



Authority

A. The Authority of the members

1. The WIPA recognizes the primary responsibility for selecting a Leader of the Party Alberta resides with the members through the assistance, and under the supervision, of the Board of Governors (BoG) and the Leadership Selection Committee (LSC)
2. As per Section VIII, Subsection C, the first and only the first AGM of the newly merged Wildrose Independence Party of Alberta, the Membership will NOT call for a vote on a leadership review. There will, instead, be a motion to establish a Leadership Selection Committee. Dates for a Leadership race will be announced no later than 30 days from the AGM.

Leadership Selection Rules and Procedures

B. The Leadership Selection Committee

1. The Board of Governors shall appoint a Leadership Selection Committee to have authority over;
 - i. The enforcement of these rules, including the eligibility of members.
 - ii. The acceptance or rejection of a prospective nomination contestants,
 - iii. The resolution of disputes arising from these rules.
 - iv. The questions to be developed for candidate interviews to ensure fairness and equity in the interviews of prospective candidates.
 - v. The number, timing and rules for Candidate Debates
 - vi. The number and timing of Member Town halls to ensure that members understand and are comfortable with the voting process

2. The LSC will be appointed by the BoG, and will consist of seven (7) members, who may or may not be members of the BoG, but should be deemed to have experience in leadership and/or candidate selection process for a political party. Anyone being considered for this committee MUST inform the BoG of any potential conflict of interest that would impact their role. The Chair shall be selected from within the 7 members of the LSC.

3 The BoG will determine the Nomination period and the Election period for the leadership Selection process. These dates will be posted on the website and email and or phoned to all members in the approved database. (Consider a “transition” addendum)

C. Dispute Resolution Committee

1. The BoG shall appoint 3 members to a Dispute Resolution Committee, none of which will be a Board member, a LSC member or party staff and one shall be a lawyer.

D.. Neutrality and Confidentiality

1. Each LSC member, BoG member, Dispute Resolution Committee (DRC) member and party staff shall sign a declaration agreeing they shall;

- i. Not become a Leadership Candidate or be part of a Candidates team,
- ii. Remain neutral for the duration of the contest,
- iii. Maintain strict confidentiality of any and all matters arising from their duties regarding the Leadership Selection process

2. Violation of these conditions may result in the removal of members

II. Voting Process

A. Eligibility of Voters (members)

1. The LSC will determine the date of the vote for the leader of the party, after the members under By-Law Section VIII-C determines that such a Leadership race should be held, and the LSC will comply with all processes under said section. For the 1st Leadership Race, the Board of Governors will determine the date of the race and appoint a LSC to administer it.

2. To be eligible to vote in a Leadership race, a person must be a member in good standing fourteen days (14) prior to the voting date, or in the case of a multi-day voting period, the first date voting is open.

B. Process

1. Voting will be conducted by a third party entity chosen by LSC and all votes will be done electronically (online or by phone). This entity will have previous known experience in electronic voting for political parties. It will also be able to confirm its security measures and

the ability to generate an immediate “kill list” so that when a PIN has been used, it can no longer be accessed.

2. A unique number, known only to the LSC, will be provided to the third party entity and will be attached to the member’s name and email.
3. A PIN number or password will be assigned to each member by the third party entity so that all members are able to vote.
4. Voting instructions and the “PIN” will be sent to each member, who shall not divulge their unique PIN number to other persons.
- 5.. No Leadership Candidate or any member of the Candidates’ team (paid or unpaid) can collect, utilize or vote with any members’ PIN. Leadership Candidates and their team may be consulted by a member on how the member is to utilize her or his PIN, but at no time receive any information or detail specific to a members’ PIN. Breach of this rule will result in disciplinary action that may include disqualification of a Leadership Candidate.
6. The LSC will determine the voting window for the leadership election period but cannot be less than 1- 24 hour period and not longer than a 72 hour period.
7. In some cases where there are more than 2 Candidates, provision must be made for a preferential electronic ballot and members instructed on their use. However, if a member votes for only one or two Candidates it will not be considered a spoiled ballot.
8. Leadership Candidate names will be listed alphabetically on the ballot.
9. In the case of a preferential electronic ballot, the tabulation of voters continue until one person achieves 50% plus 1 votes. If the first ballot round does not produce a candidate with 50% plus 1 votes, the tabulation continues as outlined below:
 - i. the Leadership Candidate with the fewest number of first place votes will be removed from the leadership contest. Their second place votes will be allocated to the remaining Leadership Candidates;
 - ii. the votes will be re-tabulated and if a contestant has received more than 50% of the total number of votes cast, that Leadership Candidate will be declared the winner and will immediately become the presumptive Leader, and will abide by #10 below.
 - iii. if no Leadership Candidate has received more than 50% of the total number of votes cast, this process will be repeated, removing one leadership contestant at a time, until a presumptive winner is declared.

