

WAMEND BYLAWS  
Revision 7, adopted 1/7/15

Article I. NAME

The name of this organization is the “Washington Coalition to Amend the Constitution,” and its public acronym is “WAMend.”

Article II. PURPOSE

WAMend is a coalition of grassroots organizations and individuals who believe that unlimited and anonymous money has corrupted our political system. The mission of WAMend is to put the State of Washington on record as calling for an amendment to the U.S. Constitution. The amendment will empower the people to pass laws that limit and control money in politics. We believe that this amendment is needed to enshrine the intent of the people to make political candidates and elected officials representative of the needs and desires of the people rather than monied interests. The amendment will clarify that:

- Corporations and other artificial entities created by statute are not endowed with rights of persons as delineated in our Constitution.
- Contributing to or spending money on elections is not speech protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution – it must be regulated and controlled to allow all citizens equitable access and influence in the political process.
- Campaign contributions and expenditures must be disclosed to the public.

Article III. OFFICERS

1. GENERAL

WAMend has three officers: a Coordinator, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. These officers are elected by majority vote at a Steering Committee (SC) meeting, and they may be removed by majority vote at an SC meeting. A week’s notice to all SC members is required for either of these actions.

The officers are automatically members of the Steering Committee and of the Executive Committee.

2. COORDINATOR

The Coordinator chairs meetings of the Steering Committee and of the Executive Committee, and provides proposed agendas for these meetings.

The Coordinator serves as the public spokesperson for WAMend when appropriate. She/he will make public representations or communications regarding WAMend positions only with the approval of the Steering Committee or Executive Committee. In addi-

tion, the Steering Committee may authorize other persons to present information to the public about WAmend, including by setting up a speaker's bureau for routine public presentations. If unable to attend an event as the WAmend spokesperson, the Coordinator may designate another person in her/his place.

The Coordinator will be responsible for welcoming new Steering Committee members and directing (or delegating) the addition and updates of member organization information to all appropriate Coalition email and document permission lists.

The Coordinator will be responsible for identifying and directing approval of new or modified coalition budgets, officers, work plans, and bylaws, through her/his proposed agenda for Steering Committee meetings.

The Coordinator will be responsible for responding to (or delegating) general Coalition information requests.

The Coordinator will have the discretion to make necessary non-public tactical decisions between meetings of the Steering Committee (SC) and of the Executive Committee (EC). Such decisions may not contradict those of the SC or the EC.

When faced with the extended unavoidable absence of the Coordinator, the Steering Committee or Executive Committee may appoint a person with the title of Temporary Coordinator to exercise her/his responsibilities until she/he is again able to resume these responsibilities.

### 3. SECRETARY

The Secretary is responsible for producing and promptly (within one week) publishing the minutes of meetings of the Steering Committee and of the Executive Committee.

### 4. TREASURER

The Treasurer is responsible for all aspects of the handling of WAmend financial activity, ensuring that it is carried out in compliance with the rules of the state Public Disclosure Commission.

The Treasurer will provide the Steering Committee and Executive Committee with complete reports on WAmend finances, as requested. She/he will also file the required financial reports with the state Public Disclosure Commission.

## Article IV. STEERING COMMITTEE

### 1. AUTHORITY AND FUNCTION

The Steering Committee is the highest decision-making body of WAmend, and its decisions must be implemented by the rest of the organization (Executive Committee, Work

Committees, and any other committees set up to advance the goals of WAmend). It provides strategic direction and general oversight to the organization.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Steering Committee (SC) are the officers, single representatives of WAmend member organizations, and at-large individuals.

Member organizations and at large individuals are those which support the purpose and mission of the coalition, agree to have their name listed publicly as a member organization, and must bring resources to bear in support of the coalition mission such as by:

1. Participating in workshops and committees.
2. Recruiting their organization's membership to participate in grassroots/community-based action, which supports the Coalition goals.
3. Providing individual financial support, or soliciting financial resources from their organization or from individual members of their organization.

Member organizations and at-large individual members are approved or are elected to the SC on a case-by-case basis considering the resources they bring to WAmend. The number of at-large individual members may not exceed 25% of the total membership of the SC.

Except for the officers, members of the SC may be added or removed only by a 2/3-majority vote of the SC.

## 3. MEETINGS

Meetings of the Steering Committee may be set at a previous SC meeting, by the Executive Committee, or by written request to the Coordinator or Secretary of at least 30% of the current SC members. A week's notice of an SC meeting is required.

The quorum for a Steering Committee meeting is ten persons or 30% of the current SC membership, whichever number is smaller. Decisions are by majority vote of those SC members voting.

Substantive decisions of the Executive Committee must be confirmed at the next Steering Committee meeting in order to remain in effect.

## Article V. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

### 1. AUTHORITY AND FUNCTION

The Executive Committee is responsible for the coordination and direct oversight of the practical work of WAmend, implementing the decisions and guidelines of the Steering Committee. Regarding practical work, it is the highest decision-making body except for

the Steering Committee.

The Executive Committee may modify previous decisions of the Steering Committee in order to react immediately to new conditions, if it is impractical for the whole SC to make the necessary decision. However, it may not modify any SC decision requiring a 2/3-majority vote or which it has been specifically forbidden to change.

## 2. MEMBERSHIP

The members of the Executive Committee (EC) are the officers and up to six other Steering Committee members whom the SC chooses to place on the Executive Committee.

## 3. MEETINGS

Meetings of the Executive Committee may be set by the Coordinator, by the Steering Committee, at a previous meeting of the Executive Committee, or by written request to the Coordinator or Secretary of at least 30% of the current EC members.

Any decision of the Executive Committee requires the approval of the majority of all of the current EC members. The quorum for an Executive Committee meeting is 2/3 of its current members.

## Article VI. OTHER COMMITTEES

Work committees may be created to carry out particular aspects of WAmend work, such as fundraising, or to ensure that WAmend goals are being met in particular geographical regions. They report to the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee may create them either by the Steering Committee, or with the SC's confirmation at the next SC meeting.

The Steering Committee may also create committees to aid it in its decision-making, such as a finance committee for developing the budget or a bylaws committee. Such committees report directly to the SC.

## Article VII. OPERATING PROCEDURES

These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3-majority vote at a Steering Committee meeting. Proposed amendments are to be given to the Coordinator prior to an SC meeting or presented at a Steering Committee meeting, then entered into the meeting minutes, and finally discussed and voted on at the following SC meeting.

Meetings of the Steering Committee and of the Executive Committee will be run as much as possible in a way, which ensures that everyone has the opportunity to have her/his views seriously considered. Robert's Rules of Order, Revised, shall generally govern organizational meetings to which they are applicable and in which they are consistent with these Bylaws.