



# T LIBERTARIAN

## 2024 NATIONAL BYLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE WELCOME PACKAGE

*Prepared by Interim Bylaws and Rules Committee Chair **Caryn Ann Harlos***



## INTRODUCTION

Hello and thanks to all you beautiful volunteers for Liberty (or as I say in my podcast, *¡mi guapas de Libertad!*) The purpose of this welcome package is to provide a quick and dirty guide to get you started on this committee if this is all new to you. I remember my painful moments of being lost as a newbie so many times, that I am determined that not happen to anyone else. It is my hope that future committee chairs will take this package and improve upon for use in the future to build upon our institutional knowledge and to train up our future leaders. Anyone may use anything herein freely with no claim of work product, anything I produce for the benefit of the Party is the property of the Party. Credit is appreciated, but not required. If you have any suggestions for improvements and additions, please let me know. This is a first draft for this committee (I first created this in 2020 and then revised it in 2022 for the Platform Committee) and have plenty of room for collaborative improvement.

## MEET THE REST OF THE COMMITTEE



Bylaws Article 11 provides for the composition of this committee as follows:

1. There shall be a Platform Committee, a Bylaws and Rules Committee and a Credentials Committee for each Regular Convention. The National Committee shall appoint a temporary chair of each committee to serve until each committee selects its own chair.
  2. The Bylaws and Rules Committee shall consist of 10 Party members appointed by the National Committee no later than twelve months before a regular convention. No more than five of these members shall be members of the current National Committee.
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5. Ranked alternates may be named by the appointing bodies to fill any vacancies or absences in the Convention Committees.

The LNC appointed the ten (10) members of the committee as follows:

- Sylvia Arrowwood
- Paul Bracco
- Nickolas Ciesielski
- Caryn Ann Harlos
- Rob Latham
- Frank Martin
- Ken Moellman
- Tom Rowlette
- Mike Rufo
- Michael Seebeck

There are seven (7) ranked alternates in the following order:

- Chuck Moulton
- Rich Tomasso
- David Roberson
- Greg Deal
- Roger Roots
- Data Logan
- Dean Rodgers

**Caryn Ann Harlos** was selected by the LNC as interim chair. The committee will elect its own permanent chair.

I ask that all committee members please check the listing here: <https://www.lp.org/lp-committees/> and advise if their information is correct. If there is no contact information listed for you, please email me at [secretary@lp.org](mailto:secretary@lp.org) to let me know what email address and/or phone number you would like listed, if any. **This is completely voluntary.**

## **WHAT'S NEXT**

You should have received an email invitation to join our group email list (hosted through Google Groups). If you do not receive this email, please text me immediately at 561.523.2250 so I can get that straightened out. Please be advised that this list is readable by the public and can be viewed at: <https://groups.google.com/a/lp.org/g/bylaws-committee-2024>

The first order of business will be for the committee to elect its permanent chair. I believe this can be done by email and will proceed in that manner unless there is significant objection. The committee may also, but is not required to, elect other officers such as a committee secretary.

## **HELPFUL NOTE ABOUT ALTERNATES**

Alternates are not voting members of the committee unless a primary representative does not vote in an email ballot, is absent from an online or physical meeting, or defers their vote in any of the above-and they participate in order of rank. In this committee, alternates are not assigned to any particular member, so if one primary member is absent, the first alternate steps in, and so on in order of rank. An express abstention counts as precluding a vote by an alternate. However, they are entitled to fully participate in debate in any email ballot or discussion thread. They can speak in debate in online or physical meetings with the consent of the majority of the body. Typically, there is no objection as long as the privilege is not abused. An alternate does not have to wait to see if all of the primaries vote first on an email ballot, they may vote, and that vote will count until if and when it is voided by all of the primaries voting, or even vote that their alternate rank is not reached. If a primary representative resigns, the next ranked alternate moves into the primary seat.

## **GENERAL EXPECTATIONS**



The permanent chair will set the specific direction unique to this term, but generally, these bylaws and rules will guide the work of this committee:

## **ARTICLE 17: AMENDMENT**

1. These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at any regular convention.
2. Article 3, Section 1, or this Section, shall not be amended by a vote of less than 7/8 of all registered delegates at a regular convention.

## **ARTICLE 11: OTHER COMMITTEES**

6. Committee Procedures
  - a. A majority vote of those Committee members present is necessary for a "do pass" recommendation, and in the case of the Platform Committee, a majority must approve each specific plank separately.
  - b. Four or more members of the Platform Committee may join together to issue a minority Report regarding any plank reported to the floor of the Convention. Two or more members of the Bylaws and Rules Committee or of the Credentials Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding their business.

## **RULE 4: DEBATING AND VOTING -- BYLAWS AND RULES**

The Chair of the Bylaws and Rules Committee shall report each recommendation of the committee to the convention separately and shall have two minutes to explain the intent or purpose of the proposed amendment(s). The Convention Chair shall open each recommendation to discussion without amendment from the floor. Each recommendation shall be considered and adopted separately, with a maximum of eight minutes discussion on any recommendation. After the discussion, the Convention Chair shall bring the recommendation to a vote. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall open the recommendation to amendment for an additional 10 minutes.

Typically, a great deal of debate and voting will take place by email. This translates into a heavy email volume – everyone has the right to speak, and no one should be chastised for exercising that right. Everyone on the committee has signed up for this, and significant email traffic at times is one of the responsibilities. The chair will insure it is done as orderly as possible.

It is also typical for multiple electronic meetings (through Zoom) and two in-person meetings to take place. One of those in-person meetings will likely take place around in the first quarter of 2024 (but could be earlier) and span a full weekend, and the other meeting will take place just prior to the convention at the convention site and typically will take under four hours. Some past committees have set up a public hearing for input from members either just prior to the convention on-site or electronically some weeks before. Again, these are typical scenarios which may vary for this committee depending upon the decisions of the chair and the committee.

Doodle polls are often used to determine availability with dates chosen being those that have the highest number of attendees. It is typically impossible to find any days that are perfect for everyone.

The Party has a storage system for use by the committee for its records in its Google drive. Committee members will be given access.

We are Libertarians, and as we all know, in a room with just one Libertarian there will be three opinions passionately held. It is easy for debate to go off the rails and for things to be said that are later regretted. At the discretion of the committee chair, formal procedure including referencing other committee members by surnames may be invoked, but in any event, these maxims prevail:

*Disagree, but do so agreeably.  
Mean what you say, but don't be mean when you say it.*

## PREPARING FOR ONLINE MEETINGS

Please see the Zoom instructions I have attached as **Appendix B**.

## GENERAL RONR AND COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

### SOME THINGS WHICH MAY BE DIFFERENT FROM WHAT YOU ARE USED TO

Unlike in boards, committee chairs may debate freely and make motions, but they often forgo such privileges in order to be as neutral as possible. However, it is absolutely their right to participate fully. Additionally, motions to end debate (i.e., “calling the question”) are not allowed in committees. The chair can, however, end debate if things are merely repetitive or dilatory. Please see RONR (12<sup>th</sup> Ed.) 49:21 and 50:24-30 for references.

### HOW TO PARTICIPATE IN EMAIL BALLOTS

So.... how does this email vote thingy work?

It is important to note that RONR does not encourage email voting as it does not meet the requirements or characteristics for a deliberative assembly. As such, *“many situations unprecedented in parliamentary law will arise, and many of its rules and customs will not be applicable”* (page 1, footnote; see also pp. 9:30-36) which means that the committee chair and the committee secretary (if there is one) will often have to make a best-guess approximation of how to handle unique situations. Now that the caveats are out of the way, here are the relevant Bylaws and Policy Manual provisions for easy reference.

#### **BYLAWS ARTICLE 13: ELECTRONIC MAIL BALLOTS**

Boards and committees may transact business by electronic mail. The chair or secretary shall send out electronic mail ballots on any question submitted by the chair or cosponsored by at least 1/5 of the members of the board or committee. The period for voting on a question shall remain open for seven days, unless all members have cast votes, or have stated an intention to abstain or be absent during the voting period, by electronic mail to the entire board or committee. Votes from alternates will be counted, in accordance with previously defined ranked order, in the absence of the corresponding committee member(s). The outcome of each motion shall be announced promptly and recorded in the minutes of the next meeting. The number of votes required for passage of any motion shall be the same as that required during a meeting. Motions dispensed through electronic mail ballots satisfy the requirement of giving previous notice.

