

CONSTITUTION

DEMOCRATIC ALLIANCE

PARTY

A) Agreed Party Principles

- Democracy – working with the people for the people.
- Sovereignty – protect individual rights and national rights from globalist or corporate influence.
- Equality – all people are equal and are to be respected, regardless of their race, country of origin or beliefs and gender. One person one vote regardless of race.
- Freedom – uphold Human Rights and the Bill of Rights, less government interference in our lives. Every person has the right to look after their own body and wellbeing.
- Free speech – the right to express our opinion.
- Transparency – accountable, honest, truthful communication.
- Media - an independent media, no government influence.
- Family – strengthen society through supporting families.
- Local communities and Tangata whenua – we acknowledge the special relationship they have with the land and the environment. We seek to understand their perspectives, needs and preferences, and we endeavour to find win : win solutions.

B) The way we do things - a new paradigm in politics

- Service to the people – service to the front, personal egos to the back. MP's are genuine public servants, firstly in service to the people and our country, and secondarily to the political party
- Choose the best people for the jobs
- Collaboration – genuine collaboration for the wellbeing of our people and country
- Communication – we listen to the people; we are open to debate, rely on factual information, and we are prepared to admit our mistakes and find a better solution
- Aroha - love, connection, compassion and care in and for our communities
- Integrity - walk the talk, transparent **honest** communication on all levels
- Unity in diversity – respect and treasure different views, and the positive diversity of our cultures and beliefs
- Support our own team to reflect, learn and grow, bringing the best out in each other
- Trust – we do what we say and deliver results

D) Definitions

Umbrella Party means Democratic Alliance or Alliance for Democracy or party*

Party Secretary means the person appointed as the Party Secretary of the Umbrella Party by the Umbrella Party Council.

Component Parties means any political parties that have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Umbrella Party Council. It can include registered and unregistered political parties under the New Zealand electoral law.

Umbrella Party Council means the joint party council of the Democratic Alliance* registered with the Electoral Commission.

Party List means the list of candidates selected by the Umbrella Party Council to contest the party vote for the Democratic Alliance* at a general election.

In these guidelines, any reference to “written” communication includes communications made digitally.

* Or a new name agreed by the Umbrella Party Council

1) Formation

The Democratic Alliance is to become a registered party established under these rules to undertake political activity and contest elections.

The official name of the Party is Democratic Alliance*

* Or a new name agreed by the Umbrella Party Council

The Democratic Alliance can act as an Umbrella party for component parties and grassroots groups, or as a political party on its own, or as a component party joining another party.

As an Umbrella Party it can include registered and unregistered parties.

The logo of the Umbrella Party will be submitted to the Electoral Commission with the registration process.

The name of the Umbrella Party can be changed by the Umbrella Party Council. It may be passed with a 2/3 majority vote.

2) Membership

Membership of the Party is open to financial members of the component parties and individuals.

Every individual who is a financial member of a component party may join the Party by paying a fee of at least \$1.00 for one year membership.

Membership of the component parties will be dealt with under the rules of the component parties.

When acting as an Umbrella Party, any active members may join the Umbrella party or join a component Party.

3) Structure:

a) Political Party in its own right:

The Board or Council: The initial administrative Council will be made up of the 2 co-secretaries. The 2 co-secretaries can elect other Council members to administer the beginning phase until other parties and Associate groups have joined.

In the event that the Democratic Alliance functions as a registered party alone, then the 2 co-secretaries will elect other members to form a Party Board. Decisions will be made in consensus or secondarily with a simple majority vote. There is an endeavour to first find consensus. If this is not possible a simple majority vote will decide. There is no casting vote.

b) When acting as an Umbrella Party:

There will be an Umbrella Party Council

The component parties will each appoint representatives to the Umbrella Party Council. Registered Parties appoint 2 representatives, unregistered parties 1.

The Umbrella Party Council is responsible for making decisions for the Party.

c) Affiliate Council

There will be an Affiliate Council for Associate groups to be an association to the Umbrella Party

The Affiliate Council for Associate groups: Its purpose is to supply support, guidance and expertise to the Umbrella Party and the Umbrella Party Council and to offer to the Associate groups a political arm and a stronger voice and a means to have representation in Parliament.

The Affiliate Council can promote candidates for the party list through the Umbrella Party Council.

The Affiliate Council will be composed of one elected representative from each affiliated group.

The Affiliate Council and the associated groups are invited to assist in preparing policies for the Umbrella party, to offer expertise and advice

4) Umbrella Party Council

There will be members from each component party in the Umbrella Party Council. The function of the Umbrella Party Council is to make decisions for the Umbrella Party.

The Umbrella Party Council will appoint the Council Chair. Nominations for the Council Chair will come from the representatives of the Component Parties or of the Affiliate Council in the Umbrella Party Council.

