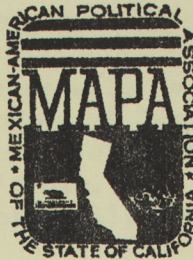


SOUTHERN

REGION

MEXICAN-AMERICAN



POLITICAL ASSOCIATION

Counties of

Imperial—Orange—Riverside—San Bernardino—San Diego

CONSTITUTION

As Amended on May 23, 1971

ARTICLE I

NAME

The name of this organization shall be the Mexican-American Political Association of California, Inc., Southern Region, hereinafter referred to as "The Southern Region."

ARTICLE II

AIMS AND PURPOSES

The purposes of this organization will be to carry out in that region of California located in the Counties of San Bernardino, Riverside, Orange, San Diego and Imperial the general aims and purposes of the Mexican-American Political Association of California, Inc. (hereinafter referred to as "The State Organization") more specifically set forth as follows:

- A. The creation of a non-partisan organization for the social, economic, cultural and civic betterment of Mexican-Americans and all other Spanish-speaking people through political action.
- B. The election and appointment to public office of Mexican-Americans and other persons sympathetic to our aims.
- C. To encourage increased activity in both major political parties as well as:
 1. Seek election or appointment to Republican and Democratic Central Committees.
 2. Join political clubs, such as the Republican Assembly, the California Democratic Council and other organizations related to political activity.
 3. Seek office or committee appointments in their respective labor, professional and civic organizations.
- D. To take stands on political issues, to present and endorse candidates for public office.
- E. To maintain a permanent registration and get-out-the-vote drive throughout the State of California.
- F. To carry on a program of political education through such means as 'floating seminars' throughout the State.
- G. To compile and disseminate political information about issues and candidates.
- H. To establish constructive relationships for mutual cooperation and assistance with other groups having aims similar to those of this organization.

ARTICLE III

GENERAL POWERS AND DURATION

A. This Constitution and By-Laws shall constitute the governing rules of procedure for the Southern Region, except as otherwise specifically provided in the Constitution and By-Laws of the "State Organization".

B. This organization shall have the power to do any lawful acts or things reasonably necessary or desirable for carrying out the organization's purposes, and for protecting the lawful rights and interests of its members in connection therewith.

C. The death, removal, or resignation of any member of this organization shall not result in the dissolution of this organization.

ARTICLE IV

MEMBERSHIP

A. Formulation of membership:

1. All persons who foster the aims of this organization and who have been accredited as members by the State Organization shall be admitted to membership.
2. No local Chapter or District association organization shall extend membership rights or privileges to any person who is not a member of the State Organization and Southern Region, pursuant to Article IV.8.1.
3. All regular members may vote and participate in organization activities, and may hold office in either state or local levels. All regular members must have filed their intention to become a citizen.

B. Membership Dues:

1. Membership dues shall be \$10.00 per fiscal year, commencing June 30, 1970, per member or member and spouse. Needy persons may pay dues of \$2.00 per fiscal year.

2. Dues shall be collected by the Chapter and disposed of in the following manner:

(a) Upon payment of dues, a dated receipt shall be issued by the local Chapter Treasurer, which shall entitle the holder of the receipt to interim membership, pending his receipt from the State Treasurer of a membership card.

(b) The State membership dues (as defined in Article I, Sec. C,1 of the State By-Laws) shall be placed in possession of the State Treasurer by the local Chapter Treasurer at least monthly and the State Treasurer must mail to each dues paying member, his membership card, within thirty (30) days from the date of receipt of the member's dues.

(c) It shall be the duty of the State Treasurer within said period of thirty (30) days to:

1. Forward the \$1.00 to the respective Regional Treasurer.
2. Forward \$1.00 to the Chapter.
3. Forward \$2.00 to the State Newsletter.
4. Retain \$6.00 for the State Treasury.
5. In those cases referred to in Article I, Sec. C.1. (a) & (b) of the State By-Laws, forward 1/3 thereof to the respective Regional Treasurer; 1/3 to the Chapter; and 1/3 shall be retained for the State Treasury.

C. Any member residing in an Assembly District where there are existing Chapters or organizing committees shall belong to a Chapter or organizing committee within said District as a condition of his membership in this organization.

1. District chapter members shall pay such dues and raise funds for such needs and expenses as they deem necessary and proper. The name of MAPA may be used for fund raising purposes.

