

AOR 2012-04

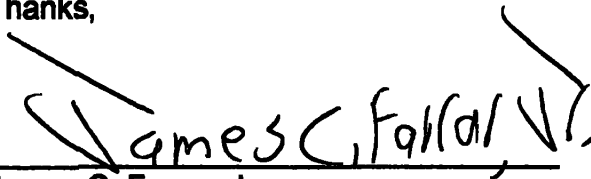
December 29, 2011

To whom it may concern(FEC),

Justice Party of Mississippi is making this Advisory Opinion Request (AOR) for approval of recognition as an FEC approved "State" party of Mississippi. This request is being made because pursuant to all applicable Mississippi State Laws in forming the Justice Party of Mississippi and the following is true:

1. The Justice Party of Mississippi Executive Committee has achieved ballot access for at least one federal candidate in the state.
2. The Justice Party of Mississippi Executive Committee possesses an Official Party structure (as attached)
3. The Justice Party of Mississippi has a relationship between Justice Party USA FEC Code C0507939 and the Justice Party of Mississippi Executive Committee that is based on an agreement that requires the committee to perform activities commensurate with the day-to-day operation of the party on a state level including: raising contributions; assisting candidates' fundraising efforts; conducting voter registration drives; holding state conventions; and nominating candidates for state and federal office.

Thanks,

 12-29-2011

James C. Farrar, Jr.  
Acting Director & Treasurer Justice Party of Mississippi  
850 North Jefferson Street A4  
Jackson, MS 39202  
601-960-0667  
[justicepartyofmississippi@gmail.com](mailto:justicepartyofmississippi@gmail.com)  
[www.mississippi.justicepartyusa.net](http://www.mississippi.justicepartyusa.net)

e: Bylaws Of The Justice Party Of Mississippi (21 Page Document)

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COUNSEL

# OFFICE OF THE MISSISSIPPI SECRETARY OF STATE

## STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION FOR A POLITICAL COMMITTEE

1. Name of committee Justice Party of Mississippi

2. Address of committee 850 North Jefferson Street A4

City, State, Zip Jackson, MS, 39202 Email justicepartyofmississippi@gmail

Phone 6,019,600,667 FAX \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Person James C. Farrar, Jr. Phone 6019600667 Email justicepartyofmississippi@gm

Contact Full Address 850 North Jefferson Street; Jackson MS 39202

3. Is the committee registered with the Federal Election Commission (FEC)?  Yes  
FEC Identification Number In the mail \_\_\_\_\_ No

4. If the committee is authorized by a candidate:  
Name of Candidate \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Office sought \_\_\_\_\_ Party \_\_\_\_\_

5. Describe, as concisely as possible, the purpose of this committee and, if applicable, the identification of affiliated or connected organizations:  
Form a direct democracy based political Party in Mississippi. Justice Party USA; Any Sub MS Chapter of the Justice Party  
Including but not limited to Justice Party Congressional District- (1,2,3, and 4)

6. Names and addresses of all officers: (attach separate sheet if necessary)

A. Name Lindsey Lemmons Office Chair  
Address 101 Red Fox Run Brandon MS 39042-Rankin Co.

B. Name Monzell Stowers Office Vice-Chair  
Address 644 E. Rhinewalt Rd. Lena MS 39094-Scott Co.

C. Name Edward L. Yokum, Jr. Office Secretary  
Address 626 Lumberry Lane Ridgeland MS 39157-Madison

D. Name James C. Farrar, Jr. Office Treasurer  
Address 850 N Jefferson Street A4 Jackson MS 39202 Hinds

7. Director James C. Farrar, Jr. James C. Farrar, Jr. 12-29-11  
(Type Name) (Signature) (Date)

8. Treasurer James C. Farrar, Jr. James C. Farrar, Jr. 12-29-11  
(Type Name) (Signature) (Date)

Send To:

1. Political Committees associated with statewide or multi-county elections should return the form to:  
**Delbert Hosemann, Secretary of State, Elections Division, P.O. Box 138, Jackson MS 39205.**
2. Political Committees associated with single county elections should return this form to their  
County Circuit Clerk.
3. Political Committees associated with municipal elections should return this form to their Municipal Clerk.

# Justice Party of Mississippi

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## **BYLAWS OF THE JUSTICE PARTY OF MISSISSIPPI**

### Article I.

Name, Purpose, Context & Rationale,  
Proposed "Justice Party" Founding Principles<sup>1</sup>,  
Proposed Founding Objectives, Membership

### Article II.

Party Structure

### Article III.

Executive Committees - General

### Article IV.

State Executive Committee

### Article V.

Standing Committees of the State Executive Committee

### Article VI.

Appeals Council

### Article VII.

Officers

### Article VIII.

Finances

### Article IX.

County Executive Committees

### Article X.

Municipal Executive Committees

### Article XI.

Congressional District Executive Committees

### Article XII.

Use Of Technology For Conventions, Caucuses, And Committee Meetings

### Article XIII.

Severability

### Article XIV.

Effect and Amendment

<sup>1</sup> Derived in part from The True Patriot, A Pamphlet, by Eric Liu and Nick Hanauer

# Justice Party of Mississippi

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## ARTICLE 1

### **1. Name:**

The name of this organization shall be Justice Party of Mississippi.

### **2. Purpose:**

The purpose of the Justice Party of Mississippi shall be to work for Economic & Jobs Justice, Electoral Justice, U.S. & Global Health Justice, and Environmental Justice. As part of our mission, we will nominate and endorse candidates for public office and engage in other political and educational activities in the State of Mississippi, including but not limited to making Nominations for statewide Mississippi ballots and statewide Federal ballots, and assisting any Justice Party sub chapter both County and Municipal where allowed by law. We will also work with Justice Party USA as our national 'Parent' Party where allowed by law.

