

**CONSTITUTION OF
THE PORTLAND CHAPTER OF
THE JAPANESE AMERICAN CITIZENS LEAGUE**

PREAMBLE

We, members of the Japanese American Citizens League in order to foster American democracy, promote active participation in civic and national life, and secure justice and equal opportunities for Americans of Japanese ancestry, as well as for all people regardless of race, creed, religion, color, national origin, age, sex, sexual orientation or disability, do establish this constitution for the Portland Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League of the United States of America.

**ARTICLE I
NAME AND OFFICE**

Section 1. Name. The name of this organization shall be the Portland Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League of the United States of America. The official abbreviation of the name of this chapter shall be Portland JACL.

Section 2. Office. The office of this chapter shall be at such place as, from time to time, designated by the Chapter Council Board.

**ARTICLE II
PURPOSE**

Section 1. General Purpose. The purpose of this organization shall be to:

(a) Protect the rights of Japanese Americans as its primary and continuing concern. It shall also strive to secure and uphold civil and human rights for all people.

(b) Preserve the culture and values of Japanese Americans in a multicultural society.

(c) Participate in the development of understanding between all social and ethnic groups.

(d) Promote, sponsor and encourage programs, projects, and activities designed to further and to encourage members to perform faithfully their duties and obligations to the United States of America. The Portland JACL shall uphold the Constitution and the laws of the United States and the State of Oregon and the laws of the City of Portland. The members of the Portland JACL shall uphold the Constitution and laws of the member's state of domicile, and the laws of the community in which the member resides.

Section 2. Nonpartisan Organization. This chapter shall be nonpartisan and nonsectarian and shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of any candidate for public office.

Section 3. Incorporation. The national statement of purpose by the Japanese American Citizens League shall be the purpose of this chapter and pursuant to such purpose, this chapter shall encourage every member to faithfully perform his or her duties and his or her obligations as an American citizen, or non-citizen residents, as the case may be, and as a resident of the State and community of that member's domicile.

Section 4. Pursuant to Article V, Section 2 of the National Constitution, this chapter shall encourage all members to assist this chapter in sponsoring and promoting programs and activities of this chapter which are calculated to serve the local community in the spirit prescribed in the Preamble of the National Constitution and Chapter Constitution and to participate in the various projects recommended by the National Japanese American Citizens League.

ARTICLE III MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Qualifications. The active members of this chapter shall be composed of individuals who agree to abide by the constitution and bylaws of this chapter and the Constitution and Bylaws of the National Japanese American Citizens League.

Section 2. Membership Classification. This chapter shall be composed of classifications of active members as well as other such classifications of membership as the bylaws prescribe.

Section 3. Rights and Privileges. All members of all classifications shall have the rights, privileges, immunities and opportunities as prescribed for that classification in the bylaws of this chapter.

ARTICLE IV CHAPTER COUNCIL BOARD

Section 1. The legislative and administrative powers of this chapter shall be vested in the Chapter Council Board.

Section 2. Composition of the Chapter Council Board. The Chapter Council Board shall be composed of all elected officers and up to ten active members elected by the membership of this chapter. The Chapter Council Board shall also be composed of not more than five active members appointed by the president of the chapter for the year in which such president serves. All appointed members of the Chapter Council Board shall serve only at the pleasure and sole discretion of the president of the chapter. The Chapter Council Board shall also consist of the immediate past president of the chapter who shall serve on the Chapter Council Board.

Section 3. Installation. All elected members of the Chapter Council Board shall be formally installed prior to undertaking his or her responsibilities.

Section 4. Responsibilities of Chapter Council Board. The Chapter Council Board shall consider and adopt programs and policies for the ensuing years designed to achieve the goals and purposes consistent with the constitution and bylaws of this chapter and the constitution and bylaws of the National Japanese American Citizens League.

Section 5. Meetings. The Chapter Council Board shall meet in the manner prescribed by the bylaws of this chapter.

ARTICLE V OFFICERS

Section 1. The executive powers of this chapter shall be vested in the officers.

Section 2. Elected Positions.

(a) The elected officers of this chapter shall be the president, the vice president, the secretary, the treasurer and the membership chairperson. The election of the officers shall be as prescribed in the bylaws of this chapter. Nothing herein shall preclude co-presidents from serving this chapter.

(b) All elected officers shall be active members of this chapter and the president of the chapter shall be at least eighteen (18) years of age.

Section 3. Official Delegates. The official delegates for the chapter shall normally be the president and

vice-president. If co-presidents serve the chapter, they will serve as the official delegates. If one of these officers chooses to not serve as the official delegate, the Chapter Board may vote to appoint a different chapter member. Section 4. Installation. All elected officers shall be formally installed prior to undertaking his or her respective duties and responsibilities.

