealander.
- Will present the Nation of New Zealand to the international community as one rich in heritage, culture, unity, and strength, uncompromising in truth, justice, and integrity, a model for international harmony, generational blessing and prosperity.

### **3. STATUS AND PURPOSE**

- 3.1 The Party is a non-profit making, unincorporated group.
- 3.2 The Party is established for the purposes of putting forward persons for election to parliament to pursue the principles of the Party.

### **4. OFFICIAL YEAR**

The official year for the Party shall commence on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February in each year.

### **5. INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY**

The written approval of the *National Management Board* must be obtained prior to any member, supporter or person using or allowing to be used any intellectual property, resources, patent, logos, technical processes, data bases or trademarks owned and held by the Party.

### **6. WINDING UP**

In the event that the Party is wound up, any property and assets held by the Party after all debts and liabilities have been discharged, shall be donated to an organization of similar ideals, to be determined by *the National Management Board*.

### **7. ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION**

- 7.1 The *National Management Board* shall determine the amount of the annual subscription from time to time as the case may be.
- 7.2 An annual subscription must be paid before any member is eligible for membership.
- 7.3 Any member who fails to pay the annual subscription amount within six months from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of February in each year shall be deemed to have forfeited his or her membership.

### **8. MEMBERSHIP**

- 8.1 Subject to clauses 7.2 and 8.3 herein, to be eligible for party membership the following requirements must be met:
  - 8.1.1 Each person must be qualified to be an elector under the Electoral Act 1993 (or any Act passed in amendment of or in substitution for the same);
  - 8.1.2 The person must support the principles, management and direction of the Party unreservedly.
  - 8.1.3 The person must not be a member of any other political party.

8.2 Any person who fulfills the requirements under 8.1 above may become a member of the Party only after that person has been approved for membership by either the Regional Chair or the Branch Organisation Manager, or an officer duly appointed for this purpose.

8.3 Any person who is not a financial member of the Party will not be eligible to hold office, serve on any committee, or act as a delegate at any Party meeting, or act in any capacity whatsoever pertaining to the activities and functions of the Party.

#### 8.4 Cancellations and Suspension

8.4.1 The *Branch Organization Executive* in consultation with the *National Management Board* reserves the right to cancel or suspend the membership of any person whose actions they believe may in any way compromise or bring into disrepute the interests of the Party.

8.4.2 Any member who stands in opposition to the Party's official candidate at a general election, or a by-election, or who nominates any other person for candidacy in opposition to the Party candidate at a general election, or a by-election, shall in consequence directly cease to be a member of the Party.

#### 8.5 Resignation of Member

Any member may resign from membership of the Party by notice in writing to the Secretary of their respective *Branch Organisation*.

### 9. PECUNIARY ADVANTAGE

9.1 Subject to clause 9.2, any Party Member may not receive any economic gain from the property or operations of the Party.

9.2 A Party Member may be reimbursed for services rendered or supplies made while engaging in activities on behalf of the party.

9.3 In the event of the Party being wound up, no member of the Party at the date of winding up shall personally be entitled to participate or benefit in any way in the distribution of any assets of the Party both real and personal.

### 10. SPECIAL GROUPS AND COMMITTEES

10.1 From time to time members and supporters who have particular common interests may form special groups or committees to participate in Party activities.

10.2 Any such special group or committee mentioned in 10.1 must not be formed without the prior written approval of the *National Management Board*.

## **11. NATIONAL STRUCTURE**

### **11.1 National Management Board**

11.1.1 The principle ruling body of the Party shall be the *National Management Board* which shall have final authority on every matter pertaining to the Party.

11.1.2 The *National Management Board* shall have power to amend any of these Rules and shall provide for all matters with regard to which no express provision is made in these Rules, and shall do such things and issue such directions consistent with this Constitution as it believes to be expedient for the well-being of the Party.

11.1.3 The *National Management Board* shall comprise of:

- The President (who shall be chairperson)
- The Leader
- The Deputy Leader
- The National Treasurer
- The Vice President
- The Party Strategist
- The Party Secretary
- Branch Organisation Manager - North Island
- Branch Organisation Manager - South Island
- Branch Organisation Manager - Auckland
- The Maori Delegate
- The Chief Policy Advisor
- The Youth Delegate

11.1.4 The *National Management Board* may delegate any specific functions and powers, except those relating to rule changes, to any committee as the board may from time to time establish.