### **3. Context & Rationale:**

More than 235 years ago a group of courageous patriots got together and decided to take a stand against the tyranny of their colonialist rulers. The "act of declaration" they took was an awesome moment in which our forbearers took a stand with great risks. They understood that the outcomes were uncertain, yet they stepped forward with a bold commitment to ensure that all Americans living then and in future generations would have the opportunity to live under a government that protected the inalienable rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Despite the immense triumphs of our nation over the past two centuries, as we enter the second decade of the 21st century, we are alarmed with the grave state of our nation. For many Americans the idea of the American Dream is collapsing right before them. It has become evident to us that the current system is unworkable and that we can no longer resign ourselves to cynicism and settling for the status quo. Our current two-party political system is completely broken to the extent that our leaders at the local, state, and national level, including President Obama, his administration, and the U.S. Congress are utterly incapable of effectively serving the interests of the American people. The founders of the Justice Party believe that the chief cause of this failure is the systemic corruption that allows corporate and concentrated-wealth interests to wholly control the two dominant political parties and our entire political system.

We believe that the recent US Supreme Court Decision, Citizens United vs. Federal Election Commission, that allows corporations to make unlimited and secret corporate expenditures for specific candidates, will further entrench corporate control of our political system. Moreover, we believe that a diversity of political voices is essential at this moment in history, as the rules governing our political system and the current two party systems are designed to sustain entrenched corporate-driven power. Ultimately, this problem can only be fixed through a reform of the U.S. Constitution.

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We believe that our country urgently needs a political discourse among diverse and cross-partisan citizens to join forces to address the pressing immediate and long-term challenges that the country faces.

At this juncture, we believe that all disenfranchised and disillusioned Americans, including those from within all existing political parties, along with those not currently active in the political system, have a moral responsibility to seek immediate solutions to the problems our country is facing. Our actions in this moment of history will have a lasting impact on the lives of citizens living in this time, as well as, upon the lives of their children, grandchildren, and subsequent generations.

This document is a prospectus for the "Justice Party of Mississippi" which we envision as a major new political party that will be a major political force for decades to come. The Justice Party seeks governing authority at the local, state, Congressional and Presidential levels, beginning in the 2012 election cycle. The Justice Party is being created as a new 21st-century political vehicle to allow all citizens to work together to bring innovative results-oriented, justice-based solutions to the political debate as soon as possible. We are filled with hope, we are taking a stand, we are taking risks, and we are taking bold action now!

#### 4. Proposed "Justice Party" Founding Principles <sup>(1) see P1:</sup>

As co-founders of the "Justice Party," we are joining forces based on a set of shared principles:

- We are patriots. We believe in the greatness of America's national ideals. We believe America has an indispensable purpose in the World: to demonstrate, by example, the power of peace, freedom, equal opportunity, and justice for all;
- We are dedicated to bringing integrity to the intentions of founding documents of our nation including the Declaration of Independence, The U.S. Constitution, and the Bill of Rights. We are dedicated to advancing justice, peace, and freedom. America was founded in freedom—freedom to speak, to worship, to choose whatever path to happiness suits us best—but that freedom comes with an equal responsibility to country, community, family, and the World.
- We believe that justice-based values are what enable a free and just society to regain its strength. These values are pragmatism tied to principle; honesty and integrity; hard work and personal initiative; self-sacrifice and self-discipline; fairness and compassion; competitive striving and fair play; a desire to serve the nation and advance justice in solidarity with the rest of the World.
- We believe that we should measure the nation's progress by whether every citizen has a fair shot. We believe that all citizens should have the opportunity to advance on the basis of talent and merit, and by the degree to which we promote the common success of all of our citizens. Additionally, we believe that we should measure the nation's progress towards addressing complex global challenges, including disease, illiteracy,

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climate change, poverty, and strategic insecurities as central priorities towards advancing America's moral leadership.

- We believe that we should measure a citizen's worth by contribution to country and community, not by wealth or power. Those Americans who benefited most should contribute in proportion to their good fortune and serving others should be esteemed more highly than serving self.

## 5. Proposed Founding Objectives

### Objective 1: Economic & Jobs Justice

Reverse the quickly growing economic disparity among Americans through comprehensive tax reform, significant housing and jobs bills (particularly green jobs), justice for workers, and fair treatment of seniors, veterans and others whose resources are in jeopardy. We are committed to the proposition that social and economic justice is an essential and vital American value.

### Objective 2: Electoral Justice

Ending political hate, polarization and demonization through significant electoral reform that promotes direct democracy by changing the way elections are financed and how Congress allocates resources is critical for achieving a just society. In order to promote this objective all Committees and Party Caucuses from state level down will use the Attached Direct Democracy General Assembly Process and Procedures. All party Political Committees are ultimately accountable to the appropriate Party Caucuses.

### Objective 3: U.S. & Global Health Justice

U.S. healthcare reform that moves the U.S. rapidly towards a performance-based healthcare system that is cost-effective and efficient. At the global level, mobilize support for full funding of the Global Fund for HIV/AIDS, TB & Malaria to end the scourge of these global pandemics and build health systems.

### Objective 4: Environmental Justice

Stabilize concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, while ensuring that economic development and food production are enabled in a sustainable manner.

## 6. Membership:

Membership in the Justice Party of Mississippi is open to any person who supports the Party and who is in general agreement with the following Ten Key Values: Economic & Jobs Justice, Electoral Justice, U.S. & Global Health Justice, and Environmental Justice, Social Justice, Grassroots Democracy, Nonviolence, Community-Based Economics, Respect for Diversity, Personal and Global Responsibility, and US Bill of Rights.