- iv. the Chair of the LSC will register to vote and will cast their vote in the case of a tie between two or more of the Leadership Candidates with the lowest number of votes, to determine which Candidate is to be eliminated.

10. The results of the vote are final and binding and will be announced within 48 hrs of the vote to allow for any appeals that may arise from the vote.

III. Leadership Candidate Application

A. Leadership Application Form

1. Applicants must provide the LSC with the following documents cumulatively called the “Application”:

- i. A completed and signed Nomination Questionnaire (Schedule A),
- ii. A completed Criminal Background Check (Schedule B),
- iii. Signed authorization for the Party to conduct a credit check (Schedule C),
- iv. Signed consent forms as required by law (Schedule D),
- v. Signed summary of disclosure forms as required in Ethics Commissioner Filings (Schedule E),
- vi. A signed Confidentiality Agreement covering the Application and Nomination Process (Schedule F).
- vii. A signatures of support from a minimum of (X) # of members in good standing with the Party as determined by the LSC.
- viii. A signed declaration (Schedule G) stating the agreement of the Applicant to the following:
 - (a) The LSC has the authority to disqualify a Applicant for any reason and that
 - rejection may be appealed thru the Rejection Appeal and Resolution Process cited in Section VIII
 - (b) There is acceptance of the principle of Alberta’s independence from all other political entities, as well as the goals, and policies of the WIPA, and no other political advocacy shall be permitted
 - (c) There shall be no use of the official Party logo by the contestant or any indication that the Applicant is supported by the BoG, LSC or Party Staff. They

will be allowed to use a logo supplied by the LSC that acts as an identifier for each Leadership Candidate.

(d) The Applicant has read, understands and will abide by the Leadership Selection Rules and Procedures.

2. Any person shall be considered a nomination contestant who has;
 - i. Submitted a valid Application and Nomination Petition,
 - ii. Been interviewed by the LSC
 - iii. Not been rejected by the LSC

3. Applicants must meet the following requirements;
 - i. Be eligible to be a Candidate under the Elections Act,
 - ii. Be a member of the Party in good standing for a period of six (6) months prior to making application, (announce at AGM?)
 - iii. Have taken a leave of absence from all CA boards six months prior to the leadership race (or on the date of announcement of said race if shorter than six months) and is not a sitting member of the Board of Governors.

B. Entry fee

1. The Entry Fee will be determined by the LSC and approved by the Board of Governors, and will be paid in two instalments and must come from the Leadership Campaign Fund of the candidate. These may be paid by electronic funds transfer, certified cheque, bank draft, or money order payable to the Wildrose Independence party of Alberta (WIPA).
2. The first installment of the entry fee must be paid at the time of Application submission.
3. The Compliance fee, as determined by the LSC and approved by the Board of Governors, must also accompany the Application submission, and can be paid by the means described in III-B-1.
4. If the Application is not accepted, the Entry Fee and the Compliance Fee will be refunded to the Leadership Candidates' Campaign fund. The second installment will not be charged.
5. If the Application is accepted, no portion of the first installment is refundable.
6. The second installment of the entry fee will be payable upon the a date set by the LSC and

approved by the Board of Governors. Failure to submit the second installment will result in the disqualification of the candidate, and the name will not appear on the ballot.

