

**Constitution**  
of the Alabama Political Science Association  
April 14, 1973, as Amended, April 29, 2006

**ARTICLE I. Name**

The name of this organization shall be the “Alabama Political Science Association.”

**ARTICLE II. Organizational Purpose**

Sec. 1. The purposes of this Association are: to encourage scientific investigation and research in the field of government, politics, and administration, with special reference to the state and local problems of Alabama; to encourage understanding of and improve instruction in political science and public administration; to develop collegial relations and cooperation among political scientists in Alabama and reach out to political scientists in the region; to establish and improve relations between political scientists and public officials; to facilitate a greater understanding of government and politics at all educational levels; and to uphold ethical standards and foster competence.

Sec. 2. This association shall not take official stands on public policy issues nor assume a partisan position upon any question of practical politics, nor commit its members to any position thereupon.

**ARTICLE III. Membership**

Sec. 1. Membership shall consist of those who attend the meetings of the Association and pay its levies, provided that inability to attend the meetings shall not divest a person of membership.

Sec. 2. The Association may determine the amount of dues and other assessments.

Sec. 3. Membership in the Association will be on a calendar year basis. There are four categories of membership in the Association: Faculty, student, public, and institutional. The Association shall set forth Bylaws governing these membership categories.

## ARTICLE IV. **Officers**

Sec. 1. Officers of the Association shall include a President, Vice President & Program Chair, Immediate Past President, Program Chair Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, At-large member, and Editorial Board Representative. The nine member board shall comprise the Executive Council. Duties for Executive Council members and circumstances for office holding shall be set forth in the Bylaws.

Sec. 2. The terms of office for the President, Vice President & Program Chair, Immediate Past President, and Program Chair Elect shall be one year terms; provided, upon satisfactory performance each office is progressive to the next, resulting in a four-year term of service on this track. The Executive Council will vote in private session annually to confirm a Council Member's continuance on this track, the procedures for filling a vacated position to be set forth in Bylaws. The terms of the other offices shall be for four years upon good service, except for the office of the Editorial Board Representative and the At-large member which shall be for two years and up for election in odd-numbered years. The Secretary will be elected in years of U.S. presidential elections while the Treasurer and Historian are elected two years thereafter. A Bylaw stipulation will adjust terms at the time new offices are created.

Sec. 3. The President shall preside over all business meetings of the Association of its Executive Council. He shall also appoint such committees as may be authorized by this Constitution, the Association, or the Executive Council. He may call the Executive Council into session, and otherwise direct the affairs of the Association.

Sec. 4. The Vice President shall be the Association's Program Chair for the annual program. The Vice President shall assist the President at the President's request in directing the affairs of the Association.

Sec. 5. The offices of Secretary and Treasurer shall be divided after April 29, 2006. The *Secretary* shall keep records of all formal proceedings of the Association or its Executive Council, and of such other matters as the Executive Council deems appropriate, transmitting such information to the Historian for archival purposes. The Secretary shall conduct such correspondence as may be required by the Executive Council. The Secretary shall issue such publications as this Constitution or the Association may direct, send notices of Association meetings to all members, and provide each member with a copy of this Constitution and such Bylaws as may be adopted. The *Treasurer* shall keep records of all income and disbursements, and of other such financial matters as is appropriate. Disbursements of funds for Association purposes shall be left to the Treasurer's discretion with an accounting to the Association at the annual meeting; provided, the Treasurer's discretion may be guided through Bylaws and Executive Council resolutions.

Sec. 6. The Executive Council shall arrange Association meetings, or may authorize the President to appoint committees for this purpose. Special meetings of the Association may be

called by the Executive Council. The Council may be called into special session by the President or any four Council members to consider the affairs of the Association, to formulate recommendations to the membership, or for other purposes.

Sec. 7. Vacancies on the Executive Council shall be filled as follows: In the withdrawal, unavailability or suspension of the President, the Immediate Past President shall complete the President's term while retaining the duties of Immediate Past President. In the event of the vacancy of any other office on the Executive Council, the President shall nominate and secure a temporary appointment with the oral or written support of a simple majority of the Executive Council, drawing if necessary upon an Executive Council member to perform temporary duty in a second office until the next annual meeting.

#### ARTICLE V. **Annual meeting and vote process**

Sec. 1. The regular annual meeting shall be held between March 1 and April 15 unless the Association directs otherwise. The date of the AlaPSA annual meeting shall be decided by the Program Chair in consultation with the President.

Sec. 2. Nominations for any open or expiring position on the AlaPSA Executive Council shall be made by the agreement of any two members of the Executive Council and submitted in writing to the Council. The Executive Council shall be receptive to nomination *recommendations* from all AlaPSA members in good standing, such recommendations being submitted the AlaPSA secretary, vice president or president in writing up until thirty days before the annual business meeting. A nomination recommendation shall become a nomination when supported in writing by two Executive Council members.

Sec. 3. Nominations for the Executive Council shall be voted upon by the Council at their annual meeting. The Executive Council shall not vote upon a nominee until the nominee has agreed orally or in writing to stand for the office, such agreement to be secured by the president or vice president in the year of the Council's vote. In the case that no nominee for an Executive Council position receives a majority vote by Executive Council members present, the Council will hold a run-off vote in the same Council meeting for the two candidates garnering the most votes for a position. No candidate shall be voted by the Executive Council to repeat service in the same office within a ten year period; provided, this disability may be waived by a unanimous Council.

Sec. 4. The Council will announce its successful nominees in the annual business meeting and will ask the voting membership in attendance for an affirming vote. An affirming vote for officer candidates shall consist of a simple majority of votes cast on affirmation ballots, each candidate voted separately. In the matter of a failed affirmation, a Bylaw shall govern the process.

## ARTICLE VI. **Bylaws**

Bylaws for the Alabama Political Science Association shall be created by the Executive Council through a simple majority vote in executive session at the annual business meeting. Resolutions passed at Association business meetings may be designated as Bylaws at the Executive Council's discretion on the basis of general or permanent application. Other resolutions shall be maintained as resolutions and titled according to their circumstances.

## ARTICLE VII. **Amendment**

Amendments may be proposed by any member of the Association by submission to the Secretary-Treasurer for publication in the Newsletter immediately preceding an Association meeting or for circulation with the notice of a meeting. They may be ratified by a simple majority of those members present and voting at the first Association business meeting thereafter. These provisions may be waived on the recommendation of the Executive Council by a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting at any business meeting of the Association.

## ARTICLE VIII. **Dissolution**

In the case of the dissolution of the Association, any assets remaining after the obligations of the Association have been paid shall be distributed to not-for-profit exempt organizations, under Section 501 of the Internal Revenue Code as it may then be amended. Any such distribution shall be for scholarly or educational purposes first, and charitable purposes if the existing Executive Council makes no selection. Any such assets shall not be distributed to members of the Association nor enure to their private benefit.