## **ARTICLE 2 PARTY STRUCTURE**

# Justice Party of Mississippi

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The structure of the Justice Party of Mississippi shall be a State Executive Committee and an executive committee from each county and Congressional district and from any municipality as herein provided.

1. On a common day set by the State Executive Committee in June 2012, then March 2015, and every four years thereafter, **precinct caucuses** shall be held for the purpose of electing delegates and alternates to represent the Justice Party voters of the precinct at a county convention and to elect a precinct chair and a precinct secretary to serve for four years or until their successors are chosen.
2. On a common day set by the State Executive Committee in June 2012, then February 2015, and every four years thereafter, a **county convention** shall be held in each county for the purpose of electing delegates and alternates to the appropriate Congressional district convention(s) and the state convention in numbers reflecting their proportion of the membership of the Justice Party of MS as determined by the State Executive Committee, to elect a county executive committee to serve for four years, to adopt or amend county party rules, to adopt resolutions, to nominate candidates, and to conduct such other business as may come before the convention.
3. On a common day set by the State Executive Committee in June 2012, then February or March 2015, and every four years thereafter, a **Congressional district convention** shall be held for each district to elect a Congressional district executive committee to serve for four years, to select delegates and alternates to the national convention of the Justice Party of the United States as hereinafter provided, to adopt resolutions, to nominate candidates, and to conduct such other business as may come before it.
4. A **state convention** shall be held in June 2012, then March or April 2015, and every four years thereafter at a time and place to be designated by the State Executive Committee to select delegates and alternates to the national convention of the Justice Party of the United States as hereinafter provided, to select national committeepersons as designated by the Justice Party of the United States, to select a State Executive Committee to serve for the next four years, to select one or more slates of presidential electors, to adopt a platform, to adopt or amend state party principles and rules, to nominate candidates, and to take such further action as is deemed proper by the delegates. The convention may adjourn from day to day or to such time and place or times and places as the delegates deem proper and desirable. If deemed appropriate by the State Executive Committee, the state convention may be reconvened within the same calendar year with 10 days' public notice as provided by law, the same delegates having the authority of the previous convention.
5. At least 90 days before the second Tuesday in May of 2012 and then every March in years in which a presidential election is held, the State Executive Committee shall announce the schedule of precinct, county, Congressional district, state and national meetings and the method of selecting delegates and alternates and conducting the

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- meetings. A copy of any rule or regulation shall be sent to the Secretary of State within 7 days after its adoption to become a public record.
6. Each participant in any precinct, county, district or state convention, before being allowed to vote or otherwise participate, shall sign the following statement: "I am a member of the Justice Party of Mississippi and am not affiliated with any other Mississippi political party."
  7. The time and place for all public meetings of the Justice Party of Mississippi and all units thereof shall be publicized fully and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons. Such meetings shall be held in places accessible to all Justice Party members and large enough to accommodate all interested persons.
  8. The Justice Party of Mississippi and all units thereof shall publicize fully, and in such manner as to assure timely notice to all interested persons, a complete description of the legal and practical qualifications of all officers and representatives of the Justice Party of Mississippi so that prospective candidates or applicants for any elected or appointed position within the Justice Party of MS will have full and adequate opportunity to compete for office.
  9. The director, chair or secretary of the State Executive Committee shall register with the Secretary of State the name of the party and the names of all organizations officially sanctioned by the political party within 30 days after their founding. The application for registration shall also include the affidavit of the chair or secretary listing the names of the members of the executive committee and its officers and the national committeeman and committeewoman, and assuring that they were elected according to state law.

## **ARTICLE 3**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES - GENERAL**

1. The provisions of this Article shall apply to executive committees of each Justice Party unit, including county, Congressional district, and state.
2. Executive committees shall have power and authority to conduct the affairs of their respective Justice Party units until the close of the regular unit convention next following the election of their members. They will operate by the Attached Direct Democracy General Assembly Process and Procedures.
3. Each executive committee shall elect its own officers.
4. The members of each executive committee shall hold office for four years or until their successors are chosen. After the following schedule: all executive Committee members upon formation will only hold office until the June 2012 Convention; Those Elected in June 2012 will hold office until the 2015 Conventions, unless their position is vacated by some other provision of this document.
5. Vacancies on an executive committee may be filled by majority vote of the members present and voting at a duly called or regularly scheduled meeting not less than 10 days after notice of the filling of vacancies is given to the executive committee members.



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6. The seat of any executive committee member may be declared vacant by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting at any regularly scheduled or properly called meeting of the executive committee in the event of one of the following:
  - a. The minutes document that a member has missed three or more consecutive regular meetings of the executive committee;
  - b. Documentation shows that a member is publicly, actively or financially supporting the candidacy of any person running against a Justice Party candidate or against a candidate endorsed by the local or state Justice Party executive committee, except in non-partisan elections;
  - c. Malfeasance, misfeasance or nonfeasance in office or significant violation of the Ten Key Values of the Justice Party of the United States;
  - d. Resignation of the member in writing to the committee Secretary;
  - e. Death of the member;
  - f. Documentation of the changing of the member's legal residence out of the area from which the member was elected.
7. Upon the declaration of a vacancy on the executive committee for reasons stated under 6a, b, c, or f above, the member whose seat was declared vacant shall be notified in writing by the Secretary within five days of the reasons, witnesses, and evidence presented before the vacancy was declared. The member shall have 20 days after the vacancy was declared to present to the Secretary in writing any request for reconsideration. The member shall be notified of the date, time and place of the next regular or called meeting of the executive committee, and at such meeting the member or the member's representative may be present in support of such request and the executive committee shall give a fair hearing to the member before voting to reconsider or to affirm the declaration of vacancy.
8. Any such hearing portion of an executive committee meeting may be open to non-members of the committee or not, at the option of the member whose seat was declared vacant. The committee and the member may be represented by legal counsel at their own expense and may examine and cross-examine witnesses and present arguments. The committee and the member have the right to videotape or audiotape the hearing for their own use. The committee shall weigh the evidence and make its decision during the hearing, and the decision of the committee and a summary of the reasons therefore shall be written in the minutes.
9. A vacant position on an executive committee shall be filled with a person meeting the appropriate criteria at the next meeting of the committee or as soon thereafter as possible. After a hearing in which a protested vacancy is affirmed, the position may be filled at the same meeting.
10. The chair, director or secretary of each Congressional district and county executive committee shall register the name of the party with the State Executive Committee and list the names of the executive committee members and officers and assuring that they have been elected according to law.