5) Membership of the Umbrella Party Council

The Umbrella Party Council shall consist of:

- a. the Umbrella Party Chair - a rotating chair from one of the component parties – with voting rights however the chair counts as one representative from his/her respective component party, see below)
- b. the Secretary of the Democratic Alliance Umbrella Party – [voting](#)
- c. one representative from each unregistered component party – voting
- d. two representatives from each registered component party – voting
- e. Up to 3 representatives of the Affiliate Council – voting
 - one representative of a pool of up to 6 Affiliate Council member groups
 - two representatives of a pool of 7- 12 Affiliate Council member groups
 - three representatives of a pool of 13 or more Affiliate Council member groups

6) Joining of Component Parties

There are no set limits to Parties joining as a component party.

However there is an approval process in place, which includes a vetting process.

The Umbrella Party Council (or initially the co-secretaries and elected board members) is in charge to facilitate the approval process and to make the decision of approval

7) Decisions of the Umbrella Party Council

Each voting member of the Umbrella Party Council will have one vote

Decisions can be made by consensus or by simple majority vote. There is an endeavor to first find consensus. If this is not possible a simple majority vote will decide. There is no casting vote.

The Umbrella Party Council can create *ex officio* Umbrella Party Council positions, which do not carry voting rights and may employ or contract individuals or firms, as is necessary or expedient in carrying out its functions

A quorum of 70% of the Council members attendance at any meeting is required to make decisions.

Umbrella Party council meetings can be conducted by zoom or similar online applications.

8) Vacancy

Where a position on the Umbrella Party Council becomes vacant, the component party or organization responsible for selecting that person will appoint a replacement.

9) Powers of the Umbrella Party Council

The Umbrella Party Council shall administer the affairs of the Party and shall pursue the objectives and protect the interests of the Party and its Members and without limiting the scope of its powers shall have authority to exercise any other lawful powers not inconsistent with these rules.

10) Delegation

The Umbrella Party Council may delegate to any person or committee, and any such person or committee may exercise or perform the delegated functions or powers. It shall be an express term and condition of any contract or agreement of delegation that the delegation is undertaken in accordance with these rules and consistent with the Party's objectives.

The Umbrella Party Council shall be able to revoke any delegation with immediate effect

No such delegation will prevent the exercise of any power or the performance of any duty by the Umbrella Party Council.

11) Collaboration

Each Member of Parliament of the Umbrella Party is free to collaborate with any other MP based on their component Parties directives and their individual creative interests and expertise.

12) Social Conscience Voting

a) Each MP of the Umbrella Party will vote in accordance with the agreed policies of the Umbrella Party.

b) Otherwise each MP of the Umbrella Party is free to vote:

- According to their Component Party's Policies and their social conscience on matters that are not the agreed policies of the Umbrella Party
- According to the needs of the people, our country & the natural environment.

13) Unity in Diversity:

The Unity in Diversity principle offers the Component Parties to represent their own policies in all areas except where the values and principles of the Umbrella Party are offering conflicting views.

Here the leaders of the component parties and their spokespeople can showcase differing views.

14) Representation of the Umbrella Party

- There will be 2 Co-leaders elected who also function as main spokes people for the Umbrella Party.

- There will be deputy leaders from all registered parties and agreed unregistered parties. (Purpose: this approach will present a strong team to the New Zealanders.

It allows for proper representation of the existing leaders of the component parties.

Criteria for selection: Alongside the co-leaders of the main minority parties who join the Umbrella Party, it is fundamentally important that the best leaders for the job are selected, and that personal egos are put aside).

- Charismatic and competent leader(s) will be selected to become the primary spokes person(s) to represent the policies and values of the Umbrella Party to the

public and in Parliament (likely to be only a few out of the possible 12 co-leaders. also see 22 for Spokes people)

- The component party leader/s and the campaign team of their component parties are entitled to showcase their party and represent it as a component of the Umbrella Party.

15) Selection of Party List

The Party List will be formed by the Umbrella Party Council in accordance with the requirements of the Electoral Law.

Each component party will decide on their party list. This will determine the number of members of each component party that are to be given party list positions, and the position on the list.

There is an expectation that the first 2 party list positions go to the two co-leaders. The next 3-4 seats will be offered to the other component parties, especially if they are registered parties. After that, any larger parties would place another of their representatives. From there the selection process would consider representatives from other component parties and potentially also candidates from the Affiliate Council, according to the criteria below.

The Umbrella Party Council will decide on the numbers and positions of the umbrella party list.

It is important to keep a balance with the component parties and their preferred candidates.

