

# Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Ohio

The bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Ohio (the “Party”), Ohio’s official affiliate of the national Libertarian Party, govern its operating guidelines and promote the cause of liberty. The Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Ohio authorizes the Central Committee and/or the State Convention to adopt, change, and repeal these Bylaws. These Bylaws are subordinate to the Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Ohio, the Constitution of the United States and its laws, and the Constitution of the State of Ohio and its laws, including the Ohio Revised Code. These Bylaws apply to the State Party and all County Development Groups.

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# Bylaw 100 - Membership

## Section 1

Membership in the party shall conform to Article II, Section 1 of the Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Ohio.

## Section 2 (If no ballot access)

In the event the Secretary of State denies ballot access to the Libertarian Party of Ohio: membership in the Party shall consist of registered Ohio voters not affiliated with another political party who demonstrate an interest in the State or National Party, and have affirmed the pledge, "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals", or who have participated in a Libertarian Primary within the past two calendar years or otherwise caused their voter affiliation in the State voter database to be "Libertarian".

# Bylaw 120 - Internal Election of Candidates for Central Committee and Executive Committee

## Section 1 (Candidate Options)

For all internal elections, the winning candidate shall be selected from among the several candidates and "None of the Above."

## Section 2 (Voting Procedures)

Elections will be held using instant runoff voting methods. The Central Committee may, with a 2/3rd majority of serving members, opt for a plurality or other voting method for any election.

## Section 3 (Restrictions)

Each member eligible to vote is permitted one vote per open seat per election. No voting may be done by proxy, unit rule, or slate selection.

# Bylaw 200 - Central Committee

## Section 1 (Elections)

In even numbered years, two representatives shall be elected from each U.S. Congressional district or State Senate district in the State to serve on the Central Committee for a term of two years or until a new Central Committee is elected. The retiring Central Committee shall determine whether U.S. Congressional districts or State Senate districts shall be employed for electing the next Central Committee not later than 120 days prior to the primary election, and unless otherwise determined shall be the U.S. Congressional district.

- A. All Committee members must be Supporting Members of the Party as defined in Article II Sec 1 of the party constitution, unless elected at a State run primary.
- B. All Committee members shall be a resident and qualified elector of the district from which they are elected.
- C. The top two vote-earners in each race shall be elected. The top vote earner shall be assigned to "Seat A," the other to "Seat B."
- D. Unless otherwise required by ORC 3517.03 due to the Party attaining major party status, any qualified elector who would otherwise qualify under the other parts of this section may be elected to the Central Committee, regardless of their sex or gender.

## Section 2 (If Ballot Access is denied)

In the event the State denies public ballot access as a recognized party, Central Committee elections shall take place for each district, within a time period established by the Central Committee at a time and place agreed upon by the outgoing district representatives and certified to the Central Committee within the district, or if jointly held with another district, within five miles of the border of the district.

- A. The Central Committee Chair (or acting chair) shall appoint 2 members to join the Central Committee Secretary as the Election Committee, by November 1st of the year preceding the election. If the Central Committee Secretary is unavailable or the position is vacant, the Chair of the Central Committee shall fulfill the duties of the 3rd position of the Election Committee.
- B. Elections shall be held in even-numbered years in the same month as the official State Primary Election at a date or dates determined by the Central Committee unless the date

period is changed by resolution passed by the Central Committee no later than 75 days prior to the official Primary Election of the State of Ohio.

C, The date of the Election shall be chosen no later than 75 days prior to the official Primary Election of the State of Ohio. Announcement of each District election date, time, and location shall be communicated to the members of the Party in the respective Districts by reasonable and common methods no later than 60 days prior to the election. In the event that provision A of this bylaw is changed by Central Committee Resolution, the date, time, and location of the Election for each district shall be set no later than 75 days prior to the first date on which such elections may be held.

D. Nominations or declarations of intent to run for office shall be received by the Election Committee no later than 45 days prior to election; the candidates' names and addresses shall be communicated to the members of the Party by reasonable and common methods no later than 30 days prior to the election.

E. Only members who have not voted in another party's primary in the current election year, who live in the district, shall be eligible to vote for Central Committee members for that district.

F. Elections for Central Committee shall be conducted by secret ballot. The use of mail-in or absentee ballots shall not be denied, provided any such ballots are postmarked no later than five days prior to the election.

G. Election results shall be communicated and forwarded to the Election Committee no later than five business days after the last day on which elections may be held. Included with the results shall be a list of members who voted at each election. The Election Committee shall certify and communicate the results to the members of the Party by reasonable and common methods no later than the 10th day following the last day on which elections may be held.

H. If a district has no representation, the LPO State Central Committee Chair is permitted to manage or delegate the management of a district election for the LPO State Central Committee.