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11. All meetings of executive committees shall be open to the public except by 2/3 vote of the committee members present and voting to go into executive session for reasons specified in the minutes. Any decisions made in the executive session shall be written in the minutes.
12. Meetings of executive committees may be called by the executive committee chair or by 25% of its members. Written notice of regular and called executive committee meetings shall be given by the Secretary or another designated person to all members at their last known e-mail, fax or mailing addresses not less than 8 or more than 20 days before such meetings except in emergencies when the notice may be as little as 24 hours and given by telephone. The notice shall specify the date, time and place of the meeting and include an agenda.
13. A quorum for any executive committee meeting shall be 35% of the members of the committee.
14. Upon leaving office, each officer or employee of the party shall turn over all records, books, finances, and other properties of the executive committee to his or her successor or to the executive committee.
15. Nothing in these Bylaws shall prevent executive committees from choosing to operate by consensus, instead of voting, at any time. Majority votes are sufficient for election of officers. On issues of any kind, the attached Direct Democracy General Assembly Process and Procedures will be used.

## ARTICLE 4

### **STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

1. All power and authority to conduct any and all affairs of the Justice Party of Mississippi shall be vested in the State Executive Committee consisting of up to 8 members from each Congressional district chosen by the delegates to the Congressional district convention. The State Executive Committee members need not be delegates to the convention. As a goal, half shall be male and half shall be female. Delegates shall strive to make provision for fair representation of ethnic groups, youth and elders as in the population of the Congressional district.
2. The State Executive Committee is empowered and authorized, if and when permitted or required by law, to conduct and certify primary elections and canvass returns as provided by law, certify party primary candidates, establish federal election committees, and do all other duties conferred upon it by state or federal law. As provided by state law, all duties in regard to legislative or other districts of more than one county shall be performed by the State Executive Committee, and candidates for any office from such district shall qualify with the State Executive Committee.
3. The State Executive Committee shall elect its officers and shall be the final authority on any question involving the Justice Party of Mississippi, its officers, nominees and/or other executive committees. The State Executive Committee, except as otherwise provided, shall have sovereign, original, appellate and supervisory power and jurisdiction of all party matters throughout the state and each county thereof between conventions. It is empowered and authorized to prescribe and enforce rules, regulations and penalties against the violation

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- of party loyalty, including the removing or debarring from party office or party privilege of anyone within its jurisdiction, including a member of the State Executive Committee, who violates the rules or its other lawful mandates.
4. The State Executive Committee may review, on appeal, the decision of the district, county and precinct conventions or committees, in all cases concerning the nomination of officers and all matters relating to rules and policies as hereinafter provided.
  5. Members of the National Committee of the Justice Party of the United States from Mississippi and the chairs of each county and district executive committee are ex-officio, non-voting members of the State Executive Committee.
  6. The State Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly and at other times as necessary.
  7. The State Executive Committee is empowered to reconvene the state party convention if deemed necessary, with the same delegates as previously elected. Any such reconvened convention shall exercise all the power and authority of a regular state convention.
  8. Officers and employees of the State Executive Committee or of the Justice Party of Mississippi shall not endorse or promote the candidacy of primary candidates for elective or appointive office prior to their official endorsement or nomination by the party. Said officers and employees shall support only candidates endorsed or nominated by the party.
  9. The Administrative Committee of the State Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the State Executive Committee and the chairs of all of its standing committees. At such time as an Executive Director of the Justice Party of Mississippi may be chosen by the State Executive Committee, the Executive Director shall be an ex-officio, non-voting member of the Administrative Committee.
  10. The Administrative Committee is empowered to act on behalf of the State Executive Committee in all party affairs between meetings of the State Executive Committee, subject to subsequent approval of the State Executive Committee.
  11. The Administrative Committee makes recommendations to the State Executive Committee about the hiring and discharge of staff and the setting of salaries. The Administrative Committee shall authorize expenditures of funds for the party after approval by the State Executive Committee of a budget to support such expenditures, and it is authorized to file necessary registrations, certifications, and reports with state and federal agencies for party campaign committees pursuant to federal election laws.
  12. Meetings of the Administrative Committee shall be announced to all members of the State Executive Committee and open to all members of the State Executive Committee. The Secretary shall distribute minutes of each Administrative Committee meeting and each State Executive Committee meeting to all members of the State Executive Committee within 10 days after the meeting.

