

1968 – 1969 Archive Record  
of  
**Citizens for Participation Politics**

Founding “Statement of Purpose” – Nov. 17, 1968  
“Join CPP” – first membership solicitation flyer (1968)  
CPP Platform Workshop Reports  
1969 CPP State Platform (Adopted May 11, 1969) }

**Examples of**

Political action alerts

Anti-ABM Campaign

18 x 72 voting age campaign

Election law reform campaign and lobby campaign

CITIZENS FOR PARTICIPATION POLITICS  
11 SOUTH STREET, BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02111  
426-3040

### STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We, the Citizens for Participation Politics, believing that the answers and organizations of the past cannot alone solve the crises facing our nation and our world, join together to seek new answers and create a new organization. We begin with the conviction that the problems of peace in the world and social justice in the United States can be resolved only if citizens actively participate in their solution. We also feel that these problems are becoming increasingly urgent and call for an urgent response. Therefore, it is the goal of CPP to make the governmental and political process more responsive to the will and needs of all the people through their broader participation in that process and in the formulation of programs which affect them.

Citizens for Participation Politics is an issue and action oriented political force composed of local community groups which will be directly engaged in legislative, electoral, and community program activities. It will seek political influence in Massachusetts and, in concert with similar groups, nationally.

Our commitment to participation is based on experience -- the experience that decisions made without participation of those they affect offer no lasting solution to issues and undermine people's sense of dignity. We, therefore, propose a program of action on two fronts: first, to make individuals aware of issues and of their power to affect decisions; second, to aid communication between groups of people at all levels.

Since this organization is committed to the broadest based participation, the policy of this organization shall be to maintain as much as possible the decision-making power of this organization at the grass roots, local level.

CPP seeks a massive re-orientation of attitudes, policies, and resources for the elimination of poverty, racism, and other forms of injustice, and is a dedicated opponent of the militarization of American life in both foreign and domestic policies.

ARTICLE I - POLITICAL RELATIONSHIPS

CPP shall be an unaffiliated political organization.

CPP  
11 South St  
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ARTICLE IV - STATE COMMITTEE

CPP shall have a State Committee composed of a Chairman and 36 members, each elected from a CPP Congressional sub-district.

Members of the State Committee shall be elected annually, directly by all members of the sub-district to be represented.

The State Committee shall select, maintain, and staff a headquarters, call conventions, coordinate and assist local groups, and raise funds. It shall maintain liaison with other groups in other states.

AMENDMENTS

The State Committee shall have the power to assess local groups for funds for the State CPP treasury, such assessment not to exceed the rate of \$2.00 per member in each local group.

The State Committee shall elect an Executive Committee composed of five of its members. Efforts shall be made to provide proportional geographic representation of the State CPP membership in the Executive Committee. The State Committee shall define the powers and duties of the Executive Committee.

The Chairman of the State Committee shall serve as Chairman of the Executive Committee.

The State Committee shall have the power to disburse funds from the State Treasury, provided that there will be an auditor's report.

The State Committee shall have the power to appoint ad hoc committees.

The State Committee shall appoint an acting Chairman to serve until the next Convention in the event of a vacancy in the office of State Chairman.

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Should this Convention fail to act on all items on the agenda, the State Committee shall conduct itself freely in these matters for a period of 60 days from their first meeting, during which time the State Committee shall conduct by ballot through the local coordinators a vote on all offered alternatives and any further alternatives which may be brought to its attention.

All statements contained on this sheet were passed by the CPP Convention at Worcester on Sunday, November 17th 1968.

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STATE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS \* \* \* \* \*

On November 17th the CPP State Convention voted in favor of a 37-man State Committee as the representative governing body for the organization. The Chairman was chosen at-large by all delegates present at the Worcester Convention. Rev. John D. Elder will hold this position until the next Convention in the Spring.

The other 36 state committee members are to be chosen in regional elections by all members of CPP. A system of Congressional sub-districts has been devised by the state office to assure fair geographic and population representation, while avoiding as much as possible the gerrymandered borders of existing political divisions. The state of Massachusetts has 12 Congressional Districts, each of which contains an average of 440,000 people. CPP has divided each CD into three "sub-districts". In general, we have tried to group towns in compact geographic units, taking into consideration factors such as current political activity, workable political boundaries like State Senatorial and State Representative districts, plus diversity of political opinions. In a few cases, a well-organized community has been included with some less active towns in the hope that an exchange of ideas and labor can be productive to the area as a whole. As you might imagine, there is no "perfect formula" which will guarantee total democracy, but we have tried to be as fair and logical as possible. Please remember that these districts are primarily a means of assuring grass-roots and community participation on a state-wide committee. They will also help us to expand into new areas and stay in touch with community level issues and candidates. However, each local CPP organization is expected to have its own coordinator and community leadership group. Unless decided otherwise by another state convention, these groups continue to have full powers to decide on internal policy and projects, and should recommend broader activities directly to the state organization.

Each sub-district has 60 days in which to hold an election for State Committee representative. Since the deadline will be January 17th, we would like to encourage an earlier date wherever possible.

It is the responsibility of local groups to hold elections for State Committee representatives within each sub-district. A temporary "Elections Committee" has been appointed by the Chairman to aid the State Headquarters in providing regional coordination where necessary.

Enclosed is a description of your sub-district and the divisions for the rest of your Congressional District. Please decide on a date and place for such an election after consulting with other groups in the District, and let us know so that we can refer people on our lists to the meeting.



## A SPECIAL NOTICE

We did not have enough time at the CPP Convention to discuss budget, financing, fundraising, or a dues structure. Since September, the State Headquarters has been subsisting on many small contributions from members across the state, with no more than \$50.00 from any one donor. Much of this money went to our candidates in September and November; the rest has been used for printing, typewriter and mimeograph rentals, stationery supplies, postage, staff salaries, and rent for 11 South Street.

Members and local groups have filed several excellent bills for the 1969 legislative session, to make the process of candidate selection and the mechanics of elections more democratic. Many community CPP organizations have already begun to investigate possible candidates for municipal elections in the Spring and Fall of 1969. The main function of the State Headquarters will be to provide a continuing coordination, information and supply flow among the many local groups. Thus, when volunteers or interested citizens contact the Boston office, they can be referred to local groups for work on current projects. A regular newsletter would enable individual members to communicate ideas and local group project reports to all other members.

Our computerization of the mailing lists, done mostly with volunteer labor, should enable us, in the near future, to provide lists of members, volunteers, favorable voters, etc., for any town or city in the Commonwealth. We could also provide pre-addressed gummed labels for any of these categories, making it much easier to send local mailings, or get a regional project going. Our bulk mail permit allows mailing at considerably less than the regular postal rate. Mimeo facilities are available for any local group publicity or project.

But all of this costs money. CPP needs additional funds immediately to cover expenses for November and December, and to provide continued coordination for community activities.

True grass roots politics must not depend solely on a few "fat cat" donors; it must be supported by every one of us. Your check, for whatever amount, will help us remain in operation. Please mail your contribution today.

Thank you.  
John Dixon Elder