

AFSCME Power In Action Committee – By-Laws

ARTICLE I. NAME AND MEMBERSHIP

SECTION A. This committee shall be known as the AFSCME Power In Action Committee and shall consist of all AFSCME locals affiliated with Ohio Council 8 and the Retiree Chapter 1184 and its subchapters in the state of Ohio.

ARTICLE II. OBJECTIVE AND METHODS

SECTION A. OBJECTIVES

1. The AFSCME Power In Action Committee shall have as its objectives the implementation of successful political and legislative action programs designed to meet the needs of all AFSCME affiliates and members in the state of Ohio.

SECTION B. METHODS

The objectives shall be carried out in the following manner:

1. By advocating state legislative programs in the interests of all AFSCME members in Ohio affiliated with Ohio Council 8 and the Retiree Chapter 1184.
2. By carrying out programs designed to educate affiliated AFSCME members on issues and on the records and platforms of political candidates.
3. By engaging in voter registration and get-out-the-vote campaigns among affiliated AFSCME members and their families.
4. By providing training programs to better enable affiliated AFSCME members in Ohio to engage in effective political and legislative programs, and by encouraging the highest possible degree of membership participation in such programs.
5. By screening, endorsing and actively supporting candidates for federal office in conjunction with AFSCME's national PEOPLE Committee.

6. By conducting PEOPLE fundraising and checkoff drives.
7. Delegates to the APC should participate in the general activities of the APC. In addition to attending ~~the~~ APC meetings, this activity shall include communicating with elected officials and member-to-member contact consisting of labor walks, phone banks, literature drops, etc.

ARTICLE III. STRUCTURE

SECTION A. STATEWIDE POWER IN ACTION COMMITTEE AND THE
STATEWIDE POWER IN ACTION STEERING COMMITTEE

1. The AFSCME Power In Action Committee shall consist of AFSCME locals affiliated with Ohio Council 8 and ~~the~~ Retiree Chapter 1184 and its subchapters in the state of Ohio.
2. The AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee shall consist of the President of Ohio Council 8 and the President of Retiree Chapter 1184, and one (1) designee per officer; the Political and Legislative Director of AFSCME Ohio Council 8 and the AFSCME PEOPLE Committee Chairs of Ohio Council 8 and Retiree Chapter 1184.
3. The Presidents of Ohio Council 8 and Retiree Chapter 1184 shall consider diversity in designating appointees to the Power In Action Steering Committee in order to ensure, to the extent possible, that the Power In Action Steering Committee reflects the diverse makeup of the AFSCME locals, chapters and subchapters that make up ~~the~~ Ohio Council 8 and Retiree Chapter 1184.

SECTION B. AREA PEOPLE COMMITTEES

1. Area PEOPLE Committees (APCs) shall be established by the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee based on the political and legislative goals of the organization. The boundaries of the Area PEOPLE Committees shall be determined based on such criteria as proximity of general population centers, geographical political subdivision boundaries and AFSCME membership population centers.

SECTION C. AREA PEOPLE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

1. Each local of Ohio Council 8 and ~~the~~ Retiree Chapter 1184 and its subchapters in the state of Ohio that is located in the county or counties covered by an Area PEOPLE Committee (APC) shall be entitled to a minimum of two (2) representatives to the committee.
2. The subordinate body president, or designee, and one (1) additional representative of the subordinate body shall serve as the representatives. Subordinate bodies with more than 200 members within the jurisdiction of that APC shall be entitled to one (1) additional representative, designated by the subordinate body president, for each additional 200 members or major fraction thereof as follows:
 - a. 201 to 400 additional members 1 additional rep.
 - b. 401 to 600 additional members 2 additional reps.
 - c. 601 to 800 additional members 3 additional reps.
 - d. 801 to 1000 additional members 4 additional reps.
 - e. 1001 to 1200 additional members 5 additional reps.
 - f. 1201 to 1400 additional members 6 additional reps.
 - g. 1401 to 1600 additional members 7 additional reps.
 - h. 1601 to 1800 additional members 8 additional reps.
 - i. 1801 to 2000 additional members 9 additional reps.
 - j. 2001 to 2200 additional members 10 additional reps.
 - k. 2201 to 2400 additional members 11 additional reps.
 - l. 2401 to 2600 additional members 12 additional reps.
 - m. 2601 to 2800 additional members 13 additional reps.
 - n. 2801 to 3000 additional members 14 additional reps.
 - o. 3001 to 3200 additional members 15 additional reps.