11.1.5 Members of the *National Management Board* elected at the Annual General Meeting (hereinafter “AGM”) shall be deemed to hold office from the termination of that meeting for a term of 3 years until termination of the next meeting at which either their successors will be elected or they will be re-elected.

#### **11.1.6 Functions of National Management Board Members**

The Party Leader together with the Party President shall be responsible for the overall management and direction of the Party.

(a) The Party Leader shall:

- Direct the Political component of the Party;

- Appoint the Party Secretary
  - Authorise all written policy statements made by every candidate and spokesperson of the Party;
  - Advance and promote Party policy;
  - Be the leader of Caucus.
- (b) The Party President shall:
- Be responsible for the organizational component of the Party;
  - Be the Chairperson of the *National Management Board*.
- (c) The Party Vice President shall:
- Support the Party President with the day-to-day running of the Organisation Branch of the Party;
  - Be the Deputy Chairperson of the *National Management Board*.
- (d) The Party Secretary shall:
- Ensure that minutes are kept of all Board meetings and AGM's;
  - Be responsible for the communication of Board decisions;
  - Ensure all statutory obligations and requirements are fulfilled.
- (e) The Deputy Leader shall:
- Coordinate the functions of the Party;
  - Assist the Party Leader in the day to day running of the Party;
  - Carry out such other related duties as assigned by the Party Leader.
- (f) The Party Strategist shall:
- Be responsible for;
  - Political strategy
  - Direction of individual campaigns
  - Media
- (g) The National Treasurer shall:
- Be responsible for administering the financial component of the Party;
  - Fulfill all financial obligations required by statute;
  - Facilitate audit requirements and reports.

- (h) The Branch Organisation Managers shall:
  - Represent the *Branch Organisation Executive*;
  - Ensure directives and determinations at the *National Management Board* level are accurately outworked through the regions;
  - Ensure that policy and directives are reflected in each of the regions.
- (i) The Chief Policy Adviser shall:
  - Provide advice and recommendations on matters pertaining to the policy and direction of the Party.
- (j) The Maori Delegate shall:
  - Represent the Maori electorates;
  - Ensure that directives and decisions are accurately outworked through Maori electorates and networks.
- (k) The Youth Delegate shall:
  - Ensure the interests of the Youth of New Zealand are represented to the Party

## 11.2 Branch Organisation Executive

11.2.1 For the purpose of efficient management, 15 geographical zones have been determined to provide coverage of each region. The 15 geographical zones will each be managed and represented by a Branch Organisation Manager, who will collectively represent their respective zones on *the Branch Organisation Executive*.

The 15 Branch Organisation Managers will cover each of their respective zones as follows:

1 - 10	North Island
11 - 15	South Island

### 11.2.2 Functions of Branch Organisation Managers

The primary responsibilities of the *Branch Organisation Manager* shall be to:



- Advocate and carry out the aims and objectives of the Party within their respective zones;
  - Assist with the formation of Regional Committees within their zones, and subsequently appoint 'Regional Chairs';
  - Efficiently organize and manage the election of Party Candidates;
  - Collect financial contributions towards Party funds and ensure such funds are efficiently and effectively administered;
  - Present the position, status, and progress of their respective zone to both *the Branch Organisation Executive*, and the *National Management Board*;
- Present nominations and exercise voting rights on behalf of the branch with respect to *National Management Board* appointments.

### 11.3 Branch Organisations

11.3.1 Each *Branch Organisation* shall comprise of the following:

- Branch Organisation Manager
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- Support Personnel
- Marketing & Publicity Director
- Candidate Selection & Training Personnel

11.3.2 The purpose of *the Branch Organisation* shall be to support and facilitate the primary responsibilities of the *Branch Organisation Manager*.

### 11.4 Regional Committees

14.4.1 The *Branch Organisation Manager* will determine the establishment of a *Regional Committee* to represent each region (electorate) according to the zone in which the region is located.

11.4.2 Each *Regional Committee* shall comprise of the following members:

- Regional Chair
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Marketing & Publicity
- Support team
- Candidate

- 11.4.3 The *Regional Committee* shall ensure that all decisions relating to Party activities are consistent with the Party rules and procedure, and are made in the best interests of the party.
- 11.4.4 Each *Regional Committee* shall take its direction from the *National Management Board* together with the *Branch Organisation Executive*.
- 11.4.5 The *Regional Committee* shall administrate and facilitate the affairs of its respective region in order to:
- Advocate the aims and objects of the Party in the region;
  - Be responsible for the enrolment of Party members;
  - Efficiently organise and manage the election of Party Candidates;
  - Collect financial contributions toward Party funds;
  - Receive and administrate membership applications;
  - Support the Party Candidates.

