

The rules were approved by the board of Helsinki LEFT ry on 03/07/2023. The rules are based the model rules of a Left Alliance basic organisation, which were approved by the Left Alliance's Party Board on 13/06/2012, and registered at the Finnish Patent & Registration Office on 13/05/2014.

### **Name, Domicile, and Operating Area**

1 § The name of the association is Helsinki LEFT ry. Hereinafter in these rules, it is referred to as The Association. The domicile of The Association is the municipality of Helsinki, and its operating area is Helsinki.

### **Purpose**

2 § The association operates as a basic organisation of the Left Alliance political party in accordance with the rules of the Left Alliance r.p. The Association is also a member organisation of the party's Southern Region (Helsinki and Uusimaa) district organisation.

The general goals and operating principles of the association are expressed in the party programme and the party's rules. In addition, the purpose of the association is to:

- Serve as a connecting link and a political channel for its members locally, within the party, and on a societal level;
- Awaken interest among citizens in political issues, party principles, and activities within its operating area;
- Take a stance on local and other political and societal issues, and make related initiatives to local and other decision makers, district organisations, and the party board;
- Participate in the implementation of the party's election campaigns within its operating area and promote the party's goals and activities to the best of its ability.

### **Nature of Activities**

3 § To fulfil its purpose, The Association:

- Recruits new members for the party from its operating area and maintains contact with its members;
- Organises political meetings, discussions, cultural and other events, as well as social gatherings, which are open to interested individuals outside the party;
- Nominates candidates for national, municipal, and other elections and votes, and organises a local election campaign related to each of them;

- Informs about its activities and statements in newspapers and electronic media, participates in the distribution and sales work of publications supported by the party, as well as engages in educational and study club activities, when necessary;
- Encourages its members and citizens at large to participate in trade union activities and the activities of various civic organisations and movements;
- Builds cooperation with other organisations and movements advocating similar goals.

To support its activities, The Association may own and manage real estate, shares, bonds, and other securities, as well as accept bequests and donations.

Before a party section decides on the construction, expansion, or transfer of a property it owns or on any other significant economic or business-related project, it must request a statement from the party board.

The Association may establish and manage foundations, and with the necessary permits, engage in local radio and TV activities, tourism, accommodation and catering businesses, bingo and kiosk operations, printing, book trade, film and theatre activities, as well as organise lotteries, sales events, and fundraising.

### **Membership in The Association**

4 § Any Finnish citizen who is at least 15 years old or a foreigner permanently residing in Finland and who accepts these rules and the party's rules, purpose, and party programme, and wishes to work towards the goals of The Association and the party and fulfils the membership obligations specified in the rules can become a member of The Association.

The Association's board approves the members of The Association. The Association's membership list is kept in the party's membership register by the order of the board.

A person can only be a member of one party organisation. A member of The Association cannot belong to another party, and such a person cannot be accepted into the party until they have resigned from their previous party. When transferring from one association to another, a member retains their existing membership rights.

A member of The Association has the right to participate in its decision making, be elected to positions of leadership within The Association, and enjoy all the rights and benefits granted by The Association and the Left Alliance political party.

5 § A member can resign from The Association by notifying the board of directors or its chair in writing, or by announcing their resignation, to be recorded in the minutes of The Association's meeting.

6 § : If a member of The Association engages in political activities that harm or oppose The Association or party, or acts significantly against the fundamental principles of the party, or engages in fraudulent behaviour within or outside The Association that substantially hinders the operation of The Association or the party, they may be expelled from The Association. This decision is made at The Association's board meeting, after providing the individual with an opportunity to provide an explanation.

The party's executive committee may also present a disciplinary claim to The Association's meeting.

7 § The members of The Association pay a membership fee. The amount for the following year is decided in the regular autumn meeting of the party council of the previous year.

The membership fee includes the fee for the party, the regional organisation, and The Association. The portion allocated to each of these organisations is determined when deciding the membership fee. The membership fee paid by The Association's members is also considered as the membership fee for the respective party's member association.

The party collects the membership fee using postal and banking services. The fee is paid annually as a lump sum and remains valid until the end of March of the year following the year in which the fee was paid. The collection of membership fees is conducted twice a year. The first collection takes place in the first half of the year, and the second in the second half of the year. The latter collection includes new members and old members who have outstanding payments from the beginning of the year.

Additionally, The Association may collect an additional membership fee from its members. The amount is determined annually in The Association's autumn meeting.

Upon application, the board of directors may exempt a member from paying the membership fee for a specified period and for specific reasons, such as prolonged unemployment.

By decision of The Association, a member who solely relies on national pension can be permanently exempted from paying the membership fee. Similarly, a member who has reached the age of 60 and has actively and significantly participated in the activities of the labour movement may be granted permanent exemption from the membership fee by The Association's decision.

