



# Austin For Palestine Coalition Structure

## Listed Organizations

For the purposes of the document, the listed organizations are as follows Austin With Palestine (AWP), Democratic Socialists of America (DSA), Interfaith Community for Palestinian Rights (ICPR), Jewish Voice for Peace (JVP), Palestine Solidarity Committee (PSC), and Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL).

When referring to the “organization[s]” or “coalition partner[s]”, we will be referring exclusively to this list.

When referring to “coalition representative” or “coalition partner representative” or “representative”, we are referring to the Leadership Committee (LC) member of a particular coalition partner as described in “Structure”.

The coalition may include “supporting organizations” which can collaborate with the LC on events and campaigns, but will not have a vote on the LC. The LC may vote to add a coalition partner by a simple majority vote.

All coalition partners are assumed as independent organizations.

## Purpose and Goals

Austin for Palestine Coalition is a coalition of various Austin based advocacy groups and organizations made up of Austinites who are demanding Austin support a permanent ceasefire in Palestine and dignity for all Palestinians.

The Austin for Palestine Coalition began to form on October 23rd, 2023 and was formalized as a Coalition on November 22nd, 2023, in response to the bombardment of the Gaza Strip by Israel starting on October 7th, 2023, in what the mainstream English-language media wrongfully refers to as the “Israel-Hamas” war but whose victims are mostly Palestinian civilians and children.

The purpose of this coalition is to unite organizations—both those fighting for Palestine as their main mandate and those organizations with a different focus who are still supporters and allies of the Palestinian struggle. The Palestinian struggle is aligned with those people of the global majority who are struggling against imperialism everywhere. The Austin for Palestine Coalition includes both religious and secular groups, Muslims, Jews, Christians, and more. The coalition stands against racist ideologies like Zionism AND anti-Semitism.



Therefore the Austin for Palestine Coalition shall be formed with the express purposes of:

1. Pressuring Austin City Council to pass a resolution calling for a ceasefire either through endorsement of the Austin Human Rights Commission Resolution or a different resolution similar in kind.
2. Promoting BDS in any way seen fit.
3. Coordinating Political Education events to help push for greater public understanding of the oppression of Palestine, and advocating for an end to the Israeli occupation.

## Structure

The coalition will be led by a LC of which each coalition partner will have one representative. It will be left to each coalition partner to determine who shall be their representative. Partner organizations may change their chosen representative at any time without notice to the coalition. Coalition organizations may send additional members to the coalition meetings, with a maximum of two, but only one representative from each organization may participate in official votes.

The LC will act as the deliberative body to determine what resolutions, actions, events, or campaigns the coalition endorses. For brevity, we will refer to resolutions, actions, events, and campaigns all as “resolutions”.

Once the LC has endorsed a resolution, it is asked that each coalition partner promote and enact that resolution. For example, promoting an endorsed event to their members, or having members help coordinate an endorsed event. Asks for coalition partners will be explicitly specified by the LC and sent to coalition partners via their representatives.

Resolutions can be provided to the LC via coalition representatives or may be generated ad-hoc during coalition meetings.

## Leadership Committee

The LC will be required to meet at least monthly. Every meeting must have at least half of the coalition partners present.

The LC will consist of at large representatives except for two special roles, as defined below, that will be assigned to two representatives of the committee by a majority vote of all coalition partners.

### Coordinator

The coordinator will be responsible for chairing coalition meetings as described by [Roberts Rules](#) or by some alternative passed with simple majority vote of coalition partners.



If the coordinator is not available for a meeting then a stand-in can be approved by a majority vote of meeting participants or delegated by the coordinator directly. A majority vote of meeting participants can override a delegated coordinator.

The coordinator will also be responsible for preparing an agenda for each coalition meeting. Agenda items will be created as described in the agenda subsection.

The coordinator will have the ability to call an emergency meeting if needed.

## Secretary

The secretary will be responsible for taking minutes for each coalition meeting including the results of votes and how each coalition partner representative voted. The secretary will then archive all minutes and votes in a shared location accessible by all coalition partners. It is asked that coalition partners do not publicize any archived minutes. Sharing archived minutes internally within a coalition partner's organization is accepted and encouraged.