## **12. OFFICE APPOINTMENTS**

- 12.1 The *National Management Board* will elect the following offices:
- Party Leader
  - Deputy Leader
  - Chief Policy Advisor
  - Branch Organisation Executive
- 12.2 Each appointment in clause 12.1 above shall be for a duration of 3 years.
- 12.3 A *Regional Chair* and a *Regional Treasurer* shall be appointed by the *Branch Organisation Manager* for each respective zone.
- 12.4 **Office Selection Committee**
- The *National Management Board* shall appoint 5 members who shall make up the *Office Selection Committee*. This Office shall be responsible for overseeing and facilitating the investigation and selection process for office nominations, namely those of Branch Organisation Manager, Branch Organisation Treasurer, and any other office that the *National Management Board* so directs.
- 12.4.1 The *Office Selection Committee* shall:
- Ensure the investigation is thoroughly conducted;

- Obtain all supporting and relevant documentation;
- Personally interview each referee and nominee;
- Reach a finding as to the suitability of each nominee;
- Submit to the *National Management Board* its findings and advise of the ensuing recommendations.

12.4.2 At the conclusion of the investigation and selection process, the *Office Selection Committee* shall present the successful nominations to the *National Management Board* for vote and subsequent appointment.

## 12.5 Appointment Criteria

12.5.1 Any member who wishes to hold office in the Party must willfully submit themselves to scrutiny with regard to their suitability for holding the office for which they are applying.

12.5.2 The *Office Selection Committee* shall investigate and report on the suitability of each member, giving due consideration to the office to which the member has been nominated, their motivation to hold that office and the intentions and agenda they will pursue whilst in office.

12.5.3 In determining the members suitability for office, any matter the *Office Selection Committee* deems to be relevant may be taken into account, including but not limited to:

- Character and integrity traits
- Formal qualifications, skills, and previous experience
- Reputation according to the Party, their employer, and their community
- Potential 'conflicts of interest' which might cause the principles of standing for the Party to be compromised in any way
- Family circumstances
- Any existing or pending criminal convictions
- Commitment to adhere wholeheartedly to the Party Principles as set out in rule 2 of this Constitution

12.5.4 The member will be required to provide all information that the *Office Selection Committee* deems to be relevant and necessary. In the event that the member fails to willfully provide such information, their nomination shall be denied.

- 12.5.5 In support of their application, each nominee shall provide two referees from a person of standing in the community, together with a recommendation from their local church Pastor.

## 12.6 National Management Board Appointments

- 12.6.1 The *National Management Board* will advise the date and place of the AGM at which the offices making up the *National Management Board* will be determined.
- 12.6.2 A minimum of 6 weeks notice shall be given to members of the AGM.
- 12.6.3 The offices of the *National Management Board* as stated in clause 11.1.3 shall be elected at the AGM and shall be held for a term of 3 years.
- 12.6.4 The election procedure shall be conducted in accordance with rule 12.8

## 12.7 National Management Board Elections

- 12.7.1 Prior to the AGM, the *National Management Board* shall seek nominations for the *National Management Board offices*, excluding the office of the *Party Leader*, and the *Deputy Leader*.
- 12.7.2 Nominations for the *National Management Board offices* shall be in writing and signed by the nominee.
- 12.7.3 Office Selection Committee

The *National Management Board* shall appoint five members to make up an *Office Selection Committee*, which will oversee the investigation and selection process of each nominee for office. During the investigation and selection process the *Office Selection Committee* shall:

- Conduct a thorough investigation of each potential member;
- Obtain all supporting and relevant documentation;
- Personally interview each nominee and their referees;
- Reach a finding as to the suitability of each nominee;

- Submit its findings and make the ensuing recommendations to the *National Management Board*.

- 12.7.4 At the conclusion of the investigation and selection process, the Committee shall present the successful nominations to the *National Management Board* for the AGM.
- 12.7.5 Criteria for nomination and selection shall be subject to the application of the rules stated in 13.2.2 - 13.2.4.
- 12.7.6 Each member shall hold no more than one office per term.
- 12.7.7 A married couple shall not be individually appointed to each hold an office on the *National Management Board* during the same term.
- 12.7.8 Each member must have held a minimum financial membership of 2 years before they can be considered for office on the *National Management Board*. There may be circumstances that provide an exception to this requirement whereby a member may be considered worthy of consideration for office, such a determination will be made by the *National Management Board*.

