



## NON-PARTISANSHIP POLICY

<b>Owner</b>	Board	<b>Approval date</b>	19/12/2023
<b>Approved by</b>	Board	<b>Review date</b>	19/12/2024

### 1. Purpose

The purpose of this policy is to outline the rules of the Generation Vote Trust of Aotearoa (the Trust) regarding political affiliations and non-partisanship.

### 2. Definitions

- 2.1. *Board Member* is any member of the Generation Vote Trust of Aotearoa Board, including ex-officio Board Members
- 2.2. *Branch Committee* is an operational committee of the Trust that is managed by democratically elected Branch Executive Officers
- 2.3. *Branch Executive* is the elected managing committee of a Branch Committee, consisting of Branch Executive Officers
- 2.4. *Branch Executive Officer* is a member elected as an Executive member of a Branch Executive of a Branch Committee at that Branch Committee's AGM, SGM or appointed through casual vacancy
- 2.5. *Board* is the Board of Trustees of the Generation Vote Trust of Aotearoa, including ex-officio members of the Board of Trustees
- 2.6. *Member* is a person who has signed up to be part of one of the Branch committees of the Trust
- 2.7. *Political party* is a registered organisation that coordinates candidates to contest local and general elections, including youth wings of such a party.



- 2.8. *Trustee* is a person appointed in accordance with section 6 of the Trust Deed, excluding ex-officio Board Members
- 2.9. *Trust* is the Generation Vote Trust of Aotearoa
- 2.10. *Volunteer* is a member who wishes to teach with the Trust and is committed to being trained in the programme or has been trained in the programme

### **3. Non-partisanship of the Trust**

The Trust is committed to operating in a non-partisan manner.

#### 3.1. The Trust will not:

- 3.1.1. Endorse any Political party or politician;
- 3.1.2. Endorse any policy, bill, or political opinion other than those that aim to provide greater levels of:
  - 3.1.2.1. Non-partisan civics education; or
  - 3.1.2.2. Civic participation.
- 3.1.3. Promote the political opinions and/or actions of a particular Political party or politician as the correct view or action, except when endorsing a policy or opinion pursuant to 3.1.2; or
- 3.1.4. Promote a particular policy or ideology as the correct policy or ideology.

#### 3.2. The Trust may:

- 3.2.1. Use particular policies, Political party views, Political party actions, and ideological views for educational purposes, including to illustrate ideas or concepts;
- 3.2.2. Explain the reasoning behind particular policies, Political party views, Political party actions, and ideological views for educational purposes, including to illustrate ideas or concepts; and
- 3.2.3. Invite local body politicians to participate in workshops for educational purposes.

- 3.3. When taking actions under 3.2, the Trust will endeavour to be politically even-handed and fair, and operate in good faith by:
- 3.3.1. Using a variety of examples from different political perspectives;
  - 3.3.2. Working to ensure there is a fair balance of examples used from different political perspectives;
  - 3.3.3. Emphasising that most different political views and ideologies are not inherently good or bad; and
  - 3.3.4. Not prejudicing invitations to local body politicians to participate in workshops on the basis of their political perspective.
- 3.4. The Trust does not consider it partisan to critique the colonial history of Aotearoa New Zealand.

#### **4. Extent of non-partisanship for the Trust's members and volunteers**

The Trust recognises that some individuals volunteering with the Trust or holding positions within the Trust may have political affiliations of their own and may wish to express those political affiliations outside of their volunteering with the Trust.

- 4.1. The Trust does not wish to or aim to restrict the free expression of the political views of Trustees, Branch Executive Officers, Members, and Volunteers in a personal capacity.
  - 4.1.1. When a Trustee, Branch Executive Officers, Member, or Volunteer expresses political views in a personal capacity these views are not endorsed by the Trust.
- 4.2. No Trustee, Branch Executive Officers, Member, or Volunteer may express political views on behalf of the Trust or in their capacity as a Trustee, Branch Executive Officers, Member, or Volunteer beyond those permitted in 3.1.2.
- 4.3. In order to maintain the non-partisanship of the Trust, there are certain requirements and rules associated with holding a position within the Trust.

## **5. Board Member Non-Partisanship**

5.1. The Board Members of the Trust have the strictest requirements of non-partisanship.

5.2. No Board Member may:

- 5.2.1. Be a candidate for a Political party;
- 5.2.2. Be an elected representative of a Political party;
- 5.2.3. Hold an elected or appointed position within a Political party;
- 5.2.4. Volunteer with a Political party; or
- 5.2.5. Be employed by or work for a Political party.

5.3. Any person who fulfils any of the criteria under 5.2. is not eligible to become a Board Member.

- 5.3.1. Any person who abandons their position(s) under 5.2 may become a Board Member.