## ARTICLE 5

### STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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1. The State Executive Committee shall have the following Standing Committees of its members:
  - a. **Elections Committee** - keeps abreast of election laws; supervises conduct of primary elections, certification of candidates and election returns according to state and federal law; assures that county executive committees are informed of all pertinent information on elections;
  - b. **Budget and Finance Committee** - recommends an annual budget for the operation of the state party; plans and implements fund-raising activities for the state party; the Treasurer of the State Executive Committee shall be an ex-officio member;
  - c. **Party Development and Education Committee** - develops and implements plans for strengthening the party at all levels, including attracting membership, voter registration, and educating the general public about the Ten Key Values and the Justice Party of Mississippi;
  - d. **Campaign Committee** - assists local, district or state-wide Justice Party candidates and their campaign organizations as requested; distributes information to local parties and candidates and works with the Elections Committee on compliance with campaign finance laws;
  - e. **Platform Committee** - provides a forum for discussing important public and political issues, bringing the issues to the State Executive Committee, developing a state party platform, and taking State Executive Committee issues to meetings of the Justice Party of the United States.
2. The Chair of the State Executive Committee shall appoint members and chairs to the standing committees subject to ratification of the State Executive Committee. Each member of the State Executive Committee shall serve on at least one standing committee, but no more than three.
3. The Chair of the State Executive Committee may name other committees, their chairs and members as necessary, subject to ratification of the State Executive Committee.
4. The members of all standing committees shall serve until elections of new State Executive Committee officers or until their successors are chosen.

## ARTICLE 6

### **APPEALS COUNCIL**

1. The Appeals Council of the State Executive Committee shall consist of five members of the State Executive Committee appointed by the Chair with the approval of the State Executive Committee and should be, if possible, other than Administrative Committee members.
2. The Appeals Council shall have appellate jurisdiction over all matters of party rules and internal operations at all levels, including the election of delegates or the operation of the various executive committees.

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3. Any member of the Justice Party of Mississippi feeling aggrieved by the action, inaction, or decision of any party unit or organization and unsatisfied after written complaint to that body may appeal to the Appeals Council.
4. All appeals to the Appeals Council shall be in writing setting out the names and addresses of the complaining parties and the name or identification of the unit against which the complaint is made, a clear and concise statement or explanation of the charge or complaint being made and the relief being sought. A copy of the initial complaint made before the unit complained about shall be attached to the appeal. The Appeals Council shall acknowledge the complaint in writing to the complainant, and send a copy of its procedures and rules.
5. The Appeals Council shall promptly notify in writing the unit complained of that the appeal has been taken and shall attach to such notification a copy of all papers submitted and a copy of its procedures and rules. The unit complained of shall have the right to answer in writing the charges made against it, and the Appeals Council shall take no action on said complaint until 10 days after the serving of notice of said appeal on the unit complained of. The Appeals Council shall take no action against the unit complained of without first having a hearing unless said unit shall fail to answer in writing within 10 days.
6. If the Appeals Council desires further information, it shall notify both parties of the information sought and give a copy of information received to the other party. Members of the Appeals Council may also discuss the matter separately with either or both parties in an attempt to clarify issues or find common ground. The Appeals Council shall discuss in person or by telephone conference call or cumulative e-mail or fax messages all matters presented to it. The Appeals Council may present in writing a proposed response and resolution of the complaint to the parties and, if such is acceptable to both parties, adherence to the agreements contained therein shall resolve the complaint and end the involvement of the Appeals Council.
7. If a first or second proposed response and resolution is not acceptable to both parties, or if either party requests a hearing, the Appeals Council shall set a hearing during which both parties may present witnesses and evidence. At least 10 days prior to any such hearing, the Appeals Council shall furnish all parties with a written set of procedural rules for the conduct of the hearing, and failure to do so shall preclude holding of any hearing until rules are furnished to the parties.
8. After a hearing the Appeals Council may fashion whatever relief it deems equitable and appropriate, including removal of any member from office or ordering new elections at any level.
9. The decision of the Appeals Council shall be final unless appealed in writing to the full State Executive Committee with 10 days of receipt of the Appeals Council decision. An appeal to the full State Executive Committee shall be perfected by mailing to the chair and secretary a copy of the appeal request, appeal request filed with the Appeals Council and the decision of the Appeals Council. The decision of the Appeals Council shall be held in abeyance until the State Executive Committee renders final judgment on the appeal.

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10. The Administrative Committee shall designate the time and place for hearing the appeal and shall prescribe the procedure for the conduct of the review within 40 days after receiving the appeal. \
11. Failure of the Appeals Council or State Executive Committee members to carry out their duties as described in this Article entitles an aggrieved party to appeal directly to the members of the Justice Party of Mississippi for relief, including relief from their duties and positions for nonfeasance.

## **ARTICLE 7** **OFFICERS**

1. Executive committee officers shall be elected by the executive committee at its first meeting following the convention at which it was elected. The officers shall serve a term of four years or until their successors are chosen, unless removed by a majority vote of the members of the executive committee, starting with the year 2015.
2. The officers of the executive committee of each party unit shall consist of a Chair, a Vice-chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Director. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer may be held by the same person. The offices of Chair or Vice-chair and Secretary may not be held by the same person. The offices of Chair or Vice-chair and Treasurer may not be held by the same person.
3. Chair - The chair of each executive committee shall convene and shall preside at all official party meetings and have such other powers and duties as shall be granted from time to time by the committee.
4. Vice Chair - The vice chair shall carry out the duties of the chair in the absence of the chair and shall assist the chair as requested. The vice chair shall be of the other gender than the chair.
5. Secretary - The secretary shall be in charge of all the files and records of the party unit and shall keep records of the minutes of the proceedings of all meetings of the unit, including conventions. The secretary shall make such files and records available for inspection at a convenient and appropriate time at the request of any member of the Justice Party of Mississippi.
6. Treasurer - The treasurer shall have custody of the funds of the party unit and report in writing on the funds in all accounts at each regular meeting of the executive committee. The treasurer shall deposit all monies and valuables received in the name of and to the credit of the party unit in such insured banks and depositories as the executive committee shall designate by appropriate resolution. Upon resolution by the executive committee, its treasurer shall be under bond in an amount to be determined by the executive committee. The treasurer shall write checks and expend money of the party unit only as authorized by the budget or appropriate resolution and then only upon presentation of receipted bills, vouchers, or other appropriate written instruments and with the counter-signature of the chair or other designated officer.