## 12.8 Voting of National Management Board Offices

- 12.8.1 The Chairperson and their Deputy (or an appointed substitute) shall act as scrutineers in the voting process.
- 12.8.2 Votes for office in the *National Management Board* shall be cast by the *Branch Organisation Managers* of their respective regions and the existing officers of the *National Management Board*. Prior to the AGM, each *Branch Organisation Manager* shall accurately determine the weight of support for each nominee by referring to the *Regional Chairs* in each respective zone.
- 12.8.3 Each *Branch Organisation Manager* has the right to cast their vote according to what they believe is in the best interests of the Party.
- 12.8.4 A separate vote shall be cast for each office. Each vote shall identify the candidates who have been nominated for office, and who wish to stand for the position.

- 12.8.5 A nominee shall not cast a vote in respect of the office that he or she is standing for.
- 12.8.6 Most senior positions shall be elected first to enable unsuccessful nominees to stand for less senior offices.
- 12.8.7 When there are only two candidates for selection, the Chairperson shall declare the candidate who received a majority of the votes as elected.
- 12.8.8 If there are more than two candidates the voting shall be by progressive elimination. Voters shall be required to vote by show of hands or word of mouth for the preferred candidate. In the event of one candidate receiving majority votes, that candidate shall be elected. In the event that there is still no majority vote, the candidate who received the least number of votes shall be eliminated. This process shall continue until a majority vote is obtained for a candidate who shall be elected.
- 12.8.9 In the event that two or more candidates receive the same number of votes they shall not be eliminated from the next vote unless no votes were cast for them.
- 12.8.10 The Chairperson shall have the casting vote if on a last vote the candidates are tied. The successful candidate will then be elected.
- 12.8.11 Voting at all meetings shall be word of mouth or by show of hands at the discretion of the chairperson. The chairperson shall have the discretion to direct a secret vote where he or she deems it appropriate.
- 12.8.12 All resolutions require a majority vote to be passed.
- 12.8.13 There shall be a 75 percent representation of officers at all meetings at which a vote is required to be cast. A majority vote must be reached in each case. In the event of an even split, the Chairperson shall have the determining vote.

### **13. PARTY CANDIDATES**

#### **13.1 Candidate Selection**

- 13.1.1 The *National Management Board* shall appoint a *Candidate Selection Committee* to oversee the selection process for the appointment of Party Candidates to represent the Party in their respective electorates.

- 13.1.2 The *Candidate Selection Committee* shall comprise of no less than 5 members of the *Branch Organisation Executive*, the Party Leader, the Deputy Leader, the Party President, and the Party Secretary.
- 13.1.3 The *Candidate Selection Committee* shall be dissolved following the successful appointment of Candidates.
- 13.1.4 There are two types of candidates:
- *List Candidates* who represent the Party on the Party List; and
  - *Electorate Candidates* who are nominated by an electorate for the specific purpose of representing the Party in that electorate.
- 13.1.5 With the exception of the Party Leader, all *List Candidates* shall make themselves available for selection as *Electorate candidates*, and vice versa, if mutually agreed by all parties.
- 13.1.6 The Party Leader shall *ex officio* head the Party List and does not therefore require a nomination.
- 13.1.7 All *Party list candidates* are selected and ranked by the Party Leader.

## 13.2 Candidate Selection Process

- 13.2.1 Nominations for Candidate positions shall be received and scrutinized by the Branch Organisation Manager of the applicants region.
- 13.2.2 Before the applicant is referred to the *Candidate Education and Selection Programme*, the following criteria shall be considered:
- Proof of NZ citizenship
  - Current Curriculum Vitae
  - Three Professional referees
  - Police Clearance
  - Family profile
  - Fulfillment of clause 8.3 herein
  - Any other matter the Branch Manager deems necessary and relevant.
- 13.2.3 In selecting the candidate, the *Branch Organisation Manager* shall give due consideration to the candidates motivation and reasons for applying to be a Candidate, as well as the intentions and agenda they wish to pursue whilst in office.