7. Only persons who have complied with all the rules including payment of entry fees will have their name placed on the ballot.
8. If a disciplinary action is leveled against a Leadership Candidate and results in a fine, that fine amount is deducted from the Compliance Fee. Further, the Leadership Candidate has 3 days to restore the balance of the Compliance Fee to its original amount. Failure to do so will result in disqualification of the candidate.
9. All donations received by the Leadership Candidate will be entitled to be kept by the Candidate during the campaign period.
10. Memberships sold by the candidates are required to be sent to the party with the accompanying funds. They must be submitted in a manner approved by the LSC for processing, but must be submitted at the end of each week of the nomination and campaign period.
11. The balance of leadership compliance fee will be repaid at the end of leadership campaign period.
12. Leadership Candidates are required to transfer any funds held at the end of the campaign period to the Wildrose Independence Party of Alberta in accordance to EFCDA section 12.2 (1)(a) and not return funds to contributors as stated in 12.2(1)(b). Candidates will agree to this.
13. Leadership Candidates will supply the LSC the filings made to Elections Alberta pursuant to EFDCA.
14. The LSC can audit, or cause to be audited, each Leadership Candidates' accounts and records at any time. Failure to comply will be a breach of these rules.

C. Application Process

1. Applications must be received by the LSC prior to the close of Nominations which shall be at 5:00 PM, twenty one (21) calendar days after Opening Notice has been provided, by the LSC. It is the responsibility of the Applicant to ensure the LSC receives the application.
2. The LSC shall interview Applicants in person, by phone, or other internet communication tool such as Zoom, facetime, skype etc. within seven days of receiving the Application. The interview mechanism (i.e. in person, phone, etc.) will be by agreement between the Applicant

and the LSC.

D. Acceptance or Rejection of Nomination Applicant

1. Upon receipt of an Application from the chair of the LSC, the LSC shall review the Application and may on reasonable grounds:
 - i. accept the Application and declare the Applicant to be an official leadership contestant;
 - ii. reject the Application and return the first instalment of the Entry Fee to the Applicant with written reasons for the rejection;
 - iii. request the Applicant to provide additional information or attend at an interview to further complete the review of the Application
2. The decision of the LSC to accept, reject or request additional information must be made within five business days after receipt of the application by the Chair of the LSC.
3. If an Applicant fails to provide additional information or attend at an interview requested by the LSC, without reasonable excuse, the Application is deemed incomplete and shall be rejected.
4. Applicants can appeal to the Dispute Resolution Committee if their application is rejected or if they are disqualified by the LSC. Appeals must be filed within 2 days of the rejection or disqualification.
5. If following the application review by the LSC, there is only one Leadership Candidate accepted- that Leadership Candidate will be the only name on the ballot, and that ballot will be presented to the members for a vote, and the Candidate must achieve 50% plus 1.

E. Removal of Accepted Candidates

1. If a concern arises from a member of the BoG or if a member notifies the LSC of a concern regarding a Leadership Candidate; that concern must be outlined and submitted to the LSC. On recommendation of the LSC an accepted Leadership Candidate may be removed if evidence arises that would disqualify them for cause.
2. The Leadership Candidate may appeal the decision thru the Dispute resolution process, and the appeal must be filed to the Dispute Resolution Committee within 2 days of rejection of candidacy.

F. Waiver of Requirements

1. The LSC will have the authority to waive application qualifications with regard to residency membership requirements if there is a compelling reason to do as outlined below:
 - i. the Applicant was a member of the media, think tanks, policy groups etc. where they were not allowed to hold a membership in a political party.

- ii. a person who has displayed leadership qualities in the political environment in another province and has established residency in Alberta for at least a 6 month period prior to the application date .