If the secretary is not available for a meeting then a stand-in can be approved by a majority vote of meeting participants or delegated by the secretary directly. A majority vote of meeting participants can override a delegated secretary.

## Agenda

The agenda shall be created by suggestions from coalition partners to the coordinator through a shared communication medium visible to all coalition partners. If an agenda item is suggested at least 24 hours before the meeting time then it is assumed to be accepted onto the agenda. Any resolution to be voted on by the representatives must be submitted 72 hours before the meeting. If a coalition partner disagrees with an item being on the agenda, they can motion to remove the item before the meeting, or at the top of the meeting.

At the beginning of the coalition meeting, any items that have been motioned to be removed will have a vote on removal. There is no debate on this motion. If a majority of meeting participants agree, then the agenda item will be removed.

## Inactive Partners

Partners are considered inactive if they have not had any representatives fully present at a LC meeting for at least 2 consecutive LC meetings and at least one week's time between the 2 meetings. The partner is considered inactive as of the beginning of the next LC meeting after the 2 consecutive absences.

A representative is considered fully present for a meeting if they are present for at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the total scheduled meeting time.



An inactive partner becomes active again at the next LC meeting where their representatives are present.

Any official messaging from the coalition should not use the iconography/imagery of inactive partners.

If a partner is inactive for more than a month, then the coalition may remove their information as described in the “Join the Coalition” section below. As soon as an inactive partner becomes active then their information shall be added back if it was removed.

## Voting

Any resolution passed by the coalition requires at least a simple majority vote of active representatives of the LC. Any vote occurring during a coalition meeting shall be handled by the Coordinator and Secretary and will follow Roberts Rules or any alternative as accepted by the LC. Resolutions proposing new campaigns, targets, or public events must be approved unanimously by the LC.

Electronic LC votes may occur given a particular resolution is too time sensitive to wait until the next coalition meeting. Any electronic voting method (slack, email, etc) approved by a majority of the LC may be used as long as it adheres to these requirements:

1. The voting medium must be accessible and visible to all coalition partner representatives.
2. All electronic votes must be archivable and archived by the secretary.
3. A voting deadline of at least 72 hours from time of opening voting must be defined in the text of the vote. The voting deadline begins when the motion to be voted on is proposed.
4. A vote is not decided until either
  - a. The voting deadline has passed.
  - b. All coalition partner representatives have voted.
5. Coalition partner representatives may vote at any time before the voting deadline.
6. Coalition partner representatives may change their vote at any time before a vote is decided.

## Media and Press

Any media (including but not limited to social media posts, press releases, statements, or press interactions) representing the coalition's opinions or promoting events must be approved by the LC via a simple majority vote before being made public. All media shall be presented via online messenger to the LC for approval at least 72 hours prior to posting. Use of the coalition's logo on any media must be approved by the LC.



## Existential Meeting

The LC will convene in September of 2024 to reassess the purposes and objectives of the coalition and to determine what successes or failures have been made. At that point, a new coalition proposal must be made to state the further purposes of the coalition moving forward. This “existential” meeting of the coalition may occur earlier by a majority vote of the coalition. The next coalition meeting will be an existential meeting.

## Financial Management

The coalition will not hold any monetary resources and will not accept direct donations. Coalition partners will be responsible for managing their own monetary resources and their own donations without coordination from any other partner(s).

Any information shared by the coalition will not allow for direct donations to the coalition. If any donation page is presented, it will link to already established funds not directly related to the coalition, or to a page containing links to all coalition partners' individual donation pages (for partners that have the ability to accept direct donations), in alphabetical order and equal sizing/formatting.

## Representative Conduct

Representatives shall not engage in harassment or discrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, physical appearance, disability, color, religion, national origin, class, age, or profession. Representatives are expected to behave professionally and communicate with respect.

Representatives shall create a formal grievance process and community agreement document during the first official meeting of the coalition representatives which shall be approved by a simple majority vote of the LC.

## Soliciting The Public to “Join the Coalition”

Other organizations may seek to join the coalition through a request to the LC via a coalition partner representative. Organizations can be added to the coalition via a simple majority vote of the LC.

All public media that gives an individual the ability to “Join the Coalition” should direct the individual to a public page listing all coalition partners, in alphabetical order and equal sizing/formatting, and their respective join links.