

1981  
LIBERTARIAN PARTY  
NATIONAL CONVENTION

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CONSTITUTION, BYLAWS, AND RULES  
COMMITTEE REPORT

26 August 1981

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

BILL WHITE, CHAIR  
PHIL CARDEN  
ED CLARK  
LYNN CRUSSEL  
BILL EVERS  
LESLIE KEY  
BRUCE LAGASSE  
DAVE NOLAN  
BEN OLDS  
BEN OLSON

During 1980 the National Committee formed a Constitution, ByLaws and Rules Revision Committee to:

"Review and analyze the Libertarian Party governing documents; and

"Make recommendations for revisions to the governing documents with a view toward simplification, elimination of ambiguity and redundancy..."

We recommend the adoption of the revised documents presented herewith. (If the revision fails the proposals will have to refer to the Constitution, ByLaws and Rules Committee, not the ByLaws Committee).

We recommend adoption of the following proposed amendments. (All proposals are referenced to both the Revision Document and the old Constitution, ByLaws and Rules):

Proposal  
Number

ART 12 PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS

- (1) ART 12: C (CON X: 6) Amend the first sentence to read:

"In the event of the death, resignation, disqualification or nullification of the nomination of the Party's nominee for President, the Vice-Presidential nominee shall become the Presidential candidate."

- (2) ART 12: New Section d. (CON X: New Section 7)  
Insert new Section d. to read:

"The National Committee shall respect the vote of the delegates at Nominating Conventions and provide full support for all nominees for President and Vice-President as long as their campaigns are conducted in accordance with the Platform of the Party. To insure such conduct, the National Committee shall require, as a condition of support from the Party, monthly reports from such nominees setting forth the goals, issues and strategy of their campaigns and shall also require such nominees to submit to the Campaign Judicial Committee drafts of all major pamphlets, policy statements, advertising material and other major written or oral statements prior to publication. The Campaign Judicial Committee shall promptly report to the National Committee any

deviations from the Platform contained in such submissions, and shall direct the nominee to amend or to withdraw any such statements.

"Should any nominee fail to comply with any such direction, the National Committee, after considering the circumstances and as it deems appropriate, shall take one or more of the following steps:

1. Warn the nominee not to repeat such conduct;
2. Publicly criticize the nominee;
3. Place conditions on further Party support of the nominee;
4. Reduce, suspend, or end support for the nominee;
5. Urge Party members and the public to reduce, suspend, or end support for a candidate, or
6. Suspend the nomination of a candidate."

- (3) ART 12: New Section e. (CON X: New Section 8)  
Add a new Section e. to read:

"All campaign documents greater than 5,000 words in length shall contain the Party's Statement of Principles as a preface."

- (4) NEW ARTICLE 10 (NEW CON XV) CAMPAIGN JUDICIAL COMMITTEE  
Add a new Article 10 entitled "Campaign Judicial Committee" to read:

"1. There shall be a Campaign Judicial Committee whose members shall be the members of the Judicial Committee that was selected by the National Committee elected at the regular Convention immediately preceding the applicable Nominating Convention.

"2. This Committee shall have the power to conduct votes by telephone, provided that such votes are confirmed by mail ballot."

ART 11 (CON VI) CONVENTIONS

- (5) ART 11: 3, new subsection b. (CON VI, new Section 9) Add new subsection b. to read:

"Any federal or state law to the contrary notwithstanding, delegates to a regular convention shall be selected by a method adopted by each affiliate state party; provided however that only members of the party as defined in this constitution or members of the affiliate state party as defined in the constitution or bylaws of such affiliate state party, or those who have made the certification required by Article 5 of this constitution shall be eligible to vote for the selection of delegates to a regular convention."

- (6) ART 11: 4 (CON VI: 5)

- a. Change number of basic delegates to 2.
- b. Change percentage to 0.2%.
- c. Change percentage to 0.2%.

- (7) RULES 10: b (RULE IX: 2) Strike the second sentence and substitute in its place:

"Each delegate may cast up to seven votes, but no more than one vote for any one candidate."