- p. 3201 to 3400 additional members 16 additional reps.
3. All retiree members residing in an APC jurisdiction where no retiree subchapter exists shall count as one (1) retiree subchapter for purposes of representation and be eligible for the same number of representatives in accordance with the above formula.
 4. Each subordinate body president may appoint alternate delegates in accordance with the above formula, who may act as delegates to the APC in the absence of a delegate at any meeting of the APC.
 5. Each subordinate body president shall prepare a list of the local union's APC delegates and alternates and provide the list to the APC's lead liaison staff person on or before March 1st of each year.

SECTION D. AREA PEOPLE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

1. Each Area PEOPLE Committee shall have two (2) officers consisting of a Chair and a Recording Secretary. One (1) representative from Ohio Council 8 and one (1) representative of ~~the~~ Retiree Chapter 1184 shall serve as the officers for each APC.
2. The Presidents of Ohio Council 8 and Retiree Chapter 1184 shall appoint the two (2) APC officers for each APC. APC officers will elect from among themselves who shall serve as the Chair and the Recording Secretary for their committee. This election shall take place in each odd-numbered year. APC officers shall be representatives to the APC by virtue of their office.
3. The Chair shall be responsible for calling and presiding over meetings of the APC and for providing the general leadership and coordination of activities necessary to carry out the objectives and methods contained herein.
4. The Recording Secretary shall be responsible for communications with APC members, Ohio Council 8 locals and Retiree Chapter 1184 and its subchapters, the AFSCME Power In Action Committee and the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee as directed by the APC. The Recording Secretary shall assist the Chair in carrying out all responsibilities and in the Chair's absence, fulfill the duties of the Chair.

5. Each Area PEOPLE Committee shall have assigned to it a staff representative who shall be the lead staff liaison between the APC, ~~and~~ the AFSCME Power In Action Committee and the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee. The lead staff liaison shall provide support to the committee and may call a meeting of the APC to ensure the proper functioning of the committee.
6. In addition to an initial organizational meeting, there shall be two (2) mandatory meetings annually. The purpose of these meetings shall be:
 - a. The “endorsement” or “recommendation for endorsement” or “recommendation for no endorsement” of candidates or issues in a primary election; and
 - b. The “endorsement” or “recommendation for endorsement” or “recommendation for no endorsement” of candidates or issues in a general election.
7. The outcome of the vote of the “endorsement” or the “no endorsement” of a candidate or issue is the official position of the APC. No officer, delegate or local shall openly or actively take a position contrary to that of the APC.
8. The notice announcing an APC meeting shall be sent to all local presidents of Ohio Council 8 and the subchapter presidents of Retiree Chapter 1184 under the respective APC’s jurisdiction.
9. The notice announcing an APC endorsement meeting shall list all offices and issues for which endorsements will be considered.
10. The President of the local(s) under the jurisdiction of the office or issue for which an endorsement is made shall be notified in writing of the name of the candidate or issue campaign receiving the endorsement.

SECTION E. AREA PEOPLE COMMITTEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibility of each Area PEOPLE Committee shall include, but not be limited to:

1. Carrying out ongoing lobbying on issues of importance to AFSCME with local, state, and federal elected officials from their APC jurisdiction.
2. Recruiting, screening and endorsing local candidates and issues within their APC jurisdiction and recommending contributions on ~~their~~ behalf of the candidate or issue to the AFSCME Power In Action Committee or the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee.
3. Recruiting, screening and recommending candidates for the Ohio General Assembly within the APC jurisdiction for endorsement by the AFSCME Power In Action Committee or the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee in those Ohio House of Representatives and Ohio Senate Districts assigned to it for specific responsibility.
4. Recruiting, screening and recommending candidates for the U.S. Congress for endorsement by the AFSCME Power In Action Committee or the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee in those congressional districts assigned to the Area PEOPLE Committee.
5. Recruiting, screening and recommending candidates for the State Court of Appeals for endorsement by the AFSCME Power In Action Committee or AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee in those districts assigned to the Area People Committee.
6. Coordinating PEOPLE fundraising in the APC jurisdiction and assisting where appropriate, individual locals and chapters in achieving PEOPLE checkoff rights.
7. Assisting the AFSCME Power In Action Committee and the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee in meeting all objectives.