Section 5. Responsibilities and Duties. The officers of this chapter shall have such responsibilities and duties as prescribed by the bylaws of this chapter.

ARTICLE VI AMENDMENTS

Section 1. Submission of Proposed Amendment. Any active members may submit a proposed amendment to the constitution or bylaws of this chapter.

Section 2. Notice. Notification of any proposed amendment to the constitution or bylaws must be filed with the president of this chapter at least four weeks prior to the next scheduled Chapter Council Board meeting. The president shall then send a copy of the proposed amendment to all members of the Chapter Council Board at least fifteen (15) days before the Chapter Council Board meeting at which a decision of the Chapter Council Board is required.

Section 3. Chapter Council Board Vote Necessary. Upon submission of the proposed amendment to the constitution or bylaws, and provided that the time requirements for notice herein are met, the Chapter Council Board shall consider the proposed amendment.

Section 4. Amendment to the Constitution. A favorable three-fourths majority vote of the Chapter Council Board present at the Chapter Council Board meeting shall be necessary to submit the proposed amendment to the general membership of this chapter.

Section 5. Amendment to the Bylaws. A favorable two-thirds majority vote of the Chapter Council Board present at the Chapter Council Board meeting shall be necessary to submit the proposed amendment to the bylaws to the general membership of this chapter.

Section 6. Voting by general membership meeting for Amendment to Constitution or Bylaws.

(a) Notice. Upon favorable vote of the Chapter Council Board as prescribed in Sections 4 or 5 with respect to an amendment to the constitution or the bylaws, respectively, the president of the chapter shall submit the proposed amendment to the general membership at least fifteen (15) days prior to the next scheduled general membership meeting. The notice to the members may be made by the president in any manner convenient and reasonable, including, but not limited to, notice of such proposed amendment in the chapter newsletter and chapter website. Notice shall be deemed adequate if mailed to the address of the member as recorded on the official Portland JACL membership list.

(b) General Membership Meeting—Constitutional Amendment. Upon compliance with the notice requirement set forth in Section 6(a), the general membership shall consider the proposed amendment at the general membership meeting. A favorable three-fourths majority vote of the members present at the general membership meeting shall be necessary to amend this constitution.

(c) General Membership Meeting—Bylaw Amendment. Upon compliance with the notice requirement set forth in Section 6(a), the general membership shall consider the proposed amendment at the general membership meeting. A favorable two-thirds majority vote of the members present of the general membership meeting shall be necessary to amend the bylaws.

Section 7. Voting by Mail for Amendments to Constitution or Bylaws.

(a) Voting by mail. Majority vote of Chapter Council Board; Notice. Upon favorable vote of the Chapter

Council Board as prescribed in sections 4 or 5 with respect to an amendment to the constitution or the bylaws, respectively, the Chapter Council Board may submit the proposed amendment for voting thereon by mail upon a favorable majority vote to do so of the Chapter Council Board present at the Chapter Council Board meeting.

The president shall submit the proposed amendment to the general membership for voting by mail at least thirty (30) days prior to the deadline established for voting on such amendment. The notice to the members may be made by the president in any manner convenient and reasonable, including but not limited to, notice of such proposed amendment in the chapter newsletter. Notice shall be deemed adequate if mailed to the address of the member as recorded on the official Portland JACL membership list.

(b) Voting by mail—Constitutional Amendment. Upon compliance with the notice requirement set forth in Section 7(a), the president shall consider all votes received from the membership by mail, postmarked on or before the deadline established to vote on such amendment. A favorable three-fourths majority vote of all members timely voting by mail shall be necessary to amend this constitution.

(c) Voting by mail—Bylaw Amendment. Upon compliance with the notice requirements set forth in Section 7(a), the president shall consider all votes received from the membership by mail, postmarked on or before the deadline established to vote on such amendment. A favorable two-thirds majority vote of all members timely voting by mail shall be necessary to amend the bylaw.

ARTICLE VII INITIATIVE AND REFERENDUM

Section 1. Definitions.

(a) An initiative is a process whereby the individual member may propose and enact resolutions and other policies pertaining to this chapter.

(b) A referendum is a process whereby the individual members may vote to approve or disapprove resolutions and policies adopted by; the Board of Directors or the chapter council or other authorized decision-making bodies within the chapter.

Section 2. Requirements for Initiative. An initiative shall be instituted when such is recommended by an active member and supported by signatures of current active members in an amount at least equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the active membership of this chapter as reported and recorded in the official Portland JACL membership list of this chapter for the last preceding year.

Section 3. Requirements for Referendum. A referendum shall be instituted when such is recommended by an active member and supported by signatures of current active members in an amount at least equal to fifteen percent (15%) of the active members of this chapter as reported and recorded in the official Portland JACL membership list of this chapter for the last preceding year.