I. If the outgoing representatives fail to meet the requirements of Section 2.B., the LPO State Central Committee Chair is permitted to manage or delegate the management of a district election for the LPO State Central Committee.

J - Temporary Map: For the 2022 Central Committee election and Central Committee term that ends with the 2024 election, the LPO recognizes the Congressional District Map used for the Ohio 2022 Primary election that began with early voting on April 5th 2022.

K - Temporary Deadlines: For the 2022 LPO Central Committee election, August 2nd will be the date all deadlines in Bylaw 200 Section 2 will be backdated by where "Ohio State Primary" is used.

L - Sunset Clause for Temporary Provisions: All 3 subsections added in this motion (J, K, L) that reference specifically the 2022 Cent Comm election are to be automatically stricken from our bylaws at the conclusion of the 2024 Cent Comm election. Subsection A to be automatically changed back from “75 days” to “120 days prior to the Ohio primary”, after the conclusion of the 2022 Cent Comm election.

## Section 3 (Central Committee Organization)

Each newly elected Central Committee shall, within fifteen days of certification of the elections, meet and organize itself by the election of a Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary, and such other offices as the Central Committee may determine in accordance with section 3517.04 of the Ohio Revised Code.

A. The Treasurer of the Central Committee may not have served as Treasurer, Deputy Treasurer, or Assistant Treasurer of the Executive Committee during any portion of the preceding Central Committee term and may not hold any of the aforementioned positions concurrently.

## Section 4 (Executive Committee Elections)

The Central Committee shall elect an Executive Committee as provided for in Article V of the Constitution of the Party. During odd-numbered years, and shall hold the elections at the Central Committee’s first meeting during that year, but no later than March 15th.

A. Nominations for the first ballot of officers of the Executive Committee, along with all supporting documentation, shall be submitted to the Chair of the Central Committee no later than 7 days prior to the Central Committee Organizational Meeting or any subsequent Executive Committee elections.

1. This rule may be overturned for any election with a two-thirds majority of the Central Committee.

B. The Central Committee shall confer upon the Executive Committee all its duties and responsibilities except those powers it retains in accordance with the Party Constitution, or where otherwise required by law. The Executive Committee shall have responsibility for and shall be authorized to act for the Central Committee in all things pertaining to the operation, organization, business, and well-being of the Party.

C. The term of any At-Large member of the Executive Committee who fails to retain their Central Committee seat shall end and the At-Large seat be vacant at the call-to- order of the Organizational Meeting of the newly-elected Central Committee. The Central Committee shall fill the vacated seat via election during their Organizational Meeting.

## Section 5 (Central Committee Vacancies)

In the event of a vacancy on the Central Committee caused by death, resignation, failure to elect, abdication, or removal from the district from which a committee member was chosen, the vacancy may be filled by a majority vote of the remaining members of the Central Committee without regard to gender. (3517.05 of the Ohio Revised Code)

## Section 6 (Central Committee Abdication)

Central Committee members are expected to attend all meetings as a representative for their district and can be removed from his or her position due to excessive meeting absences or district residency changes.

A. Any Central Committee member who does not participate in two (2) out of three (3) consecutive meetings, without an excused absence, shall be considered to have abdicated their seat. Their seat shall be considered vacant and will not count towards quorum. His or her seat may be filled in the regular manner after the conclusion of the second meeting the member has missed. The Chair of the Central Committee shall be responsible for communicating the abdication ruling to the member in question. A Central Committee member shall notify the Chair of the Central Committee of an excused absence prior to the meeting. Excused absences shall be limited to 1 per term, and shall only be in the case of other local, state, or national party activities already scheduled; or due to personal or family illness or other incident that makes participation impossible.

B. Members of the Central Committee are responsible for updating their contact information, including, but not limited to, their residence, mailing address, phone and email address, with the Chair and Secretary of the Central Committee.

C. Any member of the Central Committee who is removed through part A of this section shall be ineligible to sit on the Central Committee through the remainder of their term. Removal by abdication shall be valid grounds for the Party to have an individual removed from the ballot for Central Committee by filing an appropriate protest as provided in the Ohio Revised Code 3501.39.

D. In compliance with ORC 3517.02, a Central Committee member who changes residence outside of their Congressional District must notify the Central Committee Chair and Central Committee Secretary and surrender their seat within thirty (30) days. Any such member would be immediately eligible for consideration to fill any open seat in their new district of residence.

## Section 7 (Quorum)

Quorum shall consist of a majority of the filled positions of the Central Committee.

## Section 8 (Central Committee Meetings)

The Central Committee shall meet at least twice each year.



A. "Special Meetings" as defined in Robert's Rules may be called by the Committee Chair or upon petition of one-third of seated Central Committee members. Petition by Central Committee members must be made within a 14-day period and communicated to both the Committee Chair and Secretary by writing or email.

