



**AMERICAN
TEA PARTY
CONGRESS**

One Voice for America's Future

Charter

Charter of the American Tea Party Congress

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PREAMBLE

In the course of the past century, those whose ideological, political and economic agendas impelled them to trample underfoot the Constitution of the United States and flout the rule of law have agitated tirelessly to transform our free market republic into an oligarchic socialist state, where the federal government endeavors to do for the people that which they ought to do for themselves while diminishing in ever-increasing proportions all they possess, especially their liberty. Today we are engaged in an existential political and cultural struggle to determine whether this nation – or any nation conceived in liberty and governed by the rule of law – can long endure.

We therefore, the delegates of the undersigned Tea Party and conservative organizations, agree to unify as sovereign equals to effect the return of the United States to the rule of Constitutional Law and the free market republicanism that made it the greatest nation in the history of mankind.

All that we are, all that we have and all that we hope for in this life we are prepared to sacrifice to ensure that this republic shall not perish from the face of the earth. So help us, God.

Charter of the American Tea Party Congress

SIGNATORIES

Paul Albanese

Americans for Liberty

Nick Purpura

Jersey Shore Tea Party

Barbara Gonzalez Robert Gordon

Bayshore Tea Party Group

Calvin Wortman

Monmouth County Tea Party Coalition

Nick Purpura (proxy)

Campus Tea Parties

Michele Talamo

New Jersey Tea Party Caucus

Constitutional Accountability

Nancy Shauger

North Jersey Regional Tea Party

Rev. Richard Davidson

Jackson Tea Party Patriots

John Di Marco

Right Direction

Brayburn Properties

Tea Party of Middlesex County

Jersey City Tea Party Alliance

Paul Draper

Tea Party Advocacy Tracking Hub

Charles Lukens

Ventnor Tea Party

Recorded in Red Bank, New Jersey on this 2nd day of March in the year 2013



Gene Hoyas, Moderator

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Article I Organization and Mission

Section 1

The American Tea Party Congress, hereinafter referred to as the ATPC, shall be comprised of, and represent, a confederation of Tea Party groups and kindred conservative organizations and shall function entirely as an agency at the consensual discretion of the member Tea Parties and conservative groups, each of which retains its individual sovereignty.

Section 2

The mission of the ATPC is to promote unity and cooperation among Tea Parties and like-minded organizations seeking to restore, preserve and protect the constitutional law and the supporting principles upon which the United States were founded.

Section 3

The ATPC shall govern itself subject to the Constitutions of the United States and of those states in which it is incorporated.

Article II Governing Structure

1. The principal governing structure of the ATPC shall be comprised of the Board of Representatives and the Officers of the organization.
2. Any powers, duties and responsibilities of the Board of Representatives and Officers of the organization not expressly set forth in this Charter shall be determined by the Board of Representatives and expressed in the By-Laws.

Article III Enumerated Powers

Section 1

The Board of Representatives shall have the following powers:

- a) Establish by two-thirds majority vote all By-Laws, statutes, and policies governing the organization
- b) Officially interpret the Charter, By-Laws and statutes
- c) Establish Officers and ancillary personnel and prescribe their duties and responsibilities
- d) Remove Representatives, Officers and ancillary personnel from office
- e) Approve admission of new member groups to the ATPC
- f) Expel, if and when necessary, any existing member group or groups
- g) Endorse and support candidates for political office
- h) Appropriate expenditures and engage in fundraising

Section 2

The general membership of constituent organizations shall have the following powers:

- a) Appoint a delegation of two Representatives to serve on the Board of Representatives
- b) Recall one or both of their Representatives from the Board
- c) Approve the initial Charter and any subsequent amendments

Section 3

The enumerated powers of the Board of Representatives and the constituent organizations in this Charter may be expanded or contracted only through the amendment process described in Article IX.

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Article IV Membership

1. Any individual or organization that meets criteria set forth in the By-Laws and embraces the provisions set forth in this Charter may petition the ATPC for membership.
2. The Board of Representatives shall have the power, by two-thirds majority vote, to accept or reject the petition.
3. Any organization may quit the ATPC at any time.

Article V Board of Representatives

Section 1

Except where indicated in this Charter, the policy-making and primary executive power of the ATPC shall reside in the Board of Representatives.

Section 2

1. Each of the signatories to this Charter and every organization accepted for membership in the ATPC after this Charter has been ratified shall elect or appoint no more than two members to serve as its Representative delegation.
2. Each Representative delegation shall have one vote on the Board of Representatives.

Section 3

No Representative shall receive compensation or emolument for any service rendered to the organization except where expenses incurred personally by them on behalf of the organization require reimbursement or the Board of Representatives determines by two-thirds majority vote that compensation on a periodic or regular basis is required.

