

BY-LAWS of the COUNCIL OF FEDERATED ORGANIZATIONS

- I. The Council Of Federated Organizations (COFO) is a peoples organization set up as a state-wide federation of civil rights groups and civic organizations oriented to the "grass roots". With the purpose of achieving total democracy, racial equality, and economic justice throughout our state, it is to initiate community action and develop local leadership. The program consists of voter registration and citizenship education projects, political action both mock and official, implementation of government programs and general civil rights work.
- II. COFO's Structure -
Officers: The President, Treasurer, and Secretary to be elected by an annual COFO convention and a Program Director and Assistant Program Director to be elected by the staff.
State Executive Committee: The Officers, 2 representatives from each Congressional District, one of whom must be a member of the executive committee of his district, and 6 members elected by the staff. The quorum is 11 members, and two of the following must be present: The President, Program Director, and Assistant Program Director. The Duties of the State Executive Committee are to act as a decision-making body between the state-wide COFO conventions, to plan programs for COFO, and to designate committees to carry out such programs.
- III. Standing Committees -
 1. Welfare and Relief Committee - responsible for welfare and relief programs for people in desparate need, especially those who have met economic reprisals because of their support of COFO programs.
 2. Political Program Committee - responsible for initiation of political activities such as (A) Voter Registration, (B) Mock Elections, (C) Freedom Registration drives, (D) Running candidates in local and national elections, etc.
 3. Finance Committee - responsible for raising funds and disbursing them to projects and staff according to need and the ability of the organization to provide. The Treasurer, Program Director, and three members of COFO appointed by the Executive Committee shall constitute the Finance Committee.
 4. Federal Programs Committee - responsible for obtaining the benefits of federal programs.
- IV. Conventions - There shall be at least 3 state-wide conventions each year to outline and organize current work. At one of them there shall be election of officers. The conventions are open to all who wish to participate in COFO's program. Voting shall be on the basis of One Man - One Vote and secret ballot.
- V. District Committees - Each Congressional District shall have a Congressional District Executive Committee composed of resident citizens and staff working in the area. This committee should meet monthly. The number of members can be determined by the district. At least one member of this committee should be on the State Executive Committee. The functions of the District Executive Committee should be as follows: (A) To see to it that programs initiated by COFO are carried out in their district, (B) Planning and implementing new programs for the district with approval of the State Executive Committee or Program Director.
- VI. Area Committees - Each town, county, or area that is organized should develop an area COFO committee with direct contact or participation on the District Executive Committee.
- VII. Staff - compensated full time workers of any civil rights organization working with COFO in Mississippi.
Program Director - elected by the staff, responsible for making decisions governing staff programs and funds between meetings of the Executive Committee. Assistant Program Director - same duties and powers as Program Director, when Program Director is absent.
All elected and staff workers and officers must be full time, with no figure heads allowed.
- VIII. These By-Laws may be amended at a state-wide COFO convention by a majority vote. Such votes can take place only after announcement at a previous state-wide COFO convention.