B. With the exception of the Central Committee Organizational Meeting, where Ohio Revised Code imposed deadlines may not allow for sufficient lead time, All members of the Central Committee must be given no less than a two week notice of each meeting, its agenda of business, and location.

C. The two week notice requirement may be waived in an emergency as defined by the Chair, and the reasons for the emergency shall be included in the meeting minutes. The emergency status is subject to a between-meeting vote using procedures defined by Section E of this Bylaw, or as the first order of business at the emergency meeting. Business not disclosed by the two week agenda may be considered if permitted by a two-thirds majority of the Central Committee.

1. No bylaw change may be considered as an emergency unless that change is needed to comply with a court order or render moot a filed legal challenge.

D. Save in an emergency, meetings of the Central Committee must be held within the State of Ohio.

1. Failure or inability to attend a meeting held outside the State of Ohio, regardless of available alternate methods of attendance, will not be counted against a member with regards to abdication (Bylaw 200, Section 6).

E. The Central Committee may conduct business between meetings provided that established notice and secret ballot requirements are still met.

1. The details of the voting process are defined in the Standard Operating Procedures.

- a. Details of the voting process must be made available to members of the Party, the public, or the media upon request.

- b. Changes to the process will be announced to members of the Committee through reasonable and common methods within 2 days. Such changes will be subject to challenge and amendment for a period of 10 days following the announcement of such changes. Any change not challenged will be considered accepted and in effect thereafter.

- c. Challenges shall be completed using the pre-existing voting process.

- d. The Chair may establish a different process for different types of voting held between meetings including, but not limited to, mail voting, email voting, teleconference voting, and web conference voting.

2. All business conducted between meetings will be included in the minutes of the next scheduled, emergency, or "Special Meeting."

a. For votes cast between meetings that do not require a secret ballot, the minutes will reflect a roll call vote listing to allow for full review of actions taken.

b. Votes requiring a secret ballot appear in the minutes with a logically ordered list of those voting, a separate list of those not voting ordered using the same logical arrangement, and the total of all votes cast.

3. Quorum for votes cast between meetings will be 60% of the Central Committee seats filled on the final day of voting. Votes that fail to meet quorum will automatically be added to the next meeting agenda, regardless of any other notification requirements.

F. The Secretary of the Central Committee will make the meeting minutes available to all members within fourteen days of all meetings.

## Section 9 (Electronic Attendance)

A. A member of any Committee may, at the discretion of the committee, fully participate in the proceedings of a meeting via telephone conference call, video conference, or other means of remote participation. A member so participating shall be counted as part of quorum and shall have all the rights, privileges, and responsibilities as if present, except where a secret ballot is required.

B. Elections for officers and replacement of statewide candidates after a primary election as required by law will be conducted using a secret ballot method defined by the Central Committee Chair.

## Section 10 (Resignations)

### Section 10 - Resignations

A. For electronic/between meeting business: except for the position of Central Committee Chair, a resignation submitted either in writing or by email by any member or officer of the Executive Committee or Central Committee, shall be accepted upon acknowledged receipt by the Central Committee Chair and notice posted in the Central Committee electronic forum. In case of resignation by the Central Committee Chair, the same requirements as above apply except it need be submitted to and acknowledged by the Central Committee Vice Chair.

The receiving and acknowledging officer shall notify the Central Committee secretary for the purpose of recording minutes and the LPO IT director for the purpose of updating the party website and electronic forum access. If the Central Committee secretary position or the IT director position are vacant, other officers or directors who can act in that capacity will handle these responsibilities.

B. Resignations from any Central Committee or Executive Committee member that occur during an in-person Central Committee meeting shall be accepted by the chair and noted in the minutes.

# Bylaw 300 – Executive Committee

## Section 1 (Paid Staff)

The Executive Committee may hire paid staff (W2 employees and contractors), subject to a roll-call vote that will be included in the Executive Committee’s meeting minutes.

- A. The Executive Committee shall set job descriptions and oversee any staff.
- B. Officers shall retain their vote on the Executive Committee and be counted towards quorum, regardless of compensation.
- C. A paid LPO employee may not be a member of the Party Executive Committee

## Section 2 (Quorum)

Quorum shall consist of 60% of the Executive Committee.

## Section 3 (Access to Standard Operating Procedures)

Each member of the Executive Committee must commit to reading and understanding the Standard Operating Procedures as set in these bylaws. An electronic copy of the Standard Operating Procedure shall be made available to each member of and candidate for the Executive Committee.

## Section 4 (Party Headquarters)

A party headquarters shall be maintained within 50 miles of the State capitol building.

