



**BYLAWS OF THE LATINO LEADERSHIP ALLIANCE OF NEW JERSEY, INC.
(Modified December 9, 2006)**

**ARTICLE I
NAME**

This organization shall be known as the Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey (LLANJ)

**ARTICLE II
THE MISSION**

The mission of the Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey is to mobilize and empower Latin@ communities to obtain political, economical, and social equity. We shall unify organizations and individuals in advocating the rights of Latinos throughout the state of New Jersey.

**ARTICLE III
MEMBERSHIP**

1. Organizations: Any social, cultural, professional, community, labor, student, religious bonafide organization whose principal function is to serve the Latino community, whose members are willing to abide by and support the bylaws, principles and platform of the Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey.
2. Active Individuals Member: Any individual who does not belong to a member organization of LLANJ, and is willing to abide by the Bylaws, principles and platform of LLANJ. Individual members should actively participate in the work of at least one action committee and/or County Chapter.
3. Supporting Members: These are individuals that support the goals and objective of the organization but are not active in the work of the organization. The supporting members shall have voice but not vote in the plenary sections of LLANJ. Any supporting member shall have the right to become an active individual member by petitioning the Executive Committee and becoming active in the work of at least one action committee or County Chapters.

4. Annual Membership Dues:

Statewide organizations \$500

Regional	\$300
Individuals	\$75
Affiliates	\$25

The Board of Delegates shall have the authority to 1) suspend payment of dues as it deems appropriate 2) approve changes in the amount of dues.

**ARTICLE IV
ASSEMBLY**

1. An Assembly of the LLANJ shall be held every two years. The Assembly plenary is the highest decision-making body of the LLANJ.
2. The order of business of the Assembly shall be prepared by the executive Committee and presented to the Board of Delegates for approval. The order of business shall be made known to the membership no later than 30 days prior to the date of the Assembly.
3. All members in good standing can attend the Assembly. Statewide Organizations can send seven voting representatives, Regional Organizations can send four voting representatives and County Chapters can send members of their Board of Delegates from ten to twenty-five as voting representatives in accord with Article IX of these by-laws. Other Individual Members on the Board of Delegates or active in State Committees can attend and vote. The Executive Committee can invite up to ten special representatives who are active but not included in the above categories. Each certified representative has one vote.
4. The Executive Committee shall appoint an Assembly Committee with the consent of the Board of Delegates. The Assembly Committee will certify all voting members and establish the rules for nominations and election of the Board of Delegates according to the terms of this Article.

**ARTICLE V
BOARD OF DELEGATES**

1. The Board of Delegates shall be elected by the plenary of the statewide convention from among the members in good standing of the Latino Leadership Alliance of New Jersey.
2. The Board of Delegates shall be composed by:
 - a. Statewide Organization: Those organizations in good standing whose work affects the Latino population throughout the State of New Jersey shall be eligible to be elected to hold a permanent seat on the Board of Delegates. They shall be ratified by the plenary every two years.

b. Regional Organization: Organizations in good standing whose works affects a particular region or City shall be eligible to be elected to the Board of Delegates for a period of two years.

c. County Chapter Directors

d. Delegates at Large. These are active individual members in good standing that do not represent any particular organization but are people that because of their proven leadership and commitment to LLANJ the plenary decides to elect them as At Large Members of the Board of Delegates for a period of two years.

3. The duties of the Board of Delegates shall be:

a. To direct the affairs of the LLANJ and transact all necessary business in accordance with the platform and resolutions of the statewide convention, in the intervals between statewide conventions and other such business as may be in the interest of the membership at large.

b. The Board of Delegates shall designate the work, duties and responsibilities of the Action Committees. It shall approve the Chairpersons of the committees.

c. The Board of Delegates shall meet every other month and shall transact its business only at regular and special meetings.

d. The Board of Delegates shall elect the Executive Committee.

e. The Board of Delegates shall have the authority to fill vacancies in the Board of Delegates or in any other elected office. Such vacancies will be filled for the unexpired term.

