

Filing Fee \$35.00

State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
NON-PROFIT CORPORATION

ORIGINAL ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION

The undersigned, acting as incorporator(s) of a corporation under Chapter 7-6 of the General Laws, 1956, as amended, adopt(s) the following Articles of Incorporation for such corporation:

FIRST: The name of the corporation is Rhode Island Black Caucus of State Legislators

SECOND: The period of its duration (if perpetual, so state) perpetual

THIRD: The purpose or purposes for which the corporation is organized are:

1. To work for the passage of legislation that will eliminate the myriad of problems that afflict Blacks, Hispanics, and other minorities.

FOURTH: Provisions (if any) for the regulation of the internal affairs of the corporation, including provisions for the distribution of assets on dissolution or final liquidation, are: see attached (Note 1)

FIFTH: The address of the initial registered office of the corporation is 31 Tanner Street
Providence, Rhode Island 02907 (add Zip Code),
and the name of its initial registered agent at such address is: Harold M. Metts

SIXTH: The number of directors constituting the initial Board of Directors of the corporation is 5
and the names and addresses of the persons who are to serve as the initial directors are:

Name	Address
George A. Castro	57 Carolina Avenue Providence, RI 02905
Charles D. Walton	144 Verndale Avenue Providence, RI 02905
Harold M. Metts	31 Tanner Street Providence, RI 02907
George S. Lima	64 Charles Street East Providence, RI 02914
John S. Hernandez	107 Chaucer Drive North Kingstown 02852

SEVENTH: The name and address of each incorporator is:

Name	Address
George A. Castro	57 Carolina Avenue Providence, RI 02905
Charles D. Walton	144 Verndale Avenue Providence, RI 02905
Harold M. Metts	31 Tanner Street Providence, RI 02907

EIGHTH: Date when corporate existence to begin (not more than 30 days after filing of these articles of incorporation): Immediately upon certification of the Secretary of State

Dated February 4, 1986

George A. Castro
Charles D. Walton
Harold M. Metts
Incorporator(s)

NOTE:

1. If no provision for the regulation of the internal affairs of the corporation or for the distribution of assets on dissolution or final liquidation are to be set forth, insert "None." In an appropriate case provisions relating to members, their qualifications and rights (Section 7-6-15) may be inserted here.

BYLAWS OF THE RHODE ISLAND STATE LEGISLATURE BLACK CAUCUS

RI Black Caucus of State Legislators

Article I.
Section I.

Name

The name of this organization is the Rhode Island Black Caucus of State Legislators (RIBCSL)

Article II.
Section I.

Purposes of the Organization

1. To work for the passage of legislation that will eliminate the myriad of problems that afflict Blacks, Hispanics, and other minorities.
2. To educate and inform Rhode Island residents of problems and issues that confront the Rhode Island General Assembly. To develop community knowledge and understanding of such conditions and the means to alleviate the same by preparing and publishing and assimilating through all available media of communications, studies, data and information relating to such conditions.
3. To mobilize Black, Hispanic, and other minority voters into a potent state-wide political force.
4. To utilize political power to make the quality of life better for all Rhode Island residents. To conduct research and planning and to take appropriate legislative and administrative action directed toward the improvement of living, working, housing, health, and educational conditions of people in our respective communities, with the view of lessening neighborhood tensions, combatting community deterioration and lessening the burdens of government in our respective communities in America.
5. To seek and to foster interstate cooperation and to advance the effectiveness, independence and integrity of the several Legislatures as equal coordinated branches of government in several states, territories, and commonwealths of the United States.
6. To stimulate and develop economic growth within the minority communities through research and the development of economic tools to stimulate minority owned and operated businesses. To network with corporations to create jobs, housing, and business opportunities.
7. To undertake and accomplish the foregoing on its own initiatives or with the cooperation, assistance or support from any one or more governmental agencies, instrumentalities, organizations, associations or individuals and including, but not limited to, the National Council of State Legislators.

Section 2.

The RIBCSL shall not, at any time, directly or indirectly participate or intervene in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office.

Article III.

Meetings

1. The Caucus shall meet twice a month on the first and third Monday when the General Assembly is in session.
2. Special meetings of the Caucus may be called by the Chairperson. The time and place of the meetings shall be designated by the Chairperson. A two day written notice will be provided by the Chairperson.
3. The Chairperson shall be compelled to call a special meeting at the written request of a majority of Caucus members, with time, place, and exact purpose of meeting communicated to all members three (3) days in advance. The meeting must be held within seven (7) days of the Chairperson receiving the request.
4. A quorum for a meeting is simply a majority of the Caucus members. In order to maintain the quorum the majority must be present throughout the duration of the meeting.

Article IV.

Membership

Any Black, Hispanic, or other racial minority members of the Rhode Island General Assembly are eligible for membership in the Caucus.

Article V.

Section 1.

Officers

1. The officers of the Caucus shall consist of the following: Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The Chairperson shall represent the Rhode Island Caucus at all National and Regional meetings etc.
2. The officers shall perform the duties prescribed by these By-Laws and the parliamentary authority adopted by the organization: (a) The Chairperson shall sign, execute, and acknowledge, in the name of the organization, any instruments, authorized by the local caucus, except in cases where the signing and execution thereof shall be expressly delegated by the local caucus, or by these by-laws, to some other officer or agent of the non-business corporation. The chairperson shall perform such other duties as are incidental to the office of President or as may be prescribed by the local caucus. (b) The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the members and of the local caucus and shall record all the votes of the members and of the Committee members and the minutes of the meetings of the members and the local caucus and of committees of the organization in a book or books to be kept for that purpose; shall see that notices are given and records and reports properly kept and filed by the organization as required by law; shall be the custodian of the seal of the corporation and see that it is affixed to all documents to be executed on behalf of the corporation under its seal; and, in general, shall perform all duties incident to the office of secretary, and such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to him or her by local caucus. (c) The Treasurer shall have the power to sign checks, notes, bills of exchange; shall have or provide for the custody of the funds or other property of the non-business corporation and shall keep a separate book

account of the same to his credit as treasurer; shall collect and receive or provide for the collection by the corporation; shall deposit all funds in his custody as treasurer in such banks or other places of deposit as the local caucus may from time to time designate; shall, whenever so required by local caucus, render an account showing his transactions as treasurer, shall discharge such other duties as may from time to time be assigned to him or her by the local caucus.

3. The officers shall serve for two (2) years and/or until their successors are elected.
4. The balloting for officers shall be by written ballot or by voice vote. Caucus members can vote via a written proxy.
5. A Caucus member shall not serve more than two consecutive terms as Chairperson.

Article VI.

Committees

The Chairperson shall establish committees when he/she deems necessary.

Article VII.

Parliamentary Authority

1. The Chairperson shall appoint a Parliamentarian.
 - a. Duties of the Parliamentarian are described on pages 388 and 389 in Robert's Rules of Order newly revised edition.
 - b. The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order newly revised shall govern the Caucus in all cases in which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these By-Laws and any special rules of order the organization may adopt.

Article VIII.

Issuing of Public Statement

1. Any public statements on behalf of the Caucus shall be approved by at least a majority of the Caucus members.

Article IX.

Amendment of By-Laws

These By-Laws can be amended at any regular meeting of the organization by a two-thirds vote, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting.

Article X.

Dissolution

Upon the winding up, dissolution or change in the non-profit status of this corporation, no part of the corporate net earnings or assets shall inure to the benefits of its officers, directors or private individuals. Infact, these earnings or assets shall be distributed to and among other tax exempt organizations as defined in the Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3) as amended.