Members who have been granted exemption or temporary relief from the membership fee have the same membership rights as those who have paid their fees.

The Association must promptly inform the party executive committee of the granting of exemption from membership fees.

If a member fails to pay the membership fee for two consecutive calendar years and does not pay the fee in the subsequent collection, the board of directors may consider the member to have resigned.

## **Institutions**

8 § The Association's governing bodies include The Association's autumn meeting, spring meeting, and other general meetings, as well as the board of directors' meetings. The Association's meeting and/or the board of directors may also appoint various committees (such as youth and women's committees) or working groups for specific tasks.

Decisions in The Association's governing body meetings are made by a simple majority vote. In the event of a tie, the chair's vote decides, except in elections where a draw is used.

9 § The spring meeting, held between January and March, shall be convened at least one week before the meeting, with a written invitation sent to the members, or through email, or published in a designated newspaper advertisement.

After The Association's chairman, or in their absence, the vice chair or another representative of the board of directors has opened the spring meeting, the following matters shall be discussed:

1. Determination of the legality and quorum of the meeting, as well as verification of the participants;
2. Election of the meeting's chair, secretary, and two (2) meeting minutes inspectors;
3. Approval of the meeting's agenda;
4. Presentation of the board's report on The Association's activities for the previous term;
5. Presentation of the financial statement, auditor's statement, and approval of the financial statements;
6. Granting of discharge from liability to the board of directors and other persons with liability;
7. Discussion of the current political situation and any decisions or statements to be made in relation to it;
8. Selection of representatives for the district meeting;
9. Possible nomination of candidates for parliamentary and municipal elections or for the selection of delegates for the party congress;
10. Publication of meeting invitations;
11. Other matters presented by the board of directors or members.

10 § The autumn meeting, held between September and October, is convened in the same manner as the spring meeting. After The Association's chair, or in their absence, the vice chair or another representative of the board of directors has opened the autumn meeting, the following matters shall be discussed:

1. Determination of the legality and quorum of the meeting, as well as verification of the participants;
2. Election of the meeting's chair, secretary, and two (2) meeting minutes inspectors;
3. Approval of the meeting's agenda;
4. Discussion of the current political situation and any decisions or statements to be made in relation to it;
5. Selection of representatives for the district meeting;
6. Possible nomination of candidates for parliamentary and municipal elections or for the selection of delegates for the party congress;
7. Determination of the number of members to be elected to the board within the limits set by § 12 of the rules, as well as the election of The Association's chair, vice chair, and other board members;
8. Appointment of an auditor and a vice auditor;
9. Discussion and approval of the income and expenditure budget and the action plan;
10. Decision on the amount of an additional membership fee;
11. Publication of meeting invitations;
12. Other matters presented by the board of directors or members.

11 § A general meeting, convened at the request of the board of directors and at a time determined by the board, shall be called at least three (3) days before the meeting, following the same procedures as the spring and autumn meetings.

The board of directors must call an extraordinary general meeting of The Association if 1/10 of the eligible voting members of The Association demand it in writing for a specific purpose. The meeting must be convened within one (1) week of receiving the demand.

12 § The affairs of The Association are managed and represented by the board of directors, elected for a one-year term at the autumn meeting. The board of directors consists of a chair, vice chair, 2–10 other full members, and 1–4 vice members. The full members and vice members of the board of directors must be members of The Association.

The board of directors is quorate when the chair or vice chair and at least half of its members are present.

13 § The tasks of the board of directors are:

1. Planning and leading the activities of The Association;
2. Convening and preparing The Association's meetings;
3. Implementing the decisions made at The Association's meetings;
4. Approving new members of The Association and keeping the membership register up to date;
5. Taking a stance on current issues;
6. Selecting necessary officials (e.g. secretary, treasurer), committees, and working groups;
7. Maintaining contact with the district organisation.

### **Signatories**

14 § The chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer elected by the board of directors from among themselves have the authority to sign on behalf of The Association, each individually.

### **Financial Year**

15 § The Association's financial year corresponds to the calendar year.

### **General Provisions**

16 § To amend the rules, a majority of at least two-thirds (2/3) of the votes cast in The Association's board meeting is required, and prior approval from the party's executive board must be obtained before registering the changes with the association register.

17 § The Association cannot withdraw from the party or dissolve if three members oppose it.

18 § In the event of The Association's dissolution or liquidation, its assets and property shall be transferred to Vasemmistoliitto r.p. (Left Alliance r.p.).

19 § Matters not regulated in these rules shall be governed by the Associations Act and, where applicable, the rules of the party.