Note that voting does not have to take the entire seven (7) days if everyone either votes or indicates their intent to be absent or their express abstention. The chair or secretary will make an effort to send out a reminder to all members who have not voted on the day

that an email ballot expires but please do not count on that as your only reminder as this is a courtesy and not an expectation. **You can change your vote up until the time that the secretary or chair declares the voting closed or the seven (7) time period closes, whichever comes first.**

### **ELECTRONIC MAIL BALLOT PROCEDURES**

#### 1) Electronic Mail Ballots

Notification of an electronic mail ballot shall be made by the Secretary by electronic mail. This notification shall not include an accompanying argument for or against passage of the motion. An LNC Member may change their vote on an electronic mail ballot, provided that the change is received by the Secretary by the deadline for return of ballots.

In the event that a Regional Representative votes abstain, that Regional Alternate's vote shall not be counted.

While this applies specifically to the LNC, the same principles would apply here.

**So, here are the best practices for getting an email ballot started.**

First, you need a motion. But since there is no graceful way to handle amendments to a pending email ballot, it is incumbent upon you to work out the language ahead of time. Once you are confident you have good language, start an email seeking co-sponsors. (Note: Alternates cannot sponsor ballots.) You will need at least 1/5 (2) of committee members to co-sponsor a motion for an email ballot. The chair can unilaterally sponsor any motion for ballot. The title of your email should say something along the lines of "Seeking Co-Sponsors for XYZ."

If you wish to co-sponsor a motion, you must indicate so clearly with the phrase "I will co-sponsor this" so that there is no ambiguity as to your intent.

When there are the required number of co-sponsors, the chair or the secretary will acknowledge in that thread that an email ballot will be prepared.

What does an email ballot look like?

First, the email title will be clearly marked as an email ballot following something like this formula:

Email Ballot BYLAWSCOMM201X-XX: TITLE OF BALLOT

The first post will contain information about the ballot following this formula:

We have an electronic mail ballot.

Votes are due to the Bylaws Discussion List by XXXX, 201X at 11:59:59pm Pacific time.

Co-Sponsors: NAMES LISTED ALPHABETICALLY

Motion: TEXT OF MOTION

No argument for or against will be contained in the ballot itself.

To vote, simply respond to the email. You may explain the reasons for your vote or engage in debate but when voting please clearly set apart and unambiguously state your vote.

For example, this works best:

I vote yes/no (or abstain).

ARGUMENT, ARGUMENT, ARGUMENT.

This works less well:

ARGUMENT, ARGUMENT, ARGUMENT. VOTE.

This does not work at all:

ARGUMENT, ARGUMENT, ARGUMENT, VOTE, ARGUMENT, ARGUMENT, ARGUMENT.

Neither does:

I would vote yes IF (counterfactual) but maybe I could live with this.

I am inclined to vote yes.

I like this idea.

If you vote in the wrong email thread, the chair or secretary will try to catch it and record it properly, but easter egg hunts don't work too well with voting.

The role of alternates in voting and debate.

Unlike in-person meetings, alternates do not need the permission of the rest of the body to freely debate. So, debate away. Also alternates may vote, but it will only be counted if the primary representative does not vote or if they yield their vote to their alternate. However, there is no need for alternates to qualify their vote with language like "if X doesn't vote, this is my vote" but rather just simply state your vote. The chair or secretary will know whether to count it or not.

### **How does quorum work?**

Our rules governing email ballots presume that every voting member who is subscribed to our email list has been given notice of a motion and has an opportunity to vote.

### **Keeping track of votes.**

The chair or secretary will usually keep a contemporaneous tally sheet of votes as they are made and let you know where you can find such information.

### **HOW TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS**

The permanent chair may instruct you differently, and those instructions will prevail, but typically, proposals are typically requested to be submitted in the format and form contained as in **Appendix A**. If this is the route that is taken with this committee, I can provide an editable copy of this form.

### **MINORITY REPORTS**

Two (2) or more members of the committee may join together to issue a minority report for any proposal passed by the committee. Although our bylaws do refer to the committee proposal as the “majority report” that is not proper under our parliamentary authority; there is only the committee report and any minority reports. A minority report cannot be issued for a proposal that was not passed. There can be more than one minority report for any proposal but that can make convention proceedings confusing and aggravating for the delegates so should be avoided if at all possible. Though this has been disputed in the past, members who voted for the committee proposal can also sign on to a minority report. The logic behind this allowance is that a member may be okay with the committee proposal but would prefer the minority proposal. For any proposals that also have a minority proposal, spokespersons for each proposal are given two (2) minutes to present their case, and it is the delegates who will choose which report to consider for adoption. Though this does get a bit into the parliamentary weeds, the delegates themselves effectively have the power to present their own “minority proposals” through a motion to substitute once any proposal is open for debate.

### **IN CLOSING**

It has been my absolute pleasure and honour to serve you as interim chair and creating this package to pass on to future committees and build upon our training and knowledge databases. If you have any questions at all, either now or in the future, do not hesitate to reach out to me. If I do not know the answer, I will at least point you in the right direction.

Respectfully submitted,

*Caryn Ann Harlos*

2024 National Interim Bylaws and Rules Committee Chair

## **APPENDICES**

**Appendix A:** An example form to submit proposals.

**Appendix B:** Zoom instructions.

**Appendix C:** Copy of current national Party Platform. Please note you can research past national platforms on LPedia here: [http://lpedia.org/National\\_Platform](http://lpedia.org/National_Platform)

**Appendix D:** Copy of current national Party Bylaws. Please note that you can research past national Bylaws on LPedia here: [https://lpedia.org/wiki/National\\_Bylaws](https://lpedia.org/wiki/National_Bylaws)

**APPENDIX A – PROPOSED PROPOSAL SUBMISSION FORM**

**Proposal #** \_\_\_\_\_

**[INSERT BYLAWS OR RULES SECTION # AND TITLE]**

**Problem:** [INSERT DESCRIPTION OF WHY YOU FEEL THIS IS NEEDED]

**Solution:** [PROVIDE BRIEF RATIONALE ON HOW YOU THINKS THIS SOLVES THE PERCEIVED PROBLEM OR ISSUE]

**Benefits:** [PROVIDE BRIEF ARGUMENT FOR THE BENEFITS OF THIS PROPOSAL]

<b>Current Wording</b>	<b>Proposed Amendment</b>	<b>If Adopted, Will Read</b>
[INSERT SECTION AS IT IS CURRENTLY WORDED, IF APPLICABLE]	[INSERT THE PROPOSED CHANGE WITH MARK-UP AS DESCRIBED BELOW]	[INSERT UN-MARKED-UP LANGUAGE AS IT WILL APPEAR IF LANGUAGE IS PASSED]

**SPONSORS:** [PUT IN YOUR NAME AT A MINIMUM]

**MARK-UP LEGEND**

- In replacements, deletions precede additions.
- Deletions are in ~~red bold italic strikethrough~~.
- Additions are in blue bold underline.
- Per LPUS Bylaws, Article XVII, Section 1, the bylaws require a 2/3 vote to pass.
- Per RONR t8 #13, the convention special rules of order require a 2/3 vote with notice or a majority of the entire convention membership

## ZOOM MEETING INSTRUCTIONS

When the time comes for our meeting you will click on the link in the email which will take you to the Zoom meeting. If for any reason that link doesn't work, the email will also contain a meeting ID. Take that ID and go to zoom.us and click join meeting and enter that meeting ID.

**Audio Conference Details:** If you join by computer/webcam at the link in the meeting invitation email, you do NOT also need to dial into this teleconference, which is a backup audio-only option.

