

## **POLICY TALK**

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### **THE IDEA TO RETURN 30%-35% CHAPTER DUES RETURN TO CHAPTERS FOR WELFARE PROGRAMS**

The proposal to return 30% -35% of dues to Chapters is a pivotal debate within **NPP-USA Chairperson** contests in 2026. It centers on the tension between **centralized strategic power** and **grassroots operational autonomy**. Here is an analysis of the idea.

#### **The Merits (The Case for Decentralization)**

- **Empowers Grassroots Engagement:** Chapters are the primary touchpoints for members. Direct funding would allow them to host local events, town halls, and recruitment mixers without begging the National Branch for every dollar.
- **Accelerates Welfare Delivery:** If a local member faces a crisis, a Chapter with a 30% rebate can act instantly. This may bypass the National "**Solidarity Fund**" for minor emergencies, making the "Safety Net" feel real and immediate.
- **Incentivizes Recruitment:** When Chapter Chairs know that 30

cents of every dollar they raise stays local, they are more motivated to launch aggressive membership drives. It transforms Chapters from "cost centers" into "profit-sharing partners."

- **Local Innovation:** Chapters can pilot unique programs—such as local scholarship funds or B2B networking hubs—that reflect the specific needs of their metropolitan area.

**However, here are the kickers:**

#### **The Demerits (The Case for Centralization)**

- **Dilutes National Campaign Power:** The primary role of an External Branch is to provide "bulk" support to the Mother Party in Ghana. Splitting 30%-35% across dozens of Chapters could "nickel and dime" the National Branch, leaving it without the massive capital needed for high-impact projects (e.g., donating a fleet of vehicles or national digital infrastructure).
- **Increases Audit Complexity:** Tracking the expenditure of 30% across multiple Chapters is an administrative nightmare. It increases the risk of financial

mismanagement or "leakage," which could damage the Branch's reputation and IRS standing.

- **Resource Disparity:** High-performing chapters (with many members) will get richer, while smaller and struggling chapters (in areas with fewer Ghanaians) will remain underfunded. A centralized model allows the National Branch to "subsidize" smaller chapters to ensure NPP-USA's national growth.
- **Internal Friction:** It can lead to "Chapter Sovereignty" issues, where local chairs may feel they owe less allegiance to the National Branch because they are self-funded, potentially leading to a fragmented "NPP-USA" rather than a unified Branch.

### **The Improved Recommendation**

If these ideas are ideal, I'd strengthen them with key performance indicators (KPIs). While a good idea, the candidates are neither articulating the idea well to capture the benefits nor mitigating the risks involved. If I'm the proponent of the idea, I'd have strengthened it with two measures:

- **Conditional Rebates:** Chapters may receive the 30%-35% back **only if** they meet specific KPIs (e.g., a 10% membership growth rate, clean audits, 50 % members paying their dues by March 31 of new year, etc.).
- **Ring-Fenced Spending:** The 30%-35% return must be spent on specific "Welfare" or "Local Recruitment" categories, not administrative or non-essential travel.

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