SECTION F. AFSCME POWER IN ACTION COMMITTEE CONFERENCES

1. The AFSCME Power In Action Committee shall meet in Conference in even-numbered years during the months of June, July, or August. Delegates to this conference shall consist of:
 - a. The two (2) officers of each Area PEOPLE Committee.
 - b. The members of the executive boards of Ohio Council 8 and of Retiree Chapter 1184.
 - c. The members of the Ohio Council 8 and the Retiree Chapter 1184 PEOPLE committees.
 - d. The members of the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee.
 - e. Each APC will elect one (1) delegate from Ohio Council 8 and one (1) delegate from Retiree Chapter 1184. The representatives as set forth in Section C of Article III, of the various locals or subchapters situated within the geographical area of the APC will be entitled to vote in this election.
 - f. The Political and Legislative Director of AFSCME Ohio Council 8 ~~Power In Action~~ shall be an ex-officio, non-voting delegate.
 - g. The Presidents of Ohio Council 8 and Retiree Chapter 1184 may each appoint one (1) at-large delegate to the AFSCME Power In Action Conference from each APC.
2. Delegates shall have one voice and one vote.
3. A local union or subchapter may appoint up to two (2) non-voting guests to the Conference. All expenses for guests to attend the Conference shall be borne by the local union/or subchapter.

SECTION G. STATEWIDE AFSCME POWER IN ACTION CONFERENCE RESPONSIBILITIES

1. The responsibilities of the statewide AFSCME Power In Action Conference shall include, but not be limited to:
 - a. Final endorsement of all candidates for statewide office.
 - b. Final position taken on all statewide issues.
 - c. Final endorsement of state school board candidates.
2. The Political and Legislative Director of AFSCME Ohio Council 8 shall direct the AFSCME Power In Action program and preside over the AFSCME Power in Action Conference.
3. The AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee shall be the governing body between conferences.
 - a. The AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee shall have the responsibility of reviewing and determining contributions to endorsed candidates and issues.
 - b. The committee shall make recommendations to the AFSCME Power In Action Conference concerning the endorsements of candidates for statewide and federal office.
 - c. In the event an endorsement of a statewide candidate or issue is required during an off-year when no conference is scheduled endorsements shall be made by the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee in consultation with the executive boards of each of the affiliates.

ARTICLE IV. OTHER

SECTION A. UNITY

1. No officer or delegate of an Area PEOPLE Committee or member of the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee shall openly or actively oppose any candidate or issue endorsed by the AFSCME Power In Action Conference or the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee, nor act in opposition to any position duly adopted by the AFSCME PEOPLE program.
2. A violation of the above section is cause for removal from the Area PEOPLE Committee position held. Such removal shall be determined by the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee and reported to the Executive Board of the respective affiliate.

SECTION B. REFERRALS

The Area PEOPLE Committees shall refer any officer violating Section A above to the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee.

SECTION C. ENDORSEMENTS OF FEDERAL CANDIDATES

In all cases, endorsements made on behalf of federal candidates will be made in consultation and coordination with the AFSCME national PEOPLE program.

SECTION D. AFFIRMATION OF ENDORSEMENTS BY LOCALLY AFFECTED MEMBERSHIP

1. No endorsement or contribution will be made on behalf of any issue or candidate for office if the AFSCME membership affected by the issue or employed in a candidate's jurisdiction is not in agreement.
2. Where two (2) or more locals working under the same employer/candidate's jurisdiction fail to agree on an issue or candidate, a separate caucus will be held at the same meeting as the announced meeting for endorsements consisting of only those locals so affected. In caucus, locals shall be entitled to vote full

current membership strength evenly divided among all attending delegates with the president or their designee casting any remaining votes. Majority vote on the “endorsement” or “no endorsement” shall prevail.

SECTION E. AMENDMENT OF BY-LAWS

1. These by-laws can be amended by the unanimous consent of the AFSCME Power In Action Steering Committee or by a majority vote of the delegates attending the AFSCME Power In Action Conference.
2. However, in the case of a conference vote, such amendment is to be submitted to each local and retiree subchapter at least thirty (30) days prior to the opening day of the conference. If a proposed amendment has not been submitted to each local and retiree subchapter at least thirty (30) days prior to the conference, a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates attending the conference shall be necessary for approval.

SECTION F. ELECTIONS

Elections held in conjunction with fulfilling the objectives of these by-laws are not subject to Appendix A of the AFSCME International Constitution.

SECTION G. CONTRIBUTIONS

The Lead Staff or Chairperson of the APC shall notify the local president(s) under the jurisdiction of the office for which the contribution is being given and whenever possible, the local president(s) under said jurisdiction shall assist in the delivery of the contribution to the APC endorsed candidate or issue campaign to which the contribution is being given.