***NOTE: If a videoconference becomes impossible, alternative information for a teleconference will be distributed for the same time period. Also all meetings will be recorded and distributed for public viewing after the fact.***

If you have never attended a Zoom meeting before, there is a test page here:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/115002262083-How-Do-I-Test-Prior-to-Joining-a-Meeting->

It will get you ready for the meeting and it is suggested that you do this a few days ahead of time.

Zoom meetings require a browser plug-in. If you used the above test link, your add-in is probably already installed. If not, when you try to enter the room, just keep an eye out for prompts that you need to install the add-in, and you'll need to grant permission for it to install.

Special Rules. The LNC's rules for electronic meetings can be found in Policy Manual and you should review them prior to the meeting.

**Equipment.** To fully participate by web with both video and audio in an electronic meeting, you need the following:

- 1) a computer with high-speed internet access, with the aforementioned web browser add-in installed, and with your software versions tested and approved at the test link above. If you have a slow connection (like a cell tower) the audio/video may cut in and out for you.
- 2) a webcam to transmit your video. It is possible to participate without a webcam, so long as you have a separate microphone. Even if you have a webcam, you're not obligated to turn on your video transmission if you're in your pajamas, or it's bogging down your internet connection, etc. You can turn on your microphone and your webcam independently in the Zoom meeting room. You can still use the microphone on your webcam even if your video feed is off.
- 3) a microphone to transmit your audio when you speak. Most webcams have microphones built in, and that will work just fine. If yours is a video-only webcam, then you need a separate microphone plugged into the microphone jack on your computer.
- 4) Even though it is possible to use a mobile device to join one of these meetings, you are mistaken if you think you can participate meaningfully while driving down the road in your car and connecting with your iPhone/iPad. It's dangerous. You can't pay attention to anything shown on the screen, and even the audio won't have your full attention because you're driving. Raising your hand or trying to adjust your microphone is the equivalent of texting while driving, which could earn you a ticket and potential risk of injuring yourself and others (and no points from the Secretary, though other points could accrue on your

license). You're much more likely to lose your connection as your signal is transferred from one cell tower to another. Etc.

**Etiquette:** In order to make the meeting experience as smooth and pleasant to everyone as a meeting can be please observe the following:

1) You should make arrangements to be in a reasonably quiet location with a decent-speed internet connection. If you have a slow connection (like a cell tower) the audio/video may cut in and out for you. Don't be in a bowling alley or a night club or a grocery store. Children should be supervised by someone else in another room. Barking dogs or other noise-producing pets should be put in another location where they won't be enjoyed by the rest of us.

2) **USE YOUR HEADPHONES OR EARBUDS.** You can buy a pair for \$5 in lots of places. Not using headphones/earbuds will cause echoes for other participants because the sound coming out of your speakers will feedback in through your microphone and get re-transmitted. The echoes are very distracting and maddening.

3) When this system is used with only a handful of people, participants can generally leave their microphones on and self-regulate if two people talk over each other. This meeting will be the largest we've ever used the system for, and it will be important for everyone to mute their microphones while they're not talking and use the raise-hand feature to have the chair recognize you to speak, after which you can turn on your microphone.

**Teleconference Backup Option.** Joining by computer videoconference is the best way to fully participate. A telephone number is provided in the meeting invitation.

There are several drawbacks to just using the telephone connection, so participation via internet is strongly encouraged. Phone participants can't raise a silent electronic hand to request recognition to speak. They just have to interrupt someone to let the chair know they want to speak. We use electronic status indicators to vote, so if someone is on the phone, we have to remember to get their vote verbally while others vote electronically. Phone users can't see chat messages from others. They can't see whose hands are raised. They can't see any materials displayed on the screen. You do miss information if you're telephone only, so please join via web if at all possible.

**You understand that you may not get the full meeting participation if you call in and accept that circumstance.**

The Zoom site has many great tutorials on using Zoom and hosts daily tutorials on using the software. I highly recommend signing up for one of these tutorials to learn everything you will need to have a great Zoom experience. For some quick and dirty pre-recorded tutorials, please check out:

How do I join a meeting?

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362193-How-Do-I-Join-A-Meeting->

Meeting controls

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4w\\_pRMBEALE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4w_pRMBEALE)

Live Training: <https://zoom.us/livetraining>

Watch Recorded Training Sessions:

<https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/217214286-Watch-Recorded-Training-Sessions>

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY

## *PLATFORM*



*As adopted in Convention, May 2022, Sparks, Nevada.*

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## ***PREAMBLE***

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As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty: a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives and are not forced to sacrifice their values for the benefit of others.

We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

In the following pages we set forth our basic principles and enumerate various policy stands derived from those principles.

These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

## ***STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES***

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We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life — accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action — accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property — accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

## ***1.0 PERSONAL LIBERTY***

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Individuals are inherently free to make choices for themselves and must accept responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices. No individual, group, or government may rightly initiate force against any other individual, group, or government. Libertarians reject the notion that groups have inherent rights. We support the rights of the smallest minority, the individual.

### ***1.1 Self-Ownership***

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Individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate. Individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life.

### ***1.2 Expression and Communication***

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We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of communications media and technology. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. Speech that is not literally a threat of aggression or violence is not in itself aggression or violence and can never be used to justify aggression or violence. Individuals are responsible for their own reactions to speech. We favor the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others. We oppose government actions that either aid or attack any religion.

### ***1.3 Privacy***

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Libertarians advocate individual privacy and government transparency. We are committed to ending government's practice of spying on everyone. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure should include records held by third parties, such as email, medical, and library records.

### ***1.4 Personal Relationships***

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Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in current marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration, or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, promote, license, or restrict personal relationships, regardless of the number of participants. Consenting

adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships. Until such time as the government stops its illegitimate practice of marriage licensing, such licenses must be granted to all consenting adults who apply.

***1.5 Parental Rights***

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Parents, or other guardians, have the right to raise their children according to their own standards and beliefs, provided that the rights of children to be free from abuse and neglect are also protected.

***1.6 Adult Rights and Responsibilities***

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Once individuals are presumed to have adequate judgment to vote and serve on a jury or in the military, they should also be presumed to have sufficient judgment to decide their own purchase and use of alcohol, tobacco, firearms, cannabis, and engage in other activities currently restricted by government due to age.

***1.7 Crime and Justice***

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Government force must be limited to the protection of the rights of individuals to life, liberty, and property, and governments must never be permitted to violate these rights. Laws should be limited in their application to violations of the rights of others through force or fraud, or to deliberate actions that place others involuntarily at significant risk of harm. Therefore, we favor the repeal of all laws creating “crimes” without victims, such as gambling, the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, and consensual transactions involving sexual services. We support restitution to the victim to the fullest degree possible at the expense of the criminal or the negligent wrongdoer. The constitutional rights of the criminally accused, including due process, a speedy trial, legal counsel, trial by jury, and the legal presumption of innocence until proven guilty, must be preserved. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law. We oppose the prosecutorial practice of “over-charging” in criminal prosecutions so as to avoid jury trials by intimidating defendants into accepting plea bargains. Additionally, we support the abolition of qualified immunity so that law enforcement and prosecutors would be held legally accountable for misconduct that leads to wrongful convictions or other acts of injustice.

***1.8 Death Penalty***

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We oppose the administration of the death penalty by the state.

***1.9 Self-Defense***

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The only legitimate use of force is in defense of individual rights — life, liberty, and justly acquired property — against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may agree to be aided by any other individual or group. We affirm the individual right recognized by the Second Amendment to keep and bear arms, and oppose the prosecution of individuals for exercising their rights of self-defense. Private property owners should be free to establish their own conditions regarding the presence of personal defense weapons on their own property. We oppose all laws at any level of

government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, or transfer of firearms, ammunition, or firearm accessories.

## ***2.0 ECONOMIC LIBERTY***

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Libertarians want all members of society to have abundant opportunities to achieve economic success. A free and competitive market allocates resources in the most efficient manner. Each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. The only proper role of government in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. All efforts by government to redistribute wealth, or to control or manage trade, are improper in a free society.