V. The Use of Membership Lists

1. When an Applicant to be a Leadership Candidate is approved by the LSC, within two business days thereafter, the LSC will provide the Leadership Candidate an authorized membership list. The Leadership Candidate will sign an affidavit affirming that the membership list will be used only for the purpose of campaigning to the members, and not be used for any improper purpose whatsoever. This includes the improper disclosure of said list to any third party except to members of the candidates' leadership campaign team for the purpose of campaign activities. All members of said campaign team must sign a confidentiality and non-disclosure agreement.
2. Each Leadership Candidate is responsible for the proper use of the membership list. Any unauthorized use or disclosure of the membership list will result in discipline, up to and including, forfeiture of the Compliance Deposit or disqualification.
3. Whenever the LSC provides an updated membership to a Leadership Candidate, all other approved Candidates will receive the list at the same time.
4. If a Candidate withdraws or fails to pay the second installment of the entry fee on the prescribed date, the Leadership Candidate will destroy all membership lists, including any and all held by members of the campaign team. The Candidate and all team members holding said lists must sign an affidavit declaring that all electronic and manual records have been erased and/or destroyed.
5. Within one week, following the election of the leader, each Leadership Candidate shall ensure that all membership lists held by the campaign team, be they electronic or written records are erased and/or destroyed. Each candidate will provide to the LSC a list of all members of the campaign team who had access and use of said lists, including their name and contact information, the date that they received, the date of their compliance to the erasure or destruction of the lists, and the signed nondisclosure and confidentiality agreements.
6. If any member chooses to opt out of receiving communications by any means (text email, phone call) from the Candidate or any member of their Campaign team, that request must be respected. Mechanisms must be in place to ensure that no further communications are transmitted to that member.

VI The Nomination Period

A. Nomination Period and Campaigning

1. The Nomination Period shall have two parts;
 - a. A minimum twenty one day (21) period where Applications are accepted; followed if necessary by,
 - b. The BoG will set a campaign period that is deemed reasonable for all candidates to reach the membership.

B. Notice of a Nomination Event

1. Notice of a Leadership Selection process will be sent by email or phone based on the record of all members in the approved database., as well as posting on party website and other Party approved social media.
2. This notice shall include the call for Applicants with contact information for the LSC so that potential Applicants can receive further information regarding Application requirements and receive an application form.
3. The notice will outline voter eligibility and voting process.

VII. The Nomination Event

A. One Nomination Candidate

1. If there is only one accepted Leadership Candidate, the LSC will proceed to a nomination event so that members have the opportunity of an up or down vote for that contestant. The LSC may, in conjunction with the BoG shorten the campaign period.

B. Two or More Candidates

1. The voting process will proceed as per Section II-B

VIII. Dispute Resolution and Appeal Process

A. Offences

1. The following offences may be reported to the Dispute Resolution Committee by a nomination applicant, contestant or member for investigation and may result in the rejection of an Applicant, the disqualification of a nomination contestant, or the removal of a Candidate;
 - i. Submission a misleading or fraudulent application,

- ii. Using the membership information provided by the Party for any purpose other than campaigning for the nomination,
- iii. Use of the party logo or implying the endorsement of the BoG or LSC or party staff when no such endorsement exists,
- iv. Buying memberships, or causing memberships to be bought, for other individuals with the exception of family members who may pay for immediate family members
- v. Selling memberships as an add-on to a commercial activity,
- vi. Deliberately selling memberships to individuals who are ineligible,
- vii. Creating fake credentials or assisting individuals in falsifying credentials,
- viii. Filing unsubstantiated systematic eligibility challenges against an identifiable category of members,
- ix. Corrupt practices as defined by the Elections Act;
- x. Filing false complaints against other applicants or nomination contestants,
- xi. Using the party membership list for campaigning before an application to be a nomination contestant has been received by the Party,
- xii. Submitting membership applications for individuals without their knowledge and consent,
- xiii. Other activities which may bring the Party and the nomination process into disrepute.

2. The Dispute Resolution Committee may, subject to the WIPA by-laws, implement any corrective measures as required to conduct a free and fair nomination.

B. Grounds for Appeal

1. Lack of impartiality by the LCNC, PNC, or any person acting with authority under these rules.
2. Offences committed by another nomination campaign which could be reasonably concluded to have changed the outcome of the nomination event or application for nomination.

C. Appeal Process

1. If an applicant or nomination contestant has grounds for appeal against the LSC or any person acting in authority under these rules, a written request can be made to the Chairperson of the Dispute resolution Committee for an investigation.
2. The Board of Governors may, by motion, direct the Dispute Resolution Committee to investigate any matter.
3. The ruling of the Dispute Resolution Committee is final and binding.