



Chapter Activation Guide

A Step-by-Step Playbook for Starting Your Chapter

The Anti-Federalist Party

"The government closest to the people serves the people best."

Document Version 1.0 • Adopted May 15, 2026

anti-federalists.com



Contents

1	Before You Begin	2
1.1	What You Need	2
2	Phase 1: Gather Your Founding Members	2
2.1	Finding People	2
2.2	The Pitch	3
3	Phase 2: The Organizational Meeting	3
3.1	Agenda	3
4	Phase 3: Formalize Your Chapter	4
4.1	Submit Your Charter	4
4.2	Establish Your Finances	4
4.3	Set Up Communications	4
5	Phase 4: First 90 Days	4
5.1	Month 1: Establish Presence	4
5.2	Month 2: Engage	5
5.3	Month 3: Act	5
6	Phase 5: Ongoing Operations	5
6.1	Meeting Best Practices	5
6.2	Membership Growth	5
6.3	Candidate Development	6
7	Resources	6



1. Before You Begin

Starting a chapter of the Anti-Federalist Party is intentionally simple. We practice the decentralization we preach — you do not need permission from a national headquarters. You need five committed people and the willingness to do the work.

This guide assumes you are starting from zero: no existing political organization, no funding, no infrastructure. By the end of this process, you will have a functioning, chartered chapter capable of endorsing candidates, passing resolutions, and participating in the national movement.

1.1 What You Need

- A minimum of **five (5) founding members** who live in your geographic area.
- A copy of the **Party Constitution** (available at anti-federalists.com/documents).
- A copy of the **Chapter Charter** template.
- A meeting space (a living room, library meeting room, coffee shop, or virtual platform).
- Approximately 2–3 hours for your organizational meeting.

2. Phase 1: Gather Your Founding Members

2.1 Finding People

1. **Start with who you know.** The first five members will likely come from your existing network — friends, neighbors, coworkers, or fellow community members who share Anti-Federalist values.
2. **Use local channels.** Post on community bulletin boards (physical and digital), neighborhood apps like Nextdoor, or local social media groups.
3. **Attend existing meetings.** City council meetings, county commission meetings, and school board meetings are where you'll find people who care about local governance.
4. **Host an interest meeting.** Before your formal organizational meeting, host a casual gathering to discuss the Party's principles and gauge interest.



2.2 The Pitch

When recruiting founding members, focus on three points:

1. **Local power.** “We believe the people in this community should make the decisions that affect this community — not politicians in Washington or the state capital.”
2. **Non-partisan.** “We’re not left or right. We’re local. We critique both parties equally because both parties centralize power.”
3. **Action-oriented.** “We’re not a discussion group. We endorse candidates, pass resolutions, and participate in local governance.”

3. Phase 2: The Organizational Meeting

3.1 Agenda

Your first official meeting should follow this agenda:

1. **Welcome and introductions** (10 minutes)
2. **Review of Party Principles** — Read Article II of the Constitution aloud. Discuss. (20 minutes)
3. **Adoption of the Constitution** — Motion to adopt the Party Constitution as the chapter’s governing document. Vote. (5 minutes)
4. **Election of officers** — Nominate and elect: Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer. (30 minutes)
5. **Completion of the Chapter Charter** — Fill in the Charter template. All founding members sign. (15 minutes)
6. **Operational decisions:**
 - Set regular meeting schedule (day, time, frequency).
 - Choose communication platform (Signal, email list, etc.).
 - Decide on dues (if any).(20 minutes)
7. **First business** — Identify one concrete action item for the chapter’s first 30 days. (15 minutes)
8. **Adjournment**



4. Phase 3: Formalize Your Chapter

4.1 Submit Your Charter

Email your signed Chapter Charter to chapters@anti-federalists.com with:

- Scanned or photographed copy of the signed Charter.
- Contact email for the Chair and Secretary.
- Brief description of your geographic jurisdiction.

4.2 Establish Your Finances

1. Open a bank account in the chapter's name at a **local credit union** or community bank (practice what we preach).
2. Require two signatures on all expenditures over \$100.
3. The Treasurer maintains a ledger of all income and expenses.
4. Financial records are open to any member at any time.

4.3 Set Up Communications

1. **Encrypted messaging:** Signal group for leadership communication.
2. **Email list:** For meeting notices and member communication.
3. **Optional:** Social media presence on platforms of your choice.
4. **Avoid:** Centralized platforms that can deplatform you. Own your communication infrastructure where possible.

5. Phase 4: First 90 Days

5.1 Month 1: Establish Presence

- Hold your first regular meeting.
- Attend a local government meeting (city council, county commission, or school board) as a group.



- Identify one local issue your chapter cares about.
- Begin recruiting beyond your founding members.

5.2 Month 2: Engage

- Draft your first resolution on a local issue.
- Invite a local elected official to speak at a chapter meeting.
- Establish a relationship with local media (community newspaper, local radio).
- Host a public event — a community forum, candidate Q&A, or issue discussion.

5.3 Month 3: Act

- Pass your first resolution and submit it to relevant local authorities.
- Begin identifying potential candidates for local office who align with Party principles.
- Connect with other Anti-Federalist chapters in your state.
- Submit your first quarterly report to the national registry.

6. Phase 5: Ongoing Operations

6.1 Meeting Best Practices

- Always have a written agenda distributed in advance.
- Start and end on time.
- Use Robert's Rules of Order (simplified) for motions and votes.
- Record minutes and distribute within 14 days.
- Rotate facilitation duties to develop leadership across the chapter.

6.2 Membership Growth

- Every member recruits one new member per quarter (the “Each One, Reach One” standard).
- Host quarterly public events open to non-members.
- Maintain a welcoming, non-ideological-purity-test culture. Agreement on Principles is sufficient.



6.3 Candidate Development

- Identify local offices with upcoming elections (school board, city council, county commission, water board, etc.).
- Recruit and support candidates from within the chapter.
- Focus on winnable races. A school board seat won is worth more than a Congressional campaign lost.

7. Resources

- **Party Constitution** — The governing document of the Party.
- **Chapter Charter Template** — Fill-in charter for chapter formation.
- **Membership Application** — Standard form for new members.
- **Meeting Minutes Template** — Standardized meeting record format.
- **Resolution Template** — Formal resolution format for chapter positions.
- **Treasurer's Report Template** — Financial reporting format.

All documents available at: anti-federalists.com/documents



Chapter Activation Guide

May 15, 2026

anti-federalists.com



*The revolution starts in your neighborhood.
It always has.*