Section 4

With exception of the provisions set forth in Section 5 below, all acts of the Board of Representatives passed in accordance with this Charter shall bind all constituent member organizations, Representatives, Officers and ancillary personnel.

Section 5

1. Member organizations may, through their Representative delegations, invoke their sovereignty and exempt themselves from any act passed by the Board if:
 - a) The act is inherently inimical to the status or mission statement of their organization; and/or
 - b) The act violates the collective conscience of their organization; and/or
 - c) The act substantively hinders the local or regional agenda of their organization.
2. Any member organization of the ATPC that exempts itself from an act of the Board of Representatives may not intentionally obstruct that act or otherwise undermine the mission of the ATPC.

Section 6

Questions or disputes regarding the interpretation of any part of this Charter or the By-Laws shall be resolved by two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Representatives.

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Article VI Officers and Ancillary Personnel

Section 1

1. The Officers of this organization shall consist of the President, Vice-President, Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer and Communications Director.
2. The Officers shall have principal responsibility for the day to day operation of the organization, but shall have no power to vote at any meeting other than elections.
3. All candidates for Officer shall be carefully vetted for qualifications, probity and upstanding character.
4. Officers shall each be elected by the Board of Representatives at a meeting, for a term and according to procedures to be defined in the By-Laws, and shall serve at the pleasure of the Board of Representatives.
5. A candidate for Officer who is a member of the Board of Representatives shall, if elected, be required to resign from the Board.

Section 2

1. If, for any reason, the office of President shall become vacant, the Vice-President shall succeed to the office.
2. If, for any reason, the office of the Vice-President or any other office becomes vacant, the Board of Representatives shall appoint a duly qualified individual to fill the unexpired portion of the term, pursuant to the By-Laws and the conditions set forth in this Charter.

Section 3

Neither Officers nor ancillary personnel of any office or designation shall receive compensation or emolument for any service rendered to the organization except where expenses incurred personally by them on behalf of the organization require reimbursement or the Board of Representatives determines by two-thirds majority vote that compensation on a periodic or regular basis is required.

Section 4

Pursuant to this Charter, the powers and responsibilities of the Officers and ancillary personnel of all offices or designations shall be established in the By-Laws by the Board of Representatives.

Article VII Appropriations and Expenditures

Section 1

The Board of Representatives shall be empowered to determine the fiscal year of the ATPC and establish such in the By-Laws as well as appropriate and spend funds on behalf of the organization, pursuant to this Charter and provisions set forth in the By-Laws.

Section 2

The President shall be empowered to appropriate and spend funds on behalf of the organization, pursuant to this Charter and provisions set forth in the By-Laws.

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Article VIII Meetings

Section 1

The Board of Representatives shall meet at a time and place and in a manner to be determined by them and set forth in the By-Laws.

Section 2

The President shall be empowered to call a special meeting of the Board of Representatives and shall chair any such meetings that he calls.

Section 3

1. A quorum of the Board of Representatives consisting of a simple majority must be present at the beginning of any meeting for any action requiring a vote other than adjournment to take place.
2. With the exception of elections for Officers and Trustees, any motions, resolutions or actions brought to the floor for a vote at regular and special Board meetings shall be decided by two-thirds majority vote of the Representatives present at that meeting.

Article IX Force of Law and Amendments

Section 1

This Charter shall become effective at 12:01 AM on the day following the date of its ratification by the general membership of no fewer than two-thirds of the signatory organizations and it may not be interpreted to function ex post facto.

Section 2

1. Amendments to this Charter may be proposed by any member of the Board at any regular Board meeting.
2. If a two-thirds voting majority of the Board members approve of the proposed amendment, it shall be submitted to the general membership of each member organization for a ye or nay vote. A three-quarters voting majority of the member organizations must approve of the amendment for it to be incorporated into the Charter.
3. If ratification by three-quarters of the member organizations has not taken place after a period of three months from the date the proposed amendment was approved by the Board of Representatives, the amendment shall be deemed null and void.
4. If the proposed amendment is ratified, the Secretary shall prepare a new version of the amended Charter, certify it with an actual or electronic signature and send a copy of it to all member organizations via U.S. postal service or e-mail.

Article X Adoption and Ratification

At the 2 March 2013 session of the American Tea Party Congress, this Charter was adopted by a unanimous vote of the delegations present.

On 10 March 2013, the general membership of two-thirds of the signatory organizations ratified this Charter, which shall acquire the force of law at 12:01 AM on 11 March, 2013.



Gene Hoyas, Moderator