### ***2.1 Aggression, Property, and Contract***

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Aggression is the use, trespass against, or invasion of the borders of another person’s owned resource (property) without the owner’s consent; or the threat thereof. We oppose all acts of aggression as illegitimate and unjust, whether committed by private actors or the state.

Each person is the presumptive owner of his or her own body (self-ownership), which right may be forfeited only as a consequence of committing an act of aggression. Property rights in external, scarce resources are determined in accordance with the principles of original appropriation or homesteading (whereby a person becomes an owner of an unowned resource by first use and transformation), contract (whereby the owner consensually transfers ownership to another person), and rectification (whereby an owner’s property rights in certain resources are transferred to a victim of the owner’s tort, trespass, or aggression to compensate the victim).

As respect for property rights is fundamental to maintaining a free and prosperous society, it follows that the freedom to contract to obtain, retain, profit from, manage, or dispose of one’s property must also be upheld. Libertarians would free property owners from government restrictions on their rights to control and enjoy their property, as long as their choices do not harm or infringe on the rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgements of such fundamental rights. For voluntary dealings among private entities, parties should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable.

### ***2.2 Environment***

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Competitive free markets and property rights stimulate the technological innovations and behavioral changes required to protect our environment and ecosystems. Private landowners and conservation groups have a vested interest in maintaining natural resources. Governments are unaccountable for damage done to our environment and have a terrible track record when it comes to environmental protection. Protecting the environment requires a clear definition and enforcement of individual rights and responsibilities regarding resources like land, water, air, and wildlife. Where damages can be proven and quantified in a court of law, restitution to the injured parties must be required.

***2.3 Energy and Resources***

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While energy is needed to fuel a modern society, government should not be subsidizing any particular form of energy. We oppose all government control of energy pricing, allocation, and production.

***2.4 Government Finance and Spending***

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Since all persons are entitled to keep the fruits of their labor, we oppose all government activity that consists of the forcible collection of money or goods from individuals in violation of their individual rights and strive for the eventual repeal of all taxation. To further that end, we call for the repeal of the income tax, the abolishment of the Internal Revenue Service and all federal programs and services not required under the U.S. Constitution. We oppose forcing employers to serve as tax collectors. We support any initiative to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any increase on any tax for any reason. To the extent possible, we advocate that all public services be funded or allowed to be provided in a voluntary manner.

***2.5 Government Debt***

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Government should not incur debt, which burdens future generations without their consent. We support the passage of a “Balanced Budget Amendment” to the U.S. Constitution, provided that the budget is balanced exclusively by cutting expenditures, and not by raising taxes.

***2.6 Government Employees***

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We favor repealing any requirement that one must join or pay dues to a union as a condition of government employment. We advocate replacing defined-benefit pensions with defined-contribution plans, as are commonly offered in the private sector, so as not to impose debt on future generations without their consent.

***2.7 Money and Financial Markets***

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We favor free-market banking, with unrestricted competition among banks and depository institutions of all types. Markets are not actually free unless fraud is vigorously combated. Those who enjoy the possibility of profits must not impose risks of losses upon others, such as through government guarantees or bailouts. We support ending federal student loan guarantees and special treatment of student loan debt in bankruptcy proceedings. Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use as money any mutually agreeable commodity or item. We support a halt to inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws.

***2.8 Marketplace Freedom***

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Libertarians support free markets. We defend the right of individuals to form commercial enterprises based on voluntary association. We oppose all forms of government subsidies and

bailouts to business, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise. We reject government charter of corporations. We call for a separation of business and state.

***2.9 Licensing***

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Libertarians support the right of every person to earn an honest and peaceful living through the free and voluntary exchange of goods and services. Accordingly, we oppose occupational and other licensing laws that infringe on this right or treat it as a state-granted privilege. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.

***2.10 Sex Work***

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The Libertarian Party supports the decriminalization of prostitution. We assert the right of consenting adults to provide sexual services to clients for compensation, and the right of clients to purchase sexual services from consenting sex workers.

***2.11 Labor Markets***

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Employment and compensation agreements between private employers and employees are outside the scope of government, and these contracts should not be encumbered by government-mandated benefits or social engineering. We support the right of private employers and employees to choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a labor union. Bargaining should be free of government interference, such as compulsory arbitration or imposing an obligation to bargain.

***2.12 Education***

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Education is best provided by the free market, achieving greater quality, accountability, and efficiency with more diversity of choice. Recognizing that the education of children is a parental responsibility, we would restore authority to parents to determine the education of their children, without interference from government. Parents should have control of and responsibility for all funds expended for their children’s education.

***2.13 Health Care***

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We favor a free market health care system. Medical facilities, medical providers, and medical products (including drugs) must be freely available in the marketplace without government restrictions or licenses. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the level of health insurance they want (if any), the level of health care they want, the care providers they want, the medicines and treatments they will use and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. People should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines. We oppose governments either mandating, or restricting voluntary access to, medical treatments or procedures including vaccines.

***2.14 Retirement and Income Security***

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Retirement planning is the responsibility of the individual, not the government. Libertarians would phase out the current government-sponsored Social Security system and transition to a private voluntary system. The proper and most effective source of help for the poor is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals. We believe members of society will become even more charitable and civil society will be strengthened as government reduces its activity in this realm.

***3.0 SECURING LIBERTY***

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In the United States, constitutional limits on government were intended to prevent the infringement of individual rights by those in power. The only proper purpose of government, should it exist, is the protection of individual rights. The principle of non-initiation of force should guide relationships between governments.

***3.1 National Defense***

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We support the maintenance of a sufficient military to defend the United States against aggression. The United States should both avoid entangling alliances and abandon its attempts to act as policeman for the world. We oppose any form of compulsory national service.

***3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights***

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Individual rights shall not be curtailed, whether based on circumstances of war, epidemic, natural disaster or emergency, or any other pretense. Intelligence agencies that legitimately seek to preserve the security of the nation must be subject to oversight and transparency. We oppose the government's use of secret classifications to keep from the public information that it should have, especially that which shows that the government has violated the law. We oppose the use of torture and other cruel and unusual punishments, without exception.

***3.3 International Affairs***

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American foreign policy should emphasize peace with all nations, entangling alliances with none. We would end the current U.S. government policies of foreign intervention including military and economic aid; tariffs; economic sanctions; and regime change. We recognize the right of all people to resist tyranny and defend themselves and their rights. We condemn the use of force, and especially the use of terrorism, against the innocent, regardless of whether such acts are committed by governments or by political or revolutionary groups.

***3.4 Free Trade and Migration***

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We support the removal of governmental impediments to free trade. Political freedom and escape from tyranny demand that individuals not be unreasonably constrained by government in the

crossing of political boundaries. Economic freedom demands the unrestricted movement of human as well as financial capital across national borders.

***3.5 Rights and Discrimination***

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Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights. We reject the idea that a natural right can ever impose an obligation upon others to fulfill that “right.” We uphold and defend the rights of every person, regardless of their race, ethnicity, or any other aspect of their identity. Government should neither deny nor abridge any individual’s human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits, political preference, or sexual orientation. Members of private organizations retain their rights to set whatever standards of association they deem appropriate, and individuals are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions.

***3.6 Representative Government***

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We staunchly defend the rights to petition the government for redress of grievances and to express dissent. These rights are thwarted when government acts behind closed doors. We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the federal, state, and local levels, such as proportional representation, alternative voting systems, and explicit inclusion of “none of the above” on all ballots. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be free to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws that restrict voluntary financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all alternatives. We advocate initiative, referendum, recall, repeal, and oppose any effort to deny these options when used as popular checks on government.

***3.7 Self-Determination***

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Whenever any form of government becomes destructive of individual liberty, it is the right of the people to alter, abolish, or withdraw from it, and to agree to such new governance, or none, as to them shall seem most likely to protect their liberty. We recognize the right to political self-determination, including secession. Exercise of this right does not require permission from others.

***4.0 OMISSIONS***

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In every matter, we advocate the consistent application of the principle of the non-initiation of coercion, physical force, or fraud. Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination should not be construed to imply approval.