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7. Director - shall be the chief executive officer to handle the business of the Party Committee and any of the above officers can be named Director.

## ARTICLE 8 FINANCES

1. An annual operating budget shall be approved by each executive committee at the beginning of each fiscal year, which shall be the same as the calendar year. This becomes effective after 2012; in 2012 a budget shall be approved within 30 days of starting any financial operations. No party funds shall be expended for any purpose not provided for in said budget except with approval in advance of the executive committee.
2. No debts or financial obligations shall be incurred in the name of the party by anyone except as authorized by the budget or appropriate resolution.
3. A review of all financial records and transactions of the party unit shall be made at least annually and at such other times as may be required by the executive committee of the unit. An audit may be conducted if and when deemed appropriate.
4. No fundraising activities shall be carried out in the name of the party at any level without the prior approval of the executive committee of the unit. Before any party fundraising activity is authorized, the executive committee shall appoint a person or persons to be in charge of the receipt and disbursement of monies in connection with such activity and to ensure a proper, full and accurate accounting of monies received and expended for such activity. The person or persons shall keep complete and accurate records for inspection by any executive committee member and shall, within a reasonable time, make a financial report to the executive committee on the said activity.
5. An executive committee may, by appropriate resolution, authorize the establishment of one or more campaign fund accounts for the purpose of receiving and disbursing funds for conducting general election campaigns, which accounts shall be separate and distinct from the regular party accounts and budgets and other provisions of this article and shall be handled by a person or persons designated by the executive committee. Each such account shall include the special designation of "campaign funds" in its account name. The party is authorized to receive and expend funds designated for such campaign purposes and make appropriate public reports according to all applicable state and federal laws.

## ARTICLE 9 COUNTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES

1. County executive committees shall consist of 5 to 30 members, with 1 to 6 to be selected from each supervisor's district by the county convention delegates from the supervisor's district acting separately, the number to be first determined by the convention as a whole. The committee may elect up to 3 members at large. Each county executive committee shall be the governing body of its county party unit between conventions.

# Justice Party of Mississippi

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2. County executive committees shall meet at least every two months and on other occasions as necessary.
3. County executive committees shall certify party candidates on the county level, in accord with the election laws of the State of Mississippi.
4. Within three to six months after the registration of the Justice Party of Mississippi, a founding county convention of all members shall be called in every county having Justice Party of Mississippi members after notice to all members by the State Executive Committee. The convention shall adopt rules not in conflict with these Bylaws and caucus by supervisors' districts to elect members to the founding county executive committee. The new committee shall meet immediately following the convention to organize itself and set up a schedule for activities. A copy of the rules adopted by each county executive committee shall be filed with the Secretary of State of Mississippi and the Justice Party of Mississippi Executive Committee, and also certified by the State Administrative Committee and approved by the State Executive Committee before becoming valid. The secretary of the State Executive Committee shall maintain and make available for public inspection copies of the rules of each county executive committee.
5. Vacancies on a county executive committee may be declared for any of the reasons and in accordance with the provisions set forth in Article 3 of these Bylaws.

## **ARTICLE 10**

### **MUNICIPAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES**

1. The chair of each county executive committee will oversee the establishment of a municipal executive committee in any municipality in which at least five Justice Party of Mississippi members reside. Upon the petition of at least five (5) members of the Justice Party of Mississippi, the chair of the county executive committee shall call the members to a meeting in accordance with § 23-15-315, Miss. Code Ann. (1972 as amended) to select an executive committee which shall serve until the next municipal primary election.
2. Municipal executive committees shall perform for their municipality the same duties as prescribed by law and these Bylaws for other executive committees. They shall be elected by the party members of the municipality as provided by law. Municipal executive committee members will be elected by the same election districts as the governing body of the municipality are elected.
3. Each municipal executive committee shall receive filing papers of all persons desiring to be candidates in a municipal primary election at least 60 days before the primary. The committee shall prepare the poll books and ballots and shall appoint the managers and other officials of the primary election. The committee shall receive the returns of the primary election and certify the results according to law.

## **ARTICLE 11**

### **CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEES**



# Justice Party of Mississippi

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1. Congressional district executive committees will be elected at Congressional district conventions every four years as provided above. They shall meet at least twice a year and shall make recommendations to the State Executive Committee about duties or powers they consider appropriate for themselves to be adopted by amendment to these Bylaws.
2. Congressional district executive committees shall elect officers as provided herein and shall conduct the Congressional district conventions in presidential election years.

## ARTICLE 12

### **USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR CONVENTIONS, CAUCUSES, AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Due to the nature of modern communications any reliable, transparent, and agreed upon use of technology following the policies set forth in the Direct Democracy General Assembly Process and Procedures Guide attached may be used.

## ARTICLE 13

### **SEVERABILITY**

If any provision or clause of these Bylaws or application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions or application of these Bylaws, which can be given effect without the invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions of these Bylaws are declared to be severable.

## ARTICLE 14

### **EFFECT AND AMENDMENT**

1. These Bylaws shall take effect after approval of the Application to Register Political Party of the Justice Party of Mississippi by the Secretary of State.
2. These Bylaws may be amended by using the attached Direct Democracy General Assembly Process and Procedures of the delegates to a State Convention.

James C. Farrar, Jr.