5.4. Any Board Member who fulfils any of the criteria under 5.2 must resign their position as a Board Member.

5.5. A Board Member may:

- 5.5.1. Be a member of a Political party;
- 5.5.2. Work for a governmental agency, organisation, or Ministry; or
- 5.5.3. Be employed or volunteer with an organisation whose main purpose is to:
  - 5.5.3.1. Support Political parties;
  - 5.5.3.2. Lobby Political parties;
  - 5.5.3.3. Lobby for legislative change;
  - 5.5.3.4. Lobby for governmental policy change; or

5.5.3.5. Support and deliver elections.

**6. Board Member Conflict of Interest Declaration**

6.1. Any Board Member that fulfils any of the criteria under 5.5 must complete a conflict of interest form and declare it to the Board, outlining:

6.1.1. The name of the Board Member;

6.1.2. The conflict of interest;

6.1.3. The date of disclosure to the Board;

6.1.4. The actions the Board Member will take to manage the conflict of interest; and

6.1.5. Upon consultation with the Board, the actions the Board will take to manage the conflict of interest.

6.2. Upon receipt of a conflict of interest declaration, the Board must:

6.2.1. Consider the declaration at the next meeting of the Board;

6.2.2. Determine whether the conflict of interest breaches these rules;

6.2.3. Determine any actions that the Board should take to manage the conflict of interest; and

6.2.4. Determine any actions that the Board Member should take to manage the conflict of interest.

6.3. Following the Board's consideration of a Board Member's conflict of interest, if that Board Member is a Branch Director the Board Member must make their completed conflict of interest declaration available to their Branch Executive.

6.4. The Secretary of the Trust is responsible for maintaining a register of all conflicts declared to the Board.

6.5. The Secretary of the Trust is responsible for maintaining a register of all Board actions that are agreed in order to manage conflicts of interest.



6.6. Completed conflict of interest declarations of Board Members will be made available to any interested parties upon request.

## **7. Branch Executive Officer Non-Partisanship**

7.1. The Branch Executive Officers must be non-partisan in their role as Branch Executive Officers.

7.2. A Branch Executive Officer may not:

7.2.1. Be a candidate for a Political party;

7.2.2. Be an elected representative of a Political party;

7.2.3. Hold an elected or appointed position within a Political party; or

7.2.4. Be employed by or work for a Political party.

7.3. Any person who fulfils any of the criteria under 7.2 is not eligible to become a Branch Executive Officer.

7.3.1. Any person who abandons their position under 7.2 may become a Branch Executive Officer.

7.4. A Branch Executive Officer of a branch may:

7.4.1. Be a member of a Political party;

7.4.2. Volunteer with a Political party;

7.4.3. Work for a governmental agency, organisation, or Ministry; or

7.4.4. Be employed or volunteer with an organisation whose main purpose is to:

7.4.4.1. Support Political Parties;

7.4.4.2. Lobby Political Parties;

7.4.4.3. Lobby for legislative change;

7.4.4.4. Lobby for governmental policy change; or

7.4.4.5. Support and deliver elections.



## **8. Branch Executive Officer Conflict of Interest Declaration**

- 8.1. Any Branch Executive Officer of a branch that fulfils any of the criteria under 7.4. must complete a conflict of interest form and declare it to the Branch Executive outlining:
  - 8.1.1. The name of the Branch Executive Officer;
  - 8.1.2. The conflict of interest;
  - 8.1.3. The date of disclosure to the Branch Executive;
  - 8.1.4. The actions the Branch Executive Officer will take to manage the conflict of interest; and
  - 8.1.5. Upon consultation with the Branch Executive, the actions the Branch Executive Officer will take to manage the conflict of interest.
- 8.2. Upon receipt of a conflict of interest declaration, the Branch Executive must:
  - 8.2.1. Consider the declaration at the next meeting of the Branch Executive;
  - 8.2.2. Determine whether the conflict of interest breaches these rules;
  - 8.2.3. Determine any actions that the Branch Executive should take to manage the conflict of interest; and
  - 8.2.4. Determine any actions that the Branch Executive Officer should take to manage the conflict of interest.
- 8.3. Following the Branch Executive's consideration of a Branch Executive Officer's conflict of interest, the Secretary of the Branch must provide the completed conflict of interest declaration to the Board for consideration.
- 8.4. The Secretary of the Trust is responsible for maintaining a register of all conflicts of interest of Branch Executive Officers declared to the Board.
- 8.5. The Secretary of the Trust is responsible for maintaining a register of all Branch Executive actions that are agreed in order to manage conflicts of interest of Branch Executive Officers.
- 8.6. Section 8 does not apply to Directors of Branch Executives.

**9. Volunteer Member Non-Partisanship**

- 9.1. Volunteers must be non-partisan when representing Generation Vote and may not be a current candidate or elected representative for local or central government.
- 9.2. Prior to teaching any workshops with Generation Vote, Members and Volunteers must agree to conduct themselves in a manner consistent with the non-partisanship provisions of the Members and Volunteers Code of Conduct.
- 9.3. Volunteers are asked to disclose any affiliation they have with a political party or group in the Members and Volunteers Code of Conduct.
- 9.4. The Secretary of each Branch is responsible for maintaining a register of all Members and Volunteers who have signed the Members and Volunteers Code of Conduct.
- 9.5. The Secretary of each Branch must provide the Secretary of the Trust access to the register of all Members and Volunteers who have signed the Members and Volunteers Code of Conduct.