## Bylaws of the Libertarian Party

### ARTICLE 1: NAME

These articles shall govern the association known as the "Libertarian Party," hereinafter referred to as the "Party."

### ARTICLE 2: PURPOSES

The Party is organized to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by:

1. functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements;
2. electing Libertarians to public office to move public policy in a libertarian direction;
3. chartering affiliate parties throughout the United States and promoting their growth and activities;
4. nominating candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States, and supporting Party and affiliate party candidates for political office; and
5. entering into public information activities.

### ARTICLE 3: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND PLATFORM

1. The Statement of Principles affirms that philosophy upon which the Libertarian Party is founded, by which it shall be sustained, and through which liberty shall prevail. The enduring importance of the Statement of Principles requires that it may be amended only by a vote of 7/8 of all registered delegates at a regular convention.
2. The Party platform shall include, but not be limited to, the Statement of Principles and the implementation of those principles in the form of planks.
3. The current platform shall serve as the basis of all future platforms. The existing platform may be amended only at regular conventions. A platform plank may be deleted by majority vote. New planks or amendments to existing planks require a 2/3 vote.

### ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

1. Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.
2. The National Committee may offer life memberships and must honor all prior and future life memberships.
3. The National Committee may create other levels of membership and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.
4. "Sustaining members" are members of the Party who:
  - a. During the prior 12 months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$25; or
  - b. Are Life members.

### ARTICLE 5: AFFILIATE PARTIES

1. No person, group, or organization may use the name "Libertarian Party" or any confusingly similar designation except the Party or an organization to which the Party grants affiliate party status or as otherwise provided in these bylaws.

2. The National Committee shall charter state-level affiliate parties from any qualifying organization requesting such status in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia (hereinafter, state). Organizations which wish to become state-level affiliate parties shall apply for such status on a standard petition form as adopted by the National Committee, which petition shall be signed by no fewer than ten members of the Party residing in the appropriate state. Affiliate party status shall be granted only to those organizations which adopt the Statement of Principles and file a copy of their constitution and/or bylaws with the Party Secretary.
3. There shall be no more than one state-level affiliate party in any one state. Each state-level affiliate party shall, in accordance with its own bylaws and these bylaws, determine who shall be its delegates to all regular conventions. A state-level affiliate party may charter sub-affiliate parties within the state, which will entitle such sub-affiliates to use the name “Libertarian Party.”
4. No affiliate party shall endorse any candidate who is a member of another party for public office in any partisan election. No affiliate party shall take any action inconsistent with the Statement of Principles or these bylaws.
5. The autonomy of the affiliate and sub-affiliate parties shall not be abridged by the National Committee or any other committee of the Party, except as provided by these bylaws.
6. The National Committee shall have the power to revoke the status of any affiliate party, for cause, by a vote of 3/4 of the entire National Committee. A motion to revoke the status of an affiliate party for cause must specify the nature of the cause for revocation. The affiliate party may challenge the revocation of its status by written appeal to the Judicial Committee within 30 days of receipt of notice of such revocation. Failure to appeal within 30 days shall confirm the revocation and bar any later challenge or appeal. The National Committee shall not revoke the status of any affiliate party within six months prior to a regular convention. The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal within 20 to 40 days of receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons, which persons shall have the right to appear and submit evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's revocation of affiliate party status or order reinstatement of the affiliate party. The Judicial Committee shall issue its ruling within 30 days of the hearing and in no case later than 90 days prior to a regular convention. Failure of the Judicial Committee to rule within 30 days shall constitute an affirmation of the National Committee's revocation of affiliate party status except when the last day of the 30 day period falls within 90 days prior to a regular convention, in which case the Judicial Committee's non-action shall result in reinstatement of affiliate party status.

## ARTICLE 6: OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Party shall be:
  - Chair,
  - Vice-Chair,
  - Secretary, and
  - Treasurer.

All of these officers shall be elected by a regular convention of the Party, shall take office immediately upon the close of the convention and shall serve thereafter until the final adjournment of the next regular convention. No person shall serve as an officer who is not a sustaining member of the Party.

2. No offices shall be combined.
3. The Chair shall preside at all conventions and all meetings of the National Committee. The Chair is the chief executive officer of the Party with full authority to direct its business and affairs, including hiring and discharging of National Committee volunteers and paid personnel, subject to express National Committee policies and directives issued in the exercise of the National Committee's plenary control and management of Party affairs, properties and funds.
4. The Vice-Chair shall be the chief assistant to the Chair, performing such duties as the Chair shall prescribe, and holding such executive powers as the Chair shall delegate and shall perform the

duties of the Chair in the event that the Chair is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of the office.

5. The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Party and shall perform such duties as are assigned by the Chair or the National Committee. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the National Committee and all Party conventions and shall act as Secretary thereof, keeping such minutes and records as necessary.
6. The Treasurer shall receive, expend, and account for the funds of the Party under the supervision and direction of the Chair and the National Committee. The Treasurer shall make an annual financial report to the National Committee and shall perform all duties required of the office by applicable federal and state law. The Treasurer is responsible for oversight of all financial functions, including, but not limited to receipts, disbursements, internal and external reporting. The Treasurer shall report to the National Committee and the convention both the financial situation of the Party and the results of its activities. The report of the Treasurer to the convention, specified in Convention Rule 1 agenda item 4, shall include an independent auditor's report opining whether the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Party and the changes in its net assets and its cash flow for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. Unaudited interim financial statements shall also be presented. Such reports shall be made available to every delegate.
7. The National Committee may, for cause, suspend any officer by a vote of 2/3 of the entire National Committee, excepting the officer that is the subject of the vote who may not participate in that vote. The suspended officer may challenge the suspension by an appeal in writing to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of suspension. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the suspension and bar any later challenge or appeal. The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons, which persons shall have the right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's suspension of the officer or order the officer's reinstatement within 30 days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee to rule within 30 days shall constitute an affirmation of the National Committee's suspension of the officer. At such time as the suspension is final, the office in question shall be deemed vacant.
8. The National Committee shall appoint new officers if vacancies occur, such officers to complete the term of the office vacated.

## ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1. The National Committee shall have control and management of all the affairs, properties and funds of the Party consistent with these bylaws. The Libertarian National Committee shall establish and oversee an organizational structure to implement the purposes of the Party as stated in Article 2. The National Committee shall adopt rules of procedure for the conduct of its meetings and the carrying out of its duties and responsibilities. The National Committee may delegate its authority in any manner it deems necessary.
2. The National Committee shall be composed of the following members:
  - a. the officers of the Party;
  - b. five members elected at large by the delegates at a regular convention; and
  - c. any additional members as specified below:

Any affiliate party with 10% or more of the total national party sustaining membership within affiliate parties (as determined for delegate allocation) shall be entitled to one National Committee representative and one alternate for each 10% of national sustaining membership. Affiliate parties may, by mutual consent, band together to form "representative regions," and each such "region" with an aggregate national party sustaining membership of 10% or more shall be entitled to one National Committee representative and one alternate for each 10% of national party sustaining membership. "Representative regions" may be formed or dissolved once every two years during a

period beginning 90 days before the beginning of and ending on the second day of the national convention, and notice of new formations or dissolutions must be given in writing to the national Secretary prior to the close of the convention at which they take place.