4. At no time shall the number of "at large" members of the Board of Delegates be larger than the sum of the representatives of statewide organizations, regional organizations and County Chapter Directors.

ARTICLE VI THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the officers and such other advisory personnel as may be designated by the Board of Delegates.

2. The functions of the executive Committee shall be:

a. To implement decisions of the board of Delegates

b. To make plans for the proper functioning of LLANJ.

c. To oversee the work of the committees

- d. To assure regular communication between the different components of LLANJ.
- e. To take such actions as necessary between meetings of the Board of Delegates, subject to review by the Board of Delegates.

**ARTICLE VII
OFFICERS**

- 1. The officers of LLANJ shall be president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer and a public relations officer.
- 2. The Board of Delegates shall elect the officers for a term of two years.
- 3. The officers shall be members of the Board of Delegates.
- 4. The duties of the officers shall be:
 - a. President- Shall preside at all meetings of the Board of delegates and the statewide convention; shall be an ex-officio member of all committees, shall appoint all committee chairpersons to the Executive Committee subject to the approval of the Board of Delegates; shall be the spoke person of the organization.
 - b. Vice president shall act as aide to the President and perform such other duties as deemed necessary by the president and the Board of Delegates.
 - c. Secretary- shall be responsible for keeping accurate records of the proceedings of all meetings and maintain accurate records of the membership of LLANJ.
 - d. Treasurer- shall receive and keep a detail record of all membership fees and donations; shall record and report all disbursements; shall give a financial report at all regular meetings of the Board of Delegates; shall deposit funds, maintain books covering financial operations, assets and liabilities; shall sign such papers, instruments, drafts and checks as are incidental to the office, and shall make all records available for independent audit or review by the Board of Delegates.
 - e. Public Relation Officer- shall be responsible to coordinate and oversee all press releases and public relations activities. Shall supervise the production of the LLANJ publications.

**ARTICLE VIII
COMMITTEES**

- 1. There shall be the following action committees;
 - a. Communication
 - b. Civic Participation
 - c. Educational Equity

- d. Youth Empowerment
 - e. Police/Community Relations
 - f. Immigration
 - g. Economic Development
 - h. Healthcare
 - i. Housing
 - j. Human Services
 - k. Development & Fundraising
 - m. Nomination & Election committee
 - n. Bylaws
2. All chairpersons of the action committees shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Delegates and shall be members in good standing of the Board of Delegates.
 3. Records of committee activity will be kept by the chairperson and be made available to the Board of Delegates and the Executive Committee.
 4. The chairperson of the committees shall make reports to the Executive Committee and the Board of Delegates.
 5. The executive Committee, with the approval of the Board of Delegates, may appoint ad hoc committees in order to implement the decisions and resolutions of the State Conventions.

**ARTICLE IX
COUNTY CHAPTER and AFILIATES**

Section A: County Chapters

1. For purposes of these Bylaws, "Chapter" shall mean any organization that is chartered by LLANJ by means of a duly executed and existing Chapter Agreement with LLANJ. A local Chapter can be established when ten or more interested parties in a county receive approval from the Board of Delegates. LLANJ's Board of Delegates shall establish policies for approving, maintaining, and revoking county chapters. Each chapter shall comply with the policies, procedures, and strategic activity guidelines developed by LLANJ for chapter formation and activities. Pursuant to applicable law and subject to this Article, Chapters shall have the following rights and responsibilities:
2. Each local chapter shall meet certain basic chartering requirements as defined from time to time by LLANJ. Such requirements would include, among other items to be determined by LLANJ from time to time, nonprofit status, formal adoption of LLANJ's mission statement, purpose,

logo, name, and bylaws. All such chartering requirements are to be delineated in a Charter Agreement between the local chapter and LLANJ.