ARTICLE 8 (CON V) NATIONAL COMMITTEE

- (8) ART. 8: 2 (CON V: 1.d.) Amend to read:

"The current Regions are as follows:

Region 1: Alaska (354)\*

Region 2: California (1640) and Hawaii (38)

Region 3: Oregon (231) and Washington (159)

Region 4: Montana (47), Idaho (29), Wyoming (24), N. Dakota (13), and S. Dakota (16)

Region 5: Arizona (174), New Mexico (36), and Nevada (72)

Region 6: Colorado (222) and Utah (22)

Region 7: Kansas (113), Oklahoma (68), and Missouri (96)

Region 8: Iowa (131), Minnesota (170), and Nebraska (21)

Region 9: Illinois (411)

Region 10: Wisconsin (154) and Michigan (242)

Region 11: Indiana (90) and Ohio (259) and Kentucky (31)

Region 12: Arkansas (26), Mississippi (24), Louisiana (70), and Tennessee (96)

Region 13: Texas (528)

Region 14: Pennsylvania (228) and New Jersey (170)

Region 15: Delaware (25), Maryland (123), District of Columbia (57) and W. Virginia (23)

Region 16: New York (524)

Region 17: Maine (27), Connecticut (86), New Hampshire (30), Vermont (13), Massachusetts (137), and Rhode Island (16)

Region 18: North Carolina (120), S.Carolina (32) and Virginia (207)

Region 19: Georgia (113), Alabama (33) and Florida (185)"

\*(NOTE: The numbers after each state represent membership figures, given as working information only, and will not appear in the final document).

#### ARTICLES (CON XIII) MEMBERSHIP

(9) ART 5: 1 (CON XIII) Amend Section 1 to read:

"Members of the Party shall be those persons whose national dues are current and who affirm that they have read and are in agreement with the Statement of Principles of the Libertarian Party."

(10) GLOBAL AMENDMENT

Use the phrase "contributing member" in place of the word "member" wherever it appears.

ARTICLE 8 (CON V) NATIONAL COMMITTEE

- (11) ART 8: 7 (CON V: 5) Amend the fourth sentence to read:

"If a majority of the National Committee vote to suspend the Regional Representative, that office shall be declared vacant."

- (12) ART 8: 11 (BYLAW III: 4) Delete in its entirety.

- (13) ART 8: 3 (CON V: 2) Amend the last line by inserting the word "final" between "the" and "adjournment".

- (14) ART 8: New Section 13 (CON V: New Section 10)  
Add a new Section 13 to read:

"Upon appeal by Five per cent (5%) of the Party 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."

ARTICLE 9 (CON XIV) JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

- (15) ART 9: 2 (CON XIV: 1) After the words ".... members-at-large (ART 8, Sect. 5)," insert the phrase "voiding of National Committee decisions (ART 8: 13),"

ARTICLE 11 (CON VI) CONVENTIONS

- (16) ART 11: 3 (CON VI: 3) In the last sentence, delete all words after "...may do so"; change comma to a period.

(17) ART 11: 5 (CON VI: 5) Amend by inserting after "National Committee members" the words: "members of the ByLaws, Platform and Credentials Committees".

(18) ART 11: 8 preamble (CON VII Preamble) Amend by adding after the first sentence:

"The National Committee shall appoint the chairs of these Committees."

ART 11: 8 preamble (BYLAW IV: 1) delete the last sentence.

(19) ART 11: 8.b. (CON VII: 2) Delete the last paragraph beginning "If a vacancy", and add a new subsection d. (CON VII, new sect. 4) to read:

"Ranked alternates may be named by the appointing bodies to fill any potential vacancies."

(20) RULE 6: b (RULE 6: 2) Delete in its entirety.

(21) RULE 7: g (RULE 7: 7) Delete in its entirety.

(22) Delete Rule 8, Sect. 2 of the old Rules, only if Revision Document is not adopted.

(23) RULE 9: a. (RULE III: 3) Delete the last sentence and substitute:

"At this point an announcement of each delegation's vote total shall be made by delegation chairs in alphabetical order beginning with a randomly selected delegation."

(24) RULE 10: a (RULE III: 3) Delete the last sentence and substitute:

"At this point an announcement of each delegation's vote total shall be made by delegation chairs in alphabetical order beginning with a randomly selected delegation."

(25) GLOBAL AMENDMENT

Change all references to "State" Parties to read "Affiliate" Parties.

(26) ART 11: 8a (CON VII: 1) Add new sentence to Section 8a to read:

"No more than five (5) of these members shall be members of the current National Committee."

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APPENDIX I: CORRECTIONS AND TYPOS

I 1980 CONSTITUTION

ART XIV: 2. in last line, change "of" to "or" and spell "National" correctly.

There are 2 ART VIII's and no ART VII, so the first VIII should be renumbered VII.

II REVISION DOCUMENT

ART 7: 8. In 12th line, change "their" to "its".

ART 9: 2

Correct (ART 7, Section 9) to read (ART 7: 8)

Correct (ART 11, Sect 17h) to read (Rule 7: h)

Correct (ART 11, Sect 18b) to read (Rule 8: b)

Correct (ART 11, Sect 19g) to read (ART 12: d)