The party list candidates will be based upon criteria including,

- (i) Size and significance of the political party due to their track record in elections and polling
- (ii) The size of their component party's membership
- (iii) Competence and qualities of candidate

The amount of candidates and the position on the party list will be also based on criteria including,

- (iv) Financial contribution
- (v) Number of volunteers and supporters
- (vi) The component party's political polling

- (vii) Party public goodwill / profile
- (viii) Party brand name
- (ix) Social media following and other

The Umbrella Party Council will vet candidates.

The Umbrella Party Council may veto a candidate for good reason.

16) Selecting Electorate Candidates

Electorate candidates have the option to stand

- under their own Component Party's name and logo, or
- under the Umbrella Party's name and logo, but will not stand in opposition to candidates from other component parties from the Umbrella Party.

The Component Parties can nominate their Electorate Candidates.

The Umbrella Party Council will facilitate the process of selecting Electorate candidates of each component party based on their suggestions and for which electorates.

This process will also include Electorate candidates who choose to stand under the Umbrella Party name and logo.

17) Policy Development

a) Policy platform

The Umbrella Party Council will develop an agreed policy platform (preferably only up to 10 core policies) for the Party that all elected candidates from the component parties (either by way of the party list or via electorates) agree to vote for and implement to the best of their abilities in Parliament.

The component parties will establish policies where the component Parties are aligned and can agree to. Some core aligned principles of the Umbrella Party are identified under the Party Principles of the constitution and need to be reflected in the policy development of the aligned and agreed policies.

There is an awareness that the component parties also act under the principle of unity in diversity, meaning other policies and policy developments are also present

and as long as the policies don't conflict with the core agreed policies of the Umbrella Party and its component Parties, the MPs are free to collaborate with other MPs on such policies, represent their own component party policies and by that offer diversity of discussion and opinions. Such process is helpful to develop good outcomes.

There needs to be a commitment from the component parties that they focus on promoting the agreed Umbrella Party policies, at public engagement events such as the Umbrella Party Roadshows. Or else, they need to clarify that the policy is their own component party policy.

b) Conflict of policies

If a particular component party policy which is being promoted in the campaign is so extreme as to undermine the entire Umbrella party, then the Umbrella Party Council will negotiate with the respective component party to mitigate the issue. The Umbrella Party Council can seek independent mediation when there is no resolution of the conflict.

In the worst case the Umbrella Party Council can expel a component party from the Umbrella. A 2/3 majority is required to expel a component party.

The component parties may develop and advocate their own policy platform but will communicate with the other component parties during the process of policy development and prior to the public release of any new policies.

There will be a digital platform created for the release of new policies by respective parties and an opportunity to have input.

There will be at times policies from different component parties that are somewhat contradictory to some other parties' policies. Communication will assist to bridge the divides and there is a requirement from all members of the Umbrella to offer genuine mutual respect for one core principle: Unity in diversity.

18) Democratic Participation

The Umbrella Party Council will ensure that component party members have a role in selecting candidates, in accordance with the requirements of the electoral law.

19) Campaign Coordination Team

There will be a Campaign Co-ordination Team to coordinate the party vote campaign, with each component party contributing their available resources, including funding, personnel and expertise to maximise the party vote for the Umbrella Party and to assist with the election of candidates from component parties as agreed.

The Campaign Co-ordination Team shall consist of:

- 1) The Umbrella Party Secretary (who shall be chair).
- 2) A representative of each component party and one other representative from each component party.
- 3) The Party Strategist/s appointed by The Umbrella Council.
- 4) The Leaders of the Party who shall be ex-officio unless they are already represented under 2).
- 5) Leaders must be able to attend.
- 6) Other volunteers or employed person elected into the Campaign Coordination Team

20) Party Logo's

Each of the component party's will imbed the Umbrella Party Logo into their component party logo, to be developed by the Umbrella Party Communications Team and approved by the Umbrella Party Council, in conjunction with the component party leaders.

21) Spokespeople

The Umbrella Party Council will appoint two co-leaders who are also spokespeople for the Umbrella Party, who may speak on behalf of the Umbrella Party and advocate for the agreed policy platform.

The component parties may have their own spokespeople to advocate for their own parties. They will still have their own policy platform.

Each component parties' MPs are free to vote in Parliament to support and to publicly promote their own party's policies provided their vote is consistent with the principles and values of the Umbrella Party and the 5 agreed policies.

22) Wise Council

The Umbrella Party will establish a Wise Council.