3. Each County Chapter shall elect an executive committee that shall be composed of the following officers: a County Director, County Deputy Director, County Treasurer and County Secretary.
4. The functions of the executive Committee shall be:
 - a) To implement the policies and decisions of the Board of Delegates and the Chapter.
 - b) To make plans for the proper functioning of LLANJ
 - c) To oversee the work of the committees
 - d) To assure regular communication between the local chapter and the State Executive Committee.
 - e) To take such actions that are necessary between the meetings of the Chapter.
5. Each County Chapter shall determine its own specific committee structure and staffing needs.
6. County Chapters shall collect dues from members only in accordance with LLANJ's policies and procedures unless otherwise specifically approved by LLANJ. Half of dues collected shall remain the property of the local chapter and the other half shall be send to the LLANJ Central Office for statewide expenses.
7. LLANJ shall assess an annual charter fee on each county chapter in good standing in accordance with the charter policy then in effect.
8. Each County Chapter must have at least 25 members by the end of its first year of operation in order to maintain its chapter.
9. Interested parties have the right to an appeals process for rejected chapter requests in accordance with the policies and procedures of LLANJ.

Section B Affiliates

1. For purposes of these Bylaws, "Affiliate" shall mean any Latino organization that is affiliated with LLANJ by means of a duly executed and existing Affiliate Agreement with LLANJ. Any existing organization, institution, or corporation that supports LLANJ's mission may petition the Board of Delegates to become an Affiliate. Pursuant to applicable law and subject to this Article, Affiliates shall have the following rights and responsibilities:

2. Each Affiliate shall promote LLANJ to its constituents in an effort to ensure the achievement of LLANJ's missions and goals;
3. Each Affiliate shall determine its own specific organizational structure, staffing needs, and legal status;
4. Affiliate members shall pay dues in accordance with LLANJ's policies and procedures; and
5. Interested parties have the right to an appeals process for rejected Affiliate requests in accordance with the policies and procedures of LLANJ.

**ARTICLE X
DISCIPLINE AND GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE**

1. The Bylaws committee shall be responsible for the investigation of any grievance or discipline complains by one member or organization against another.
2. The committee shall hold fact-finding hearings if necessary in order to have a complete and fair investigation.
3. The committee shall present a report and make recommendations to the Board of Delegates.
5. The Board of Delegates shall make the final decision on disciplinary cases.
6. The penalties against individuals or organization members for the violations of the bylaws or the platform of LLANJ may include reprimand, suspension, recall from office and expulsion.
7. The penalties of recall from office or expulsion from the organization shall be issued only in cases of criminal activity, conscious actions harmful to the Alliance or repeated breaking of the bylaws and platform of LLANJ. Recall or expulsion shall require the approval of 2/3 of the Board of Delegates.
8. All penalties resulting from disciplinary action can be appeal to the state convention. An appeal notification must be filed with the Board of Delegates 30 days prior to the state convention.

**ARTICLE XI
GOOD STANDING**

1. In order to be in good standing an individual member or organization must pay the annual dues, work actively in at least one action committee and/or County Chapter and follow the bylaws and resolutions of LLANJ.
2. Three consecutive unexcused absences to properly called meeting without proper and justifiable cause shall constitute grounds for immediate vacancy of any elective position. Such vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Executive Committee subject to approval of the Board of Delegates.

ARTICLE XII QUORUM

1. Quorum for the meetings of LLANJ shall be half plus one of the members of the particular body in session.
2. At meetings of the Board of Delegates, written proxies to another member in place of the official delegate will be accepted.

ARTICLE XIII DISSOLUTION

1. Upon the dissolution of the Latino Leadership alliance of New Jersey it's asset shall be distribute to other Latino non for profit organization and such distribution shall be done in accordance with the laws of the State of New Jersey.

ARTICLE XIV AMENDMENTS

1. These by laws may be amended with the support vote of two thirds (2/3) of the Board of Delegates quorum with the and subject to the ratification of two thirds (2/3) the Assembly plenary.