James C. Farrar, Jr., Director,  
State Executive Committee, Justice Party of  
Mississippi

12-29-11

Date

# Justice Party of Mississippi

## CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that, after motion duly made and seconded, the foregoing Bylaws of the Justice Party of Mississippi were duly adopted by unanimous vote of the members of the State Executive Committee of the Justice Party of Mississippi on 12-29-11 in Mississippi, a quorum being present.

James C. Farrar, Jr.  
James C. Farrar, Jr., Director,  
State Executive Committee, Justice Party of  
Mississippi

12-29-11  
Date

**Justice Party of Mississippi**

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**JUSTICE PARTY OF  
MISSISSIPPI**

**Direct Democracy General  
Assembly**

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**Process and Procedures**

# Justice Party of Mississippi

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## THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Assembly (GA) model has been adopted by most of the occupations as a way to discuss and make decisions. "The GA is a horizontal, leaderless, consensus-based open meeting. This is where decisions are made that affect the whole group and general discussions are held.

The GA is a gathering of people committed to making decisions based upon a collective agreement or "consensus." there is no single leader or governing body of the GA—everyone's voice is equal. Anyone is free to propose an idea or express an opinion as part of the GA.

Each proposal follows the same basic format—an individual shares what is being proposed, why it is being proposed, and, if there is enough agreement, how it can be carried out. The GA will express its opinion for each proposal through a series of hand gestures. If there is positive consensus for a proposal—meaning no outright opposition—then it is accepted and direct action begins. If there is not consensus, the responsible group or individual is asked to revise the proposal and submit again at the following GA until a majority consensus is achieved.

Smaller working groups, such as Media, Outreach, Food, Direct Action, etc., make it possible for things to get done a little bit smoother. The working groups figure out specifics, such as what needs to be done or how something could be done, and formulates proposals to bring back to the GA for general consensus. The working groups can also relay important information about things that everyone needs to take into consideration.

Only decisions that affect the entire group need to be brought to the GA. Not every person needs to be involved in every action for them to be successful; people should participate in things that they feel strongly about. Groups can plan and call for people to participate in smaller actions outside of the GA without the entire group agreeing to it.

## CONSENSUS

Consensus is an inclusive and non-hierarchical process for group decision making. It is a method by which the input and ideas of all participants are gathered and synthesized in order to arrive at a final decision acceptable to all. Through consensus, we are not only working to achieve better solutions, but paving the way for an egalitarian model of community decision making.

Consensus means that the group has come to a decision in which everyone feels their position on the matter was considered carefully and addressed as much as possible. It doesn't mean that every single person agrees that the decision made is the only way to do things. Hopefully, everyone will think it is the best decision; this often happens because, when consensus works properly, collective intelligence does come up with better solutions than could individuals.

Consensus does not override each individual's ability to make their own decisions. Just as we hope that everyone will respect the decisions made by the GA, the GA should also strive to respect decisions made by individuals outside of the consensus process. Alongside consensus, we can celebrate our diversity and individual strengths. The problems we are confronting are wide and multi-faceted; thus, so our resistance should be too.

# Justice Party of Mississippi

## OUTLINE FOR MAKING DECISIONS

- 1) Someone brings up a topic of discussion or an idea that requires a group decision. "It might take some discussion in order for the group to identify what exactly needs to be solved.
- 2) Discussion takes place about the problem, so the group can start working towards a proposal. The biggest mistake people make in consensus is to offer proposals too soon, before the group has had time to fully discuss the issue. (At the occupations, the majority of these discussions take place in the smaller working groups.)
- 3) When it is apparent that the group is beginning to go over the same ground, a proposal is made which attempts to synthesize the feelings and insights expressed by the group. The proposal should be clearly stated in very specific language. (At the occupations, the proposals are often created in the smaller working groups and brought to the General Assembly for consensus.)
- 4) Discussion is held on the proposal, in which it is amended or modified. During this discussion period, it is important to articulate differences clearly. It is the responsibility of those who are having trouble with a proposal to put forth alternative suggestions.
- 5) When the proposal is understood by everyone, and there are no new changes asked for, someone (usually the facilitator) calls for a show of consensus. The proposal is reread with the included changes. The facilitator asks who agrees with the proposal. If people feel that the proposal reflects the will of the group as a whole, they signal their agreement by putting a thumbs-up for everyone to see. The facilitator asks if there are any stand-asides. If someone feels that they have reservations, don't feel strongly about the decision, or don't fully agree with the proposal but doesn't have a serious objection to it passing, they indicate that they stand aside. The facilitator asks if there are any blocks. If someone feels that the proposal seriously and irreconcilably violates the core values of the group, they show a block by making an X with their arms.
- 6) If someone has very strong objections to a specific proposal, that person should meet with the relevant working group for further discussion with the aim of coming to a common understanding.
- 7) After consensus is reached, the decision should be clearly restated so as to check that everyone is clear on what has been decided. Before moving away from the subject, the group should be clear who is taking on the responsibility for implementing the decision.

## TYPES OF DISAGREEMENTS:

While the consensus model can be an effective way for large groups of people to be unified in action, we can't expect everyone to always agree. Below are some common ways that disagreement is resolved within consensus process:

- > **Non-support Stand Aside:** "I don't see the need for this, but I'll go along with the group."
- > **Reservations Stand Aside:** "I think this may be a mistake, but I can live with it."
- > **Personal Conflict Stand Aside:** "I personally can't do this, but I won't stop others from doing it."
- > **Blocking:** *cannot be used to stop an election for membership or for an election to office or nomination for an elected office.* "I cannot support this or allow the group to support this. It goes against the agreed upon values of the group." Blocking consensus is something that should only be done in extreme situations. It is not just a difference of opinion or a strategic disagreement—it is a complete and absolute rejection of the group moving forward. Blocking should be used cautiously and sparingly.