The Wise Council will be in charge in the following areas:

- a) Setting standards on Accountability & Integrity.
- b) Ensuring that all politicians and candidates of the Umbrella Party will uphold good standards, good code of conduct, protecting the reputation and aspirations of the Party and following the values and principles of our party.
- c) When an Umbrella MP's or representative's conduct or communication is inappropriate, there will be processes in place which will offer guidance, reflection, effective communication, learning & transformation. The goal is consciousness building and coherence and capacity improvements.
- d) To offer expertise to the Umbrella Party through experts and to develop common policies.
- e) To support the Umbrella Party and its MPs to promote it's agreed policies and values.
- f) To give guidance to the Umbrella Party, it's MPs and all of its representatives.
- g) The Wise Council has the powers after due process, see 3) and conflict resolution/mediation to make a recommendation to the Umbrella Party Council to expel a member or representative from the Umbrella Party.
- h) The Wise Council facilitates vetting processes for all representatives in prominent positions of the Umbrella Party and its component Parties: their Leaders & co-leaders, Electorate candidates and party list candidates, and any other representatives who may have some public profiles due to its position or type of role in the Party networks. Any issues in the vetting process will be referred to the Umbrella Party Council and it will remain their decision how to proceed.

23) Finance and Expenditure

Auditing and reporting

The Umbrella Party Secretary will appoint an auditor for the Umbrella Party in accordance with the requirements of the electoral law.

Any component party can request an audit of the Umbrella Party finances at their own expense.

24) Legal Compliance

The Umbrella Party, and the Umbrella Party Council shall abide by the laws of New Zealand in all aspects of the operation of the Party.

25) Changes to the Party Rules

Amendments to the rules of the constitution may be proposed with a minimum of 10 working days notice and full information being provided to the component parties.

Amendments to the rules may be proposed by a component party, which will initiate a proposal by the passing of a resolution by the initiating component party's Executive. The notice must state the reasons for the initiating party wanting to make the amendment.

The Umbrella Party Council will meet, discuss and vote on any proposed amendment from a component party.

It will be voted on by the Umbrella Party Council, and may only be passed with a 2/3 majority vote.

A quorum of 75% of Council members is required.

26) Termination

Component party terminating its affiliation to the Umbrella Party:

When not in parliament a component party may give one month written notice of their intention to withdraw as a component party. The notice must state the reasons for the party wanting to withdraw as a component party. It must give an opportunity to the Umbrella Party Council to meet and for the other component parties to respond to the initiating party's notice at least two weeks before it takes effect.

The notice may only be initiated by the passing of a resolution by a component party's Executive.

It must be confirmed by the Umbrella Party Council.

The decision to withdraw as a component party will take effect after 6 weeks of the Umbrella Party's acknowledgment of exit unless the component party has withdrawn the termination.

Other reasons of termination:

In the event of breaches of the 5 agreed policies and consequent refusal of the component party's MP/s, its leaders or significant representatives to mitigate the

issue, the Umbrella Party Council has the power to expel the component party in order to avoid further damage to the Umbrella Party and its core values, principles and policies. This requires a 75% vote on the Umbrella Party Council.

While in parliament: Although the preference would be to maintain continued collaboration, a component party may withdraw from the Umbrella whilst in parliament. The MPs of the respective component party will stay on as the component party's MPs*.

*Waka Jumping rule: The Democratic Alliance does not follow the Waka Jumping rule given the situation is different. The MPs of the component parties are its MPs. This is different with an independent political party where their MPs jump off and leave the party, either because they have been expelled or they leave the party.

Termination if the Component Party is an unregistered Party: in the event of the Party leaving the Umbrella Party or the Party or its MPs being expelled then their MPs will lose their MP status and the Component Party cannot continue to be present in Parliament. Then the MPs next in line on the Party list will take their place. This is different with an Electorate seat. The electorate seat will stay with the respective party.

In the event that all component parties withdraw from the Umbrella Party, then the management of the Democratic Alliance will return to the co-secretary and elected board. They will determine the future of the party and its function. This includes a decision of a potential dissolution.

In the event of the dissolution of the Democratic Alliance any property of the Umbrella Party shall be transferred to such political parties or societies having objectives similar to those of the Umbrella Party within New Zealand.

27) Post Election

Government Formation

Within three days of a general election, the Umbrella Party Council will meet to discuss and plan negotiations for involvement and potential support for any new

government and do so before any post-election meeting with or commitment to any other political party, leader or representative.

The Umbrella representatives must 'hold true to the agreed policies' and values during the government term.

The component parties must also agree to support confidence and supply, if the party joins in a coalition with the government, or supports a government.

In a 'support confidence and supply' position, the Umbrella Party's MPs must retain the right to express critical views.

Name of the Umbrella Party: The Umbrella Party Council can change the name of the Umbrella Party to a similar name in order to better reflect the aims and purposes of the party or to gain a better voter identity. It requires a 2/3 majority of the Umbrella party Council.

The Democratic Alliance main objective is to function as an Umbrella for Component parties and Associate groups. In case there is no need to operate as an umbrella it can also operate as a political party in its own right.

28) Financial Statements

The Democratic Alliance produces the financial statements each year. The balance date is the 30 April.