13.2.4 In determining the suitability of the candidate the *Branch Organisation Manager* may take into account any matter they deem to be relevant, including but not limited to:

- Character and integrity traits
- Formal qualifications, skills, and previous experience
- Reputation with the Party, their employer, and their community
- Potential 'conflicts of interest' where the Party position could be compromised
- Family circumstances
- Existing or pending criminal convictions
- Commitment to adhere wholeheartedly to the Party Principles as set out in 2.1 of this constitution.

### 13.3 Candidate Education and Selection Programme

13.3.1 Aspiring Candidates will be required to attend the Candidate Education & Selection Programme (currently under development) before final determination of suitability is reached.

### 13.4 Candidate Presentation to Selection Committee

At the conclusion of the *Candidate Education & Selection Programme*, the candidate will appear before the Candidate Selection Committee and present a 5-minute oral address followed by an opportunity for panel questioning.

### 13.5 Appointment of Candidates

13.5.1 The *Candidate Selection Committee* shall reconvene within 14 working days of candidate presentation (rule 13.4) to vote for the nominee.

13.5.2 Each candidate will be notified in writing by the Party Secretary immediately after Candidate positions are allocated. Notice in writing must also be provided to the respective Regional Manager.

13.5.3 The *Candidate Selection Committee* shall not be obliged to provide justification of the reasons for any unsuccessful application.

## **14. PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS**

14.1 Only electoral candidates are eligible for inclusion in the *Parliamentary Caucus* ('Caucus').

14.2 The Party Leader will be the Head of Caucus and shall:



- Appoint the Deputy Leader from Caucus;
- Direct Caucus in all dealings and interactions concerning Parliament;
- Lead all negotiations relating to the entering into a coalition or co-operating with other political parties in Parliament.

**14.3 All Caucus meetings must be chaired by the Party Leader, or a person appointed by the Party Leader**

- 14.3.1 A Caucus quorum shall consist of 50 percent plus one;
- 14.3.2 Each member of Caucus shall have one vote;
- 14.3.3 In the event that there is a tie the Chairperson shall have an extra casting vote;
- 14.3.4 Each resolution of Caucus must be passed with a majority vote as well as be in accordance with the rules of the Party.

**14.4 Any legislative item must be endorsed by a Caucus resolution prior to its introduction by the Party to Parliament.**

**14.5 Voting**

- 14.5.1 Members must vote in accordance with the Party Manifesto (the document containing the Party's policy).
- 14.5.2 Caucus shall convene to determine a resolution in respect of every vote held in Parliament.
- 14.5.3 In the event there has not been an opportunity for Caucus to determine a resolution prior to a vote, each member will vote in accordance with his or her allegiance to the policy, principles and direction of the Party.

**14.6 Attendance of Members**

- 14.6.1 All caucus members shall attend Parliament when it is in session.
- 14.6.2 The Party Leader may in his or her discretion allow a caucus member leave from a Parliament session.

**14.7 Disciplinary Action**

- 14.7.1 A candidate must not:
  - Act contrary to the principles or interests of the Party;

- Be absent from a session in Parliament without providing a reasonable excuse for such absence;
- With regard to any Bill, vote contrary to the resolution passed by Caucus;
- Make available to any public forum any statement verbally or in writing that is in any way contrary to the rules, principles or and direction of the Party;
- Engage in behaviour or activities that the *National Management Board* believes to be contrary to the rules, principles or direction of the Party.

14.7.2 Any candidate who does any act stipulated in clause 14.7.1 will be subjected to disciplinary action by the *National Management Board*.

14.7.3 The *National Management Board* must conduct an investigation of the matter, giving due consideration to all of the circumstances pertaining to the members conduct.

14.7.4 The *National Management Board* may impose a term of suspension from office on the member until the matter can be fully investigated and presented to the *National Management Board* for a determination.

14.7.5 Depending on the nature and seriousness of the matter(s) pertaining to disciplinary action the *National Management Board* may decide to force the candidate to resign.

## **15. VARIATIONS TO CONSTITUTION**

15.1 Any part of this Constitution may be amended by a resolution at a meeting of the *National Management Board*.

15.2 Subject to clause 2 herein, where they deem necessary the *National Management Board* may divert from the requirements of this Constitution either to uphold the existing laws of New Zealand, or to allow for an emergency situation.

15.3 Any dispute with regard to the interpretation of this Constitution shall be resolved by the *National Management Board*. Any decision by the *National Management* in this regard shall be final and binding.