**A Block can only be over ridden with a 70% or more vote**

**Blocking cannot be used to stop an election for membership or for an election to office or nomination for an elected office.**

# Justice Party of Mississippi

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## **ROLES IN CONSENSUS PROCESS**

In large groups, it is helpful to designate roles for people to help the process move along. It is important to rotate these responsibilities for each meeting so that skills and power can be shared. Ideally, such responsibilities should belong to everyone, and not just the designated person.

### **FACILITATOR:**

The facilitator's job is to help the group efficiently move through the agreed-upon agenda and to make room for people to have their opinions heard on the topics being discussed. Facilitators should see that speaking opportunities are evenly distributed, that quiet people get a chance to speak and people who talk too much are given a chance to listen. The facilitator should observe when the discussion seems to be nearing the point when a proposal could be made. The facilitator can then call for a proposal or offer one to the group, after more discussion if necessary, and then guide the group through the check for consensus as outlined above. Facilitators should not use their position as a platform from which to offer solutions; solutions should arise from the group, and no one should facilitate if they and they have strong opinions on a given issue. A facilitator can always hand over her or his responsibilities temporarily if s/he feels it necessary to step down. The group should not rely upon the facilitator to solve process problems, but should be ready to help with suggestions on how to proceed.

### **STACK-TAKER:**

The role of the stack-taker is to keep stack—a list of people who would like to speak on the topic. The stack-taker can prioritize people who have not spoken yet in order to get more voices in the discussion and can cut off the stack in order to create room for proposals or if the discussion is going too long or going around in circles.

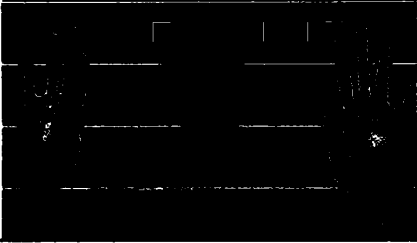






### **TIMEKEEPER:**

The timekeeper assists the facilitator by keeping track of how long each part of the discussion has gone on. Often, each topic on the agenda will be assigned a time limit. The timekeeper lets people know when the time allotted is running out on that topic, and when the time is up. The group can always decide to add more time if it seems necessary for reaching consensus.

## **NOTES ON MAKING A DECISION IN A LIMITED AMOUNT OF TIME:**

It is the facilitator's responsibility to quickly and succinctly articulate the problem to be discussed and to eliminate those points on which agreement has already been reached. It is the responsibility of everyone in the group to keep the discussion to a minimum if quick action is called for. If your point has already been made by someone else, don't restate it. A calm approach and a clear desire to come to an agreement quickly can help the process. Don't let anxiety overwhelm your trust in each other or your purpose in the action. Strong objections should be limited to matters of principle.

# Justice Party of Mississippi

General Assembly Hand Signals		
<b>Yes/Agreement</b> 	<b>Undecided/Neutral</b> 	<b>No/Disagree</b> 
<b>Quick Point/Clarification of Info (Short Interruption)</b> 	<b>Point of Process (Necessary Interruption)</b> 	<b>Politely-Hurry Up/Get to the Point</b> 
<b><u>BLOCK</u></b> <b><u>This action will stop a proposal from being accepted unless retracted after further dialogue</u></b> <b><u>Or a Block can be over ridden with a 70% or more vote.</u></b>		
<b><u>Blocking should be used cautiously and sparingly.</u></b>		<b><u>Blocking should be used cautiously and sparingly.</u></b>

Due to the nature of modern communications any reliable, transparent, and agreed upon use of technology following the policies set forth in this document may be used.

Verified by:

James C. Farrar, Jr.  
 James C. Farrar, Jr.,  
 Director, Justice Party of Mississippi

12-29-11  
 Date



James Farrar  
<justicepartyofmississippi@  
mail.com>

01/18/2012 11:43 PM

To JWaldstreicher@fec.gov

cc

bcc

Subject Re: Advisory Opinion Request - Justice Party of Mississippi

This is Correct.  
Thank You for Your Assistance,

C.J. Farrar (James C., Jr.)  
Justice Party of Mississippi -Treasurer and Director of daily affairs  
OccupyPolitics PAC, Inc. –CEO, Federal & MS State of PAC and Lobbyist.  
OccupyJackson -Incorporator & Committee member: Finance, Legal, Facilitation, and Media.  
Student Hinds CommunityCollege

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[www.justicepartyusa.org](http://www.justicepartyusa.org)  
[www.OccupyPoliticsPAC.org](http://www.OccupyPoliticsPAC.org)  
[www.occupyMS.org](http://www.occupyMS.org)

On Wed, Jan 18, 2012 at 1:57 PM, <JWaldstreicher@fec.gov> wrote:

>

>

> Mr. Farrar:

>

> Below is a summary of our phone conversation yesterday regarding Justice Party of Mississippi's ballot access.

>

> The Justice Party of Mississippi has been recognized by the State of Mississippi as a political party that is eligible to appear on the ballot for the 2012 elections. Therefore, while no particular individual has yet obtained ballot access, any person nominated by the party at its nominating convention later this year as a candidate for Federal office will be eligible to appear on the ballot, designated as a Justice Party of Mississippi candidate.

>

> Please confirm by reply email that my understanding of our conversation is correct.

>

> Yours,

> Joanna Waldstreicher



- > **Office of General Counsel, Policy Division**
- > **Federal Election Commission**
- > **999 E Street NW**
- > **Washington, DC 20463**
- > **(202) 694-1585**