

MAPE Political Council Charter

Core Principal (from 2017-2019 Strategic Plan)

Political Competence: Politics is the work of the people. MAPE members must develop the political interest, discipline, and skills needed to fulfill the obligation to organize and govern for the common good. We are all responsible for developing political competence to define problems, produce solutions and establish common agreements that improve life for MAPE members and for the people of Minnesota.

Purpose

The purpose of the Political Council is to align and support MAPE's strategic priorities. The Political Council works to define MAPE legislative priorities and strategies, facilitate member political education and conversation, organize member legislative and political engagement¹, and build long-term relationships with partners and organizations both internal and external to the organization. The Political Council commits to seeking input and listening to member priorities to inform this work.

Strategies should include deliberate attention to equity, diversity, and inclusion of all protected classes.

Internal: Build legislative and political teams and strategies, engage member leaders.

External: Collaborate to build power across) labor partners in Minnesota, similarly-aligned advocacy coalitions, and others wherever practical.

Example: Unions have used several strategies such as collaborating with community organizations to add referendums to the ballot, municipal and statewide union legislative process changes, etc. Specific campaigns have included raising the minimum wage, paid family leave, among others, restore the vote, marriage for all, etc.

Political Council Main Goals²

1. Create and maintain a statewide political infrastructure in MAPE
2. Build MAPE's political power and competence
3. Defeat toxic narratives around politics and state service

Alignment to Strategic Goals

The Political Council aligns with MAPE strategic goal #4: Improve public policy making and electoral politics in Minnesota. Aligned goals include:

- Elect a pro-union Governor, House of Representatives, and Senate;
- Obtain legislative approval of a fair contract;

¹ Member legislative and political engagement is not one specific action or event; the Political Council will identify and organize around a spectrum of activities, including but not limited to workplace forums, candidate forums, discussions, electoral action (door knocking, phone banking), house parties, in-district and at-capitol meetings with legislators, actions with legislative committee leadership, etc.

² As defined in the first meeting of the Political Council, July 2019.

- Build relationships, center state workers’ narratives with elected officials, and organize bipartisan support through in-district legislative work; and
- Strengthen and promote the power of the MAPE narrative and state service to the public.

Scope

The Political Council will create a legislative vision and set priorities to implement. This includes:

- Overseeing strategy implementation;
- Building legislative power while working alongside the MAPE Public Affairs and Communications and Organizing teams, and engaging the Organizing Council, the Board of Directors, and other internal/external partnerships as specific strategies require;
- Organizing to build political power;
- Developing media, community, and public relations strategies; and
- Leveraging and engaging local leaders.

Previous committees and committee goals that fall under Political Council include:

- Government Relations Committee (GRC)
- Diversity
- Women

Structure

Seven (7) members (5 elected statewide, 2 appointed by MAPE President w/ criteria and approved by the Board).

Criteria for Presidential appointments include:

- At least one member on the Political Council who serves on the MAPE Political Action Committee (PAC), in accordance with MAPE Bylaws Article VI Section 1B.
- A good faith effort shall be made to see that this Council is comprised of members from Greater Minnesota in proportion to their membership in MAPE
- Does not hold another officer position
- Diversity and balance of member including underrepresented identities and protected classes, agency affiliation, geography and regional representation shall be considered

Roles and Responsibilities

Political Council Members

- Define and implement Political Council goals;
- Identify and define levels of and opportunities for political engagement throughout the organization in collaboration;
- Organize and participate in MAPE political and legislative activities;
- Build teams and leaders throughout MAPE for political action in conjunction with the Organizing Council;
- Increase member engagement in legislative and political strategies and actions;
- Recommend MAPE policy changes when needed;
- Review and make recommendations on proposals submitted by MAPE members via established proposal processes;

- May establish and lead subgroups/workgroups;
 - Provide oversight for established workgroups
- Annually assigns liaisons to internal MAPE work including³:
 - Organizing Council Liaison
 - Negotiations Committee Liaison
 - Operations Liaison
 - PAC Liaison
 - A voting member of the Political/Education Fund⁴; and
- Other duties as assigned by the Political Council.

Political Council Chair

- Holds a two-year term, with elections taking place in even-numbered years. The chair is elected by a majority vote of council members. Only members of the political council who were elected statewide are eligible to run for the position of chair, in accordance with MAPE Bylaws Article VI Section 12B;
- Convenes and facilitates regularly scheduled meetings of the Political Council;
- Works collaboratively with MAPE staff, the Vice Chair, and Secretary to solicit input and establish meeting calendars and agendas
- Provides or delegates a regular report to the MAPE Executive Committee and the Board of Directors meetings;
- Serves on the MAPE Executive Committee and the Board of Directors as a representative of the Political Council;
- Makes recommendations to Executive Committee on legislative and political action based on input from the Political Council; and
- Other duties as assigned by the Political Council, Executive Committee, and/or Board of Directors.

Political Council Vice Chair

- Holds a two-year term, with elections taking place in even-numbered years. The Vice Chair is elected by a majority vote of council members. Any member of the political council is eligible to run for the position of Vice Chair;
- Works collaboratively with MAPE staff, the Chair, and Secretary to solicit input and establish meeting calendars agendas;
- Assumes the roles of the Chair in the Chair's absence, including:
 - Convening and facilitating regularly scheduled meetings of the Political Council;
 - Providing and/or delegating a regular report to the MAPE Executive Committee and the Board of Directors; and
 - Serves on the Board of Directors as a representative of the Political Council, in accordance with MAPE Bylaws Article VI Section 5.

³ Duties of the liaisons will be defined by the Political Council as a collective, depending on the priorities and strategies identified for any given year. At a minimum, the liaisons are charged with regular communication with the identified bodies to align efforts and strategy implementation.

⁴ This member may not simultaneously hold a position on MAPE PAC.

Political Council Secretary

- Works collaboratively with MAPE staff, the Chair, and Vice Chair to solicit input and establish meeting calendars and agendas;
- Writes and distributes records of meeting discussions and actions taken by the Political Council; this includes distribution on the MAPE website as well as other communications channels identified by the Political Council; and
- Serves as communications liaison with MAPE staff.

Authority

The MAPE Political Council's authority is outlined in MAPE Bylaws Article VI.

Measurable Goals

The Council will have an annual work plan that contains measurable goals for success.

Budget

Line item budget is included on MAPE's annual budget. Supplemental funding requests shall be submitted to the Board of Directors for approval.

Oversight and Accountability

The Political Council and Council members are accountable to the MAPE Executive Committee, Board of Directors, members, and greater community.

Amendments

This Charter may be amended by a two-thirds vote of the Political Council then serving at a regularly scheduled meeting of the Political Council if all members then serving were first provided at least fourteen (14) days written notice that a motion to amend the Charter will be considered at the next regularly scheduled meeting. Any member may move to amend the charter as provided in this section.

History: Approved by Political Council 12/13/19