D. Removal from membership:

1. Voluntary withdrawal.
2. Non-payment of dues.

3. Expulsion by two-thirds (2/3) of the State Executive Board.
Causes for Expulsion are:

(a) To refuse without justifiable cause, to assume the duties, offices, powers and official designations entrusted to a member.

(b) Misconduct amounting to a breach of the peace at any meeting, or the use of disorderly tactics intended to thwart the democratic determinations made by the State Executive Board.

4. Misconduct, which the chartered assembly, county, congressional or regional districts may determine by a two-thirds (2/3) vote as to their own members in their respective By-Laws, to be detrimental to the best interest of the State Association or said Districts. In such situation the State Executive Board shall pro forma ratify the determination of said Districts, unless the member shall appeal in writing to the Board within thirty (30) days, and the Board shall determine to review the expulsion upon the record made before the chartered assembly or other District organization, and make a different order.

E. Notice of Disciplinary Action:

1. Prior to any disciplinary action as set forth in D.3.(a) & (b) above, at least fifteen (15) days written notice must be sent to the member Chapter involved stating the reason for the anticipated action before any such action may be taken.

2. No notice need be given if disciplinary action is pursuant to Article VII, Sec. A.2. of the State By-Laws.

ARTICLE V

PROCEDURE FOR GRANTING CHARTERS TO ASSEMBLY
OR CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICTS

A. There must be at least fifteen (15) members to qualify for a charter. The appropriate number of signatures shall be obtained on a printed application for charter.

B. A list of temporary or permanent officers shall be submitted with the membership application.

C. Assembly District Charter applications shall be approved by the Southern Region Executive Board, subject to final approval by the State Executive Board.

D. Assembly District and Congressional District applications shall be sent to the Southern Region Executive Board for approval subject to final approval by the State Executive Board.

E. Only one charter shall be granted to each Assembly District, except that the State Executive Board may make exceptions when necessary.

F. Any group not approved by the Congressional District may appeal to the Southern Region for approval. The Executive Board of the State Organization has a right to cancel any Charter.

G. Assembly Districts and Congressional Districts may adopt and operate under their own constitutions so long as they are not in conflict with the State and Southern Region Constitutions.

ARTICLE VI

OFFICERS

The officers of this organization shall be: (1) The Southern Region Director (2) Southern Region Vice-Director (3) Recording Secretary (4) Corresponding Secretary (5) Treasurer.

ARTICLE VII

DUTIES OF OFFICERS

A. Southern Region Director: The Southern Region Director shall preside at all meetings, including general membership meetings and executive board meetings, and shall represent the organization in public and official functions, except as otherwise provided for by the organization or by this Constitution. The Director shall coordinate and be primarily responsible for the work and performance of the officers elected by the general membership. He shall be a member, ex officio, of all committees. He shall, from time to time, appoint such sergeants at arms as he deems necessary and he shall have such further power and duties as may be granted to him in other articles and sections of this Constitution and By-Laws. The Director shall appoint such standing and special committees as may be required to effectuate the aims and purposes of the Southern Region with approval of the Executive Board. He shall be responsible for referring all matters requiring committee action to the pertinent committee.

B. Southern Region Vice-Directors: There will be five Vice Directors. One will be elected from each county. They will be responsible for seeing that the Chapters in their county operate effectively and efficiently. The Vice-Directors will be directly responsible to the Director of the Southern Region. If the Southern Region Director vacates his office, the Vice-Directors with the most Chapters in his county will assume the position of Southern Region Director. In case of a tie, the Vice-Directors will meet and elect a Southern Region Director to fill the unexpired term.

C. Treasurer: The Treasurer shall receive all the monies paid into the organization and immediately make record of the same in the books kept by him for that purpose. He shall keep the correct account of the financial status of all members with their full names and addresses. He shall keep a record of any and all monies paid out by the organization. He shall make an itemized statement at all general membership meetings to the body of all monies received and paid out by him. He shall file a bond with the Executive Board as security for the funds of the organization in such amount as shall be fixed by the Executive Board. Any expense in securing the bond shall be borne by the Southern Region.

D. Recording Secretary: The Recording Secretary shall keep the correct minutes of each meeting of the body and of the Executive Board, and shall read and preserve all documents and correspondence. Under instruction of the Director and the Treasurer, he shall issue all summons for meetings, special meetings and meetings of the Executive Board.

E. Corresponding Secretary: The Corresponding Secretary shall carry out the correspondence of the organization and shall assist the Recording Secretary and Treasurer with their work in any manner requested by them.