3. The National Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the regular convention at which they are selected and serve until the final adjournment of the next regular convention.
4. A National Committee member shall be a sustaining member of the Party and shall not be the candidate of any party except the Party or an affiliate.
5. The National Committee may, for cause, suspend any member-at-large by a vote of 2/3 of the entire National Committee, excepting the member that is the subject of the vote who may not participate in that vote. The suspended member-at-large may challenge the suspension by an appeal in writing to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of suspension. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the suspension and bar any later challenge or appeal. The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons, which persons shall have the right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's suspension of the member-at-large or order reinstatement of the member-at-large within 30 days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee to rule within 30 days shall constitute an affirmation of the National Committee's suspension of the member-at-large. At such times as the suspension is final, the office in question shall be deemed vacant.
6. A National Committee member who fails to attend two consecutive regular sessions of the National Committee shall be deemed to have vacated his or her seat. The appointing body shall be free to reappoint the member who vacated the seat.
7. The National Committee shall appoint new officers and members-at-large if vacancies occur, such officers and members-at-large to complete the term of the office vacated.
8. A National Committee Regional Representative or Alternate may be removed and replaced only by the act of the affiliate parties that constitute the subject region. The voting procedure for the removal and replacement of regional representatives or alternates shall be determined by the regions. In the absence of any such procedures, a majority vote of the state chairs comprising the region shall prevail.
9. The National Committee shall meet at such times and places as may be determined by: action of the Committee, call of the Chair, or written request of 1/3 or more of its members.
10. A majority of the membership of the National Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings.
11. The National Committee may adopt public policy resolutions by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote with previous notice or by unanimous consent without previous notice.
12. Upon appeal by ten percent of the delegates credentialed at the most recent regular convention or one percent of the Party sustaining members the Judicial Committee shall consider the question of whether or not a decision of the National Committee contravenes specified sections of the bylaws. If the decision is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it shall be declared null and void.
13. The National Committee shall use roll call voting on all substantive motions. Additionally, the National Committee must have a roll call vote upon request of any single committee member present on any motion. On all roll call votes, the vote of each individual committee member shall be recorded in the minutes.
14. The Secretary or a designee shall promptly post notice for each session of the National Committee; any National Committee proposed agendas; and approved minutes of each convention and open National Committee session to a permanent archive section on the Party's website. Any person may record the National Committee's proceedings while in open session, or subscribe to a read-only email list on which National Committee votes are recorded.
15. The National Committee and all of its committees shall conduct all votes and actions in open session; executive session may only be used for discussion of personnel matters, contractual negotiations, pending or potential litigation, or political strategy requiring confidentiality.

**ARTICLE 8: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE**

1. The Judicial Committee shall be composed of seven Party members elected at each regular non-presidential convention and any five members shall constitute a quorum. No member of the National Committee may be a member of the Judicial Committee. The members of the Judicial Committee shall select the Chair of the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the regular non-presidential convention at which elected and shall serve until the final adjournment of the next regular non-presidential convention. All Judicial Committee members shall have been Party members at least four years at the time of their selection. The remaining members of the Judicial Committee shall appoint new members if vacancies occur, such appointees to serve until the final adjournment of the next regular non-presidential convention. Should all Judicial Committee positions be vacant, an Intervening convention may fill such vacancies.
2. The subject matter jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee is limited to consideration of only those matters expressly identified as follows:
  - a. suspension of affiliate parties (Article 5, Section 6),
  - b. suspension of officers (Article 6, Section 7),
  - c. suspension of National Committee members-at-large (Article 7, Section 5),
  - d. voiding of National Committee decisions (Article 7, Section 12),
  - e. challenges to platform planks (Rule 5, Section 7),
  - f. challenges to resolutions (Rule 6, Section 2), and
  - g. suspension of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates (Article 14, Section 5).
3. Within 90 days following the regular convention at which elected, the Judicial Committee shall establish rules of appellate procedure to govern its consideration of matters within the scope of its jurisdiction. The existing Rules shall remain in effect until and unless the Judicial Committee submits new proposed rules to the National Committee for approval, which approval shall be deemed given unless denied by a 2/3 vote of the National Committee within 60 days of submission. A copy of the current rules of appellate procedure shall be maintained by the Secretary at the Party Headquarters and shall be available to any member at cost.

**ARTICLE 9: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING**

1. The fiscal term of the Party shall begin on January 1 of each year. From January 1 until the National Committee has approved a budget, the Treasurer may authorize expenditures for any item incorporated in the previous year's budget as long as the level of expenditure is consistent with that budget.
2. The National Committee shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be installed and maintained. Financial statements of the Party shall be prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Audits shall be performed annually by an independent auditor. The non-officer members of the National Committee shall appoint a standing Audit Committee of three members with power to select the independent auditor. One member shall be a non-officer member or alternate of the National Committee and the other two shall not be members or alternates of the National Committee. The Assistant Treasurer is not eligible to serve on the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee shall present its findings to each regular convention and clarify for the National Committee any recommendations made by the auditor.
3. No disbursements exceeding \$100 may be made with cash.
4. The National Committee shall have the power to designate the depository of all funds of the Party and shall appoint such officers and employees as in its judgment may seem advisable to deposit and withdraw funds.
5. The Party shall not borrow in excess of \$2,000 total without prior approval by 2/3 vote of the National Committee. This shall not include current operating debt for trade payables.
6. The National Committee shall designate an Assistant Treasurer to temporarily serve in the event the Treasurer is incapacitated or unavailable, or vacates the position.

ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

1. Regular Conventions:  
The Party shall hold a regular convention every two years, at a time and place selected by the National Committee. Regular conventions shall be held sometime during the period of July of an odd-numbered year through August of an even-numbered year. All business required to be conducted at regular conventions shall be conducted at regular conventions only.
2. Delegates:
  - a. Delegates shall be required to be members of either the Party or an affiliate party. At all regular conventions delegates shall be those so accredited who have registered at the convention.
  - b. Any federal or state law to the contrary notwithstanding, delegates to a regular convention shall be selected by a method adopted by each affiliate party; provided however, that only members of the Party as defined in these bylaws, or members of the affiliate party as defined in the constitution or bylaws of such affiliate party, shall be eligible to vote for the selection of delegates to a regular convention.
3. Affiliate Party Delegate Entitlements:  
Each affiliate party shall be entitled to send delegates to each regular convention on the following basis:
  - a. One delegate for each 0.14 percent, or fraction thereof, of the total Party sustaining membership in that affiliate; provided that at least one such delegate must be a resident of that State or District.
  - b. One delegate for each 0.35 percent, or fraction thereof, of the votes cast nationwide for the Libertarian Party candidate in the most recent presidential election, cast in that affiliate's state. If a state conducts its presidential election via Ranked-Choice or Instant Runoff Voting, the ballots for the Libertarian candidate as tabulated in the first round of ballot counting will be used for this purpose.
4. Delegate Allocation:
  - a. In order to be counted for delegate allocation, sustaining membership applications must be sent to the National Headquarters by either the individual member or the affiliate party and received or postmarked no later than the last day of the seventh month prior to the regular convention.
  - b. The Secretary shall make a count of the sustaining members qualified under the requirements set forth here and shall compute the delegate allocations for the affiliate parties. Notification of the sustaining membership totals and allocation totals shall be sent by the Secretary to the chair of each affiliate party no later than the last day of the sixth month prior to a regular convention.
  - c. A list of the names and addresses of all delegates and alternates chosen by each affiliate party shall be sent to the Credentials Committee no later than one month prior to start of the first general session of the regular convention. Amendments to such lists may be made by the affiliate parties and submitted to the Credentials Committee until the close of the Credentials Committee meeting preceding the convention. The number of alternates' names submitted shall not exceed the greater of 50 or the number of delegates allocated.
  - d. Failure to submit a listing of delegate/alternate names and addresses, as prescribed within these bylaws, shall cause no delegation to be registered from that affiliate party.
  - e. *By seven-eighths vote, the convention may approve additional delegates and alternates whose names and addresses are submitted to the Credentials Committee during the convention.*
5. Delegate List:  
Any Party member shall be provided, upon request and payment of copying and mailing costs, a list of the names and addresses of all delegates selected to attend and those who actually attended the most recent two conventions, with those who attended clearly identified, and all delegates / alternates selected to the upcoming convention, if available.
6. Voting Eligibility:
  - a. Use of the unit rule or unit voting is prohibited at national conventions.