ARTICLE VIII

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

A. The officers of this organization shall be elected annually at special meetings of the membership called for this purpose. These elections shall take place at least thirty (30) days prior to the convention of the State Organization. But in no event later than twelve (12) months from the previous elections. Voting shall be by secret ballot. Election to office shall be by majority vote of those members in good standing present and voting.

B. To be in good standing for purposes of being eligible to vote under this Article a person must have been a member of MAPA for at least thirty (30) days prior to the election in which he seeks to vote.

C. No candidate is eligible for Regional office who has not been a member of MAPA for at least one (1) year prior to the elections.

ARTICLE IX

EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. The governing body of the Southern Region shall be the Executive Board. The Executive Board shall be composed of the Director, Vice-Directors, Treasurer, Recording Secretary, Corresponding Secretary, all the congressional district directors and all the assembly district chairmen in the Southern Region.

B. The Executive Board shall carry out the policy of the Southern Region as developed by the members. It shall have the power to transact all business between meetings and to initiate new policies between regular membership meetings, provided that such policies shall not be inconsistent with the policy developed by the members and provided further that any business which they transact must get the approval of the members at the next regular meeting before becoming final, if such approval is requested by at least fifteen (15) general members.

C. They shall act as a trial board and shall be unbiased and impartial in all trials.

D. The Executive Board shall hold a meeting at least once every two months. The Director shall give at least five (5) days written notice of such meetings and shall designate the purpose, time, and the place. The minutes of such meetings are to be read at the next regular membership meeting of the Southern Region. (For the purpose of complying with this section, an executive board meeting may be held jointly with a membership meeting.)

E. At least 25% of the members of the Executive Board shall constitute a quorum in any meeting of the Executive Board.

F. The Executive Board shall supervise the officers and staff of the Southern Region in the performance of their duties as set forth in Article VII.

G. There shall be a Chairman for each Congressional District in the Southern Region which shall have been granted a charter by the State Executive Board. He shall hold office one (1) year, and he shall be a member of the Southern Region Executive Board.

H. There shall be a Chairman for each Assembly District in the Southern Region which shall have been chartered by the State Executive Board. He shall hold office one (1) year, and he shall be a member of the Southern Region Executive Board.

I. A member of the Executive Board shall not during his tenure in office hold an appointive position of partisan Federal, State, County or Municipal Office, unless said position shall be by virtue of civil service appointment. An appointee may be a non-voting member of the Executive Board.

ARTICLE X

REMOVAL OF OFFICERS

If any officer shall fail to perform his duties as an officer, or shall fail to respect official endorsements for political office made by the Mexican-American Political Association, or shall violate any of the provisions of this Constitution, or shall fail to attend the regular duties of such office for a period of three (3) meetings, then the Executive Board, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of those members present and voting, may in either event, at its option, declare such officer disqualified and discharged, and his office vacated, and the Executive Board may at any time thereafter, fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of such officer.

ARTICLE XI

MEETINGS

A. There shall be a general membership meeting at least once every four (4) months, at least ten (10) days written notice specifying purpose, time, and place must be given to all members prior to the meeting.

B. When a Constitution Amendment is to be proposed, the text of the proposed amendment must be sent to the membership in the notice of the meeting.

C. The general membership meetings shall be held in January, May, and September.

D. It shall be the responsibility of the Southern Region Director to call meetings of the Executive Board and general membership meetings. Should he fail or neglect to call such meetings, as provided for herein, any two (2) officers of the Southern Region, acting jointly, shall proceed to call said meeting.

E. There must be at least twenty-five (25) members present at a general membership meeting to constitute a quorum.

ARTICLE XII

ENDORSEMENTS

A. The Southern Region shall call a special membership meeting not later than thirty (30) days after the close of the filing date prior to each election in an area in which it has territorial jurisdiction for the purpose of considering making an endorsement.

B. The Southern Region shall have territorial jurisdiction to make endorsements in all cases where the area affected includes within its boundaries more than one Assembly or Congressional District.

C. Such a meeting shall be held only upon at least ten (10) days written notice to the membership.

D. Only those members living within the geographical area of the Southern Region shall have the right to vote at such a meeting.

E. Endorsement of a candidate for public office must receive an affirmative vote of at least sixty (60%) percent of those members in good standing present and voting.

F. At an endorsing convention only those members who have been duly enrolled in MAPA for at least thirty (30) days prior to the endorsing convention shall be deemed to be in good standing to be eligible to vote.