- b. Duly selected alternates may be freely substituted for any members of their delegation who are temporarily or permanently absent from the floor, provided the procedure has been clearly specified by the affiliate party in advance of the convention, and the Credentials Committee has been provided with lists of the affiliate party's delegates and alternates as well as a copy of the affiliate party's rules governing substitutions.
  - c. An alternate, upon certification by the Credentials Committee, may function as a delegate whenever a delegate of the same state has not been registered in attendance. This status shall continue until the absent delegate registers in attendance. If the affiliate party has made no provision for filling delegate vacancies, the alternate substitute shall be decided by drawing lots.
  - d. If the affiliate party has made no other provision, an alternate may temporarily vote in place of a delegate from the same state while he or she has the written consent of that delegate; however, no delegate may cast more than one vote on a question.
  - e. All members must wear the identification badge issued upon registration in order to be admitted to the convention hall.
7. Votes cast for "None of the Above" in voting on the Party's nominees for President and Vice-President, the Party officers, and at-large members of the National Committee, shall be considered valid. Should a majority of the votes be cast for "None of the Above" in the Presidential or Vice-Presidential balloting, no candidate shall be nominated for that office. Should "None of the Above" be selected for any Party office, that position shall be declared vacant and none of the losing candidates for that position may be selected to fill the vacancy for that term of office.
8. Quorum:  
A quorum shall consist of 40% of the total number of delegates registered in attendance at the Convention.
9. The Convention Secretary shall produce draft convention minutes within 60 days of the adjournment of the convention and present them to the National Committee. Draft convention minutes shall be posted on the Party's website at least 14 days prior to being submitted to the National Committee for approval by a two-thirds vote.
10. Convention Rules:  
The Party's convention special rules of order may be amended only by a regular convention.

## ARTICLE 11: OTHER COMMITTEES

1. There shall be a Platform Committee, a Bylaws and Rules Committee, and a Credentials Committee for each regular convention. The National Committee shall appoint a temporary chair of each committee to serve until each committee selects its own chair.
2. The Bylaws and Rules Committee shall consist of 10 Party members appointed by the National Committee no later than twelve months before a regular convention. No more than five of these members shall be members of the current National Committee.
3. The Platform Committee shall consist of 20 members selected as follows:
  - a. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the greatest per capita sustaining membership as determined for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention.
  - b. One member by each of the 10 affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships, excluding those affiliates from (a), as determined for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention.
  - c. Five members selected by the National Committee.
  - d. These members shall be selected no later than the last day of the fifth month prior to the regular convention.
4. The Credentials Committee, composed of 10 members, shall be selected as follows.
  - a. Five members chosen by the National Committee no later than six months before a regular convention.
  - b. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships as determined for convention delegate allocations at the most recent

regular convention. These shall be selected by each of the affiliate parties no later than three months prior to the regular convention.

5. Ranked alternates may be named by the appointing bodies to fill any vacancies or absences in the convention committees.
6. Committee Procedures
  - a. A majority vote of those Committee members present is necessary for a "do pass" recommendation, and in the case of the Platform Committee, a majority must approve each specific plank separately.
  - b. Four or more members of the Platform Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding any plank reported to the floor of the convention. Two or more members of the Bylaws and Rules Committee or of the Credentials Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding their business.

## ARTICLE 12: MEETINGS

Boards and committees may conduct business by teleconference or videoconference. The National Committee shall have power to adopt special rules of order and standing rules to facilitate the conduct of business by teleconference or videoconference.

## ARTICLE 13: ELECTRONIC MAIL BALLOTS

Boards and committees may transact business by electronic mail. The Chair or Secretary shall send out electronic mail ballots on any question submitted by the Chair or co-sponsored by at least 1/5 of the members of the board or committee. The period for voting on a question shall remain open for seven days, unless all members have cast votes, or have stated an intention to abstain or be absent during the voting period, by electronic mail to the entire board or committee. Votes from alternates will be counted, in accordance with previously defined ranked order, in the absence of the corresponding committee member(s). The outcome of each motion shall be announced promptly and recorded in the minutes of the next meeting. The number of votes required for passage of any motion shall be the same as that required during a meeting. Motions dispensed through electronic mail ballots satisfy the requirement of giving previous notice.

## ARTICLE 14: PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS

1. Nominations of candidates for President and Vice-President of the United States may be made only at the regular convention immediately preceding a Presidential election.
2. No candidate may be nominated for President or Vice-President who is ineligible under the United States Constitution, who has not expressed a willingness to accept the nomination of the Party, who served as a stand-in candidate during the current election cycle, or who is not a sustaining member of the Party. A stand-in is an individual who has agreed to be placed on a state affiliate's nomination petition prior to the selection of nominees by the Libertarian Party at convention.
3. In the event of the death, resignation, disqualification, or suspension of the nomination of the Party's nominee for President, the Vice-Presidential nominee shall become the Presidential nominee. Two-thirds of the entire membership of the National Committee may, at a meeting, fill a Vice-Presidential vacancy, and, if necessary, a simultaneous Presidential vacancy.
4. The National Committee shall respect the vote of the delegates at nominating conventions and provide full support for the Party's nominee for President and nominee for Vice-President as long as their campaigns are conducted in accordance with the platform of the Party.
5. A candidate's nomination may be suspended by a 3/4 vote of the entire membership of the National Committee at a meeting. That candidate's nomination shall then be declared null and void unless the suspended candidate appeals the suspension to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notification of suspension. The resolution of suspension must state the

## APPENDIX D – CURRENT BYLAWS

specific reasons for suspension and must be signed by each member of the National Committee agreeing thereto. The Judicial Committee shall meet and act on this appeal within 30 days and before the election.

### ARTICLE 15: ALTERNATIVE VOTING PROCEDURES

1. The convention special rules of order may authorize specified forms of preferential voting.
2. The convention special rules of order may provide a mechanism under which, when no candidate initially receives a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes is removed from consideration.

### ARTICLE 16: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised shall govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order adopted by the Party.

### ARTICLE 17: AMENDMENT

1. These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at any regular convention.
2. Article 3, Section 1, or this Section, shall not be amended by a vote of less than 7/8 of all registered delegates at a regular convention.

### ARTICLE 18: PROMULGATION OF BYLAWS

The National Committee shall promulgate the bylaws in accordance with applicable law. A copy of these bylaws and convention rules shall be provided to each member of the National Committee, each member of the Judicial Committee and each Chair of an affiliate party within 90 days of adoption.

## **Convention Special Rules of Order of the Libertarian Party**

### **RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The standing order of business for a regular convention shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Credentials Committee report
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Treasurer's report
5. Audit Committee report
6. Bylaws and Rules Committee report
7. Election of Judicial Committee (in appropriate years)
8. Election of Party officers and at-large members of the National Committee
9. Platform Committee report
10. Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)
11. Resolutions
12. Other business

### **RULE 2: VOTING PROCEDURE AND MOTIONS**

1. On all matters, except the retention of platform planks, the election of Judicial Committee members, Party officers and at-large members of the National Committee, and the nomination of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, voting will be by either voice vote or rising vote. If any delegate objects to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a voice vote, a rising vote shall be conducted. If 20 or more delegates object to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a rising vote, a counted vote will be held.
2. The Chair may require any motion offered from the convention floor to be in writing, signed by the mover and submitted to the Secretary.

### **RULE 3: POLLING PROCEDURE**

1. The State Chair shall serve as chair of his or her delegation, unless that delegation selects another of its members to serve as its chair and so notifies the Secretary.
2. In cases where a roll call vote is required, polling shall be by state. The Secretary will ask for the vote from each state in alphabetical order, and the chair of each delegation shall report the vote for that state. The convention seating will be by state delegation. If someone challenges the vote reported by any state's chair, the Secretary shall poll the delegates from that state individually.
3. In cases where computer readable ballots are used, each delegate must sign the ballot and submit it to the delegation chair. After verifying that the number of votes cast does not exceed the number the state is entitled to, the chair of each delegation shall submit the ballots to the Secretary. During the period of time allotted for such votes, the business of the convention shall continue without interruption.

### **RULE 4: DEBATING AND VOTING -- BYLAWS AND RULES**

The Chair of the Bylaws and Rules Committee shall report each recommendation of the committee to the convention separately and shall have two minutes to explain the intent or purpose of the proposed amendment(s). The Convention Chair shall open each recommendation to discussion without amendment from the floor. Each recommendation shall be considered and adopted separately, with a maximum of eight minutes discussion on any recommendation. After the discussion, the Convention

Chair shall bring the recommendation to a vote. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall open the recommendation to amendment for an additional 10 minutes.

**RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING – PLATFORM**

1. After the adoption of the convention agenda, the convention will vote whether to delete planks from the existing platform. This will be accomplished as follows:
  - a. The Credentials Committee shall issue five signature tokens to each delegate.
  - b. Tokens shall only be issued to delegates. Delegates are responsible for transferring possession of unused tokens to their alternates if necessary.
  - c. Each delegate may cast each token as a recommendation for deletion of one plank by noting on the token the plank to be deleted and signing the token.
  - d. A delegate may cumulate recommendations by casting any number of tokens for deletion of the same plank.
  - e. Delegates will be given until one hour prior to the scheduled start of the platform report to mark their tokens and deliver them to the Secretary.
  - f. Prior to the scheduled start of the platform report, the Secretary shall review the tokens received and tabulate and report the tokens submitted for deletion of each plank.
  - g. As its first item of platform business, the convention shall vote whether to delete each of those planks that received a number of tokens for deletion equal to 20% or more of the number of credentialed delegates. Such votes shall be cast without amendment or debate.
2. The Platform Committee shall meet before each regular convention and prepare a report containing its recommendations. At the convention, the Platform Committee's recommendations shall be reported to the floor and debated and voted upon separately. The Platform Committee shall set forth the order in which each recommendation shall be considered.
3. Recommendations for which there is no minority report shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:
  - a. The Platform Committee Chair, or some other person designated by him or her, shall read the proposed recommendation and shall have up to two minutes to explain the recommendation.
  - b. The Convention Chair shall then open the recommendation to debate without amendment for a period of up to 15 minutes before bringing the matter to a vote. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall inquire if any amendments are proposed from the floor. If there are such proposals, the Convention Chair shall request a vote on whether to consider amendments, and with majority approval may consider amendments for a period of up to 10 minutes.
4. Recommendations for which there is a minority report shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:
  - a. Spokespersons for both the majority and minority positions shall each have two minutes to present their views.
  - b. The Chair shall then open consideration of both positions for five minutes during which time any delegates may express their views without offering amendments. After five minutes, there will be a vote on which of the two reports shall be considered for purposes of adopting a recommendation. The report receiving the greater number of votes shall then be discussed and voted upon in the manner described in Section 3b.
5. After all committee recommendations have received initial consideration, any delegate may propose amendments to the platform. The delegate may take up to two minutes to state and explain the proposal, with debating and voting to proceed as described in Section 3b.
6. Finally, if time permits, proposals which were considered by the Platform Committee but which received an unfavorable vote from a majority of the committee, may be considered, with a spokesperson for the minority position giving the reasons in favor and the Platform Committee Chair or other representative of the majority position giving the reasons why it was voted down, before the proposal is taken to the floor for debate.

7. Challenges of adopted Party planks believed by 10% of the delegates to be in conflict with the Statement of Principles shall be referred in writing, during the convention, to the Judicial Committee by the delegates requesting action for consideration. The challenge shall specify in what manner the plank is believed to be in conflict. The Judicial Committee shall consider the challenge, decide whether the Statement of Principles is conformed to and report their findings and reasons to the convention. If the plank is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it will be declared null and void but can be reinstated by a 3/4 vote of the convention.
8. Should changes to the bylaws or platform result in a grammatical error in accordance with the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, the National Committee presiding at the time of that discovery is authorized to make those grammatical corrections provided it does not change the meaning or intent of the item edited.

## RULE 6: RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolutions must be approved by a 2/3 vote.
2. Resolutions must not be in conflict with the Statement of Principles. Challenges of such adopted resolutions believed by 10% of the delegates to be in conflict with the Statement of Principles shall be referred in writing, during the convention, to the Judicial Committee by the delegates requesting action for consideration. The challenge shall specify in what manner the resolution is believed to be in conflict. The Judicial Committee shall consider the challenge, decide whether the Statement of Principles is conformed to, and report their findings and reasons to the convention. If the resolution is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it will be declared null and void but can be reinstated by a 3/4 vote of the convention.

## RULE 7: NOMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES

1. No person shall be nominated for President or Vice-President unless at least 30 registered delegates join in the nomination in writing submitted to the Secretary, and the nominee has submitted to the Secretary evidence of sustaining membership and a statement of willingness to accept the nomination. No delegate may join in nominating more than one candidate for each office. The affixing of signatures to a nominating petition per this requirement shall be effected by a transfer of signature tokens issued by the Credentials Committee.
2. The Party's nominee for President shall be chosen by majority vote. If no candidate has attained a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes and any candidates polling less than 5% shall be struck from subsequent ballots. This procedure shall be repeated after every ballot in which no candidate has received a majority vote, until one candidate attains a majority.
3. Each delegation shall tabulate its total vote, and the delegation chair shall deliver a written total to the Secretary. When all the delegations have submitted their votes, the Secretary shall declare the voting closed. Following the first presidential ballot, an announcement of each delegation's vote total shall be made by delegation chairs in alphabetical order beginning with a randomly selected delegation. For all ballots, the Secretary shall then display the results.
4. The Party's nominee for Vice-President shall be chosen by the same procedure as for the Presidential nominee except that the Presidential nominee shall have the privilege of addressing the convention for 5 minutes, after nominations have been made but before voting has begun, for the purpose of endorsing or objecting to any of the Vice-Presidential nominees. Nominations for Vice-President shall close after selection of the Presidential nominee.
5. Nominating and seconding speeches for each candidate shall be limited in duration as follows:
  - a. President: Total of 16 minutes;
  - b. Vice-President: Total of 11 minutes.

A delegate who collects the required number of nominating tokens so designated may speak up to 5 minutes in favor of voting for None Of The Above.

## RULE 8: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1. Nominations for Party officers shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted in the following manner:
  - a. For each office, a majority vote will be necessary for election.
  - b. Each delegation shall tabulate its total vote, and the delegation chair shall deliver a written total to the Secretary. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Secretary shall declare the voting closed.
  - c. In cases where no candidate receives a majority, runoff votes will be held, dropping the candidate with the fewest votes after each ballot.
2. Nominations for the at-large members of the National Committee shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted in the following manner:
  - a. Each delegate may cast a ballot with a vote for either none-of-the-above or one vote per candidate for any number of candidates. Every ballot with a vote for none-of-the-above or one or more candidates is counted as one ballot cast. A vote for none-of-the-above shall be ignored if the ballot also includes a vote for any other candidate.
  - b. Each delegation shall tabulate its total vote, and the delegation chair shall deliver a written total to the Secretary, along with the ballots cast.
  - c. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Chair shall declare the voting closed. The top five candidates receiving a majority vote of the ballots cast shall be elected. Tie votes affecting the outcome shall be decided by lot.
3. No person shall be nominated unless at least 15 registered delegates join in the nomination submitted to the Secretary, and the nominee has submitted to the Secretary evidence of the required level of membership and a statement of willingness to accept the nomination. No delegate may join in nominating more than one candidate per seat. Nominating speeches shall be limited in duration as follows:
  - a. Chair: Total of 10 minutes;
  - b. All others: Total of 5 minutes.
4. In the event a region has not otherwise provided for the election of its National Committee representation then the delegates from the region shall elect its regional representative and alternate, provided there are at least five delegates present. Each Region's delegates may elect their representative and alternate in whatever manner they choose, provided all delegates present from that region are given equal voice in the selection.

## RULE 9: ELECTION OF JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Nominations and elections for members of the Judicial Committee shall be conducted in the same manner as specified for at-large members of the National Committee.

## RULE 10: VERIFICATION OF DELEGATION VOTE TOTALS

For each vote in which subtotals are submitted by delegation, each delegation shall conduct its vote by written ballot. After each delegation has tabulated its own vote totals, before submitting the totals to the Secretary, tellers approved by the Secretary shall review the ballot tabulation for accuracy and cosign the delegation totals.

After the Secretary has recorded all delegation submissions, the state-by-state delegation totals for each candidate or choice shall be displayed on a projection screen for each delegation to review for accuracy.