# Bylaw 310 - Executive Committee Officers

## Section 1 (Chair)

The Chair of the Executive Committee will have the following duties, responsibilities, and restrictions:

- A. Maintain and direct the operation of the party headquarters.
- B. At the discretion of the Chair, conduct business between meetings using a methodology to be defined in the Standard Operating Procedures.
- C. Create committees and appoint individuals as may be necessary.
  - 1. The Executive Committee Chair shall appoint, nominate for hiring, or direct that a volunteer/employee/contractor search be conducted for individuals to be Directors of Divisions, whose titles, descriptions, and duties will be included within the Standard Operating Procedures.
  - 2. The Executive Committee Chair may create a new Division with consent of the Executive Committee, after presenting a vision and demonstrating that the new structure is necessary.
  - 3. The Executive Committee Chair may, with consent of the Executive Committee, eliminate a Division if it proves to be unnecessary.
- D. Establish the date, time, location, and agenda of all Executive Committee meetings. The agenda must be distributed to the members of the Executive Committee and Divisional leadership at least seven days prior to the meeting date.
- E. Issue directives clarifying the operations or policies affecting general party operations or procedures, including guidelines for divisions and committees under the supervision of the Executive Committee.
  - 1. Such directives may be amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Executive or Central Committee.
  - 2. If a directive is acted upon (amended or repealed) by both the Executive and Central Committees, the actions of the Central Committee shall override any taken by the Executive Committee.

3. Any directive amended by the Executive or Central Committees may not be altered by the issuing officer alone for the duration of their current term of office.

4. Unless stated otherwise within a directive, or amended or repealed by further directive(s) or Committee action, the effects of directives shall be perpetual and will be included in the Standard Operating Procedures.

F. Perform all other duties prescribed by statute or usually exercised by the Chair and not inconsistent with the Constitution and Bylaws of the Party.

G. The Chair of the LPO State Executive Committee will not be an officer of the LPO State Central Committee. An acting Chair may hold an officer position until such time as the Central Committee elects a new Chair.

H. The Chair shall provide an annual report with the assistance of the Division Directors and other members of the Executive Committee, preferably to be done at the LPO State Convention or annual meeting. The Central Committee may determine what form must be followed in making this report.

## Section 2 (Vice Chair)

The Vice Chair of the Executive Committee shall have the following duties, responsibilities, and restrictions:

A. Perform the duties of the Chair in the event of Chair's absence, death, removal from office, resignation, removal from the State of Ohio, or inability to act, until a new Chair is elected.

B. Learn the duties of and assist the Chair as designated by the Chair.

## Section 3 (Secretary)

The Secretary of the Executive Committee shall have the following duties, responsibilities, and restrictions:

A. Be in charge of maintaining all official documents of the Executive Committee.

B. Prepare all necessary notes, minutes, and other documents.

C. Make available to all members the minutes of all meetings within ten days of the meeting.

D. Keep and be the custodian of the permanent books and records of the Party, except financial records.

E. Keep and maintain official copies of the Party's Standard Operating Procedures, Directives, and any other Standing Rules of the Party, as adopted by a majority of the Executive Committee.

F. File with the Ohio Secretary of State a copy of the Party Constitution and Bylaws within thirty days of adoption or amendment as required by law.

G. File Party logos and trademarks with the Ohio Secretary of State to protect the party brand as directed by the Chair or the Executive Committee.

H. File with the Ohio Secretary of State a list of members of the Central Committee and Executive Committee within thirty days of their election or appointment as required by law.

I. Perform all other duties prescribed by statute or usually exercised by the Secretary and not inconsistent with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standard Operating Procedures of the Party.

J. Ensure that the latest version of the Party Constitution and Bylaws are publicly available via reasonable and common methods.

K. In the event of the Secretary's absence, the deputy Secretary appointed by the Executive Committee shall perform the duties of the Secretary, except he or she shall not have a vote on the Executive Committee.

L. Issue directives clarifying the operations or policies affecting operations or procedures directly pertaining to the duties of the Secretary.

1. Such directives may be amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Executive or Central Committee.

2. If a directive is acted upon (amended or repealed) by both the Executive and Central Committees, the actions of the Central Committee shall override any taken by the Executive Committee.

3. Any directive amended by the Executive or Central Committees may not be altered by the issuing officer alone for the duration of their current term of office.

## Section 4 (Treasurer)

The Treasurer of the Executive Committee shall have the following duties, responsibilities, and restrictions:

A. Receive all funds belonging to the Party and keep proper books of account on all monies.

B. Expend such funds belonging to the Party as have been approved in accordance with Party Constitution, Bylaws, and Standard Operating Procedures.

C. Establish such funds as may be necessary to ensure proper accounting and treatment of all monies, based upon the laws of the United States of America and the State of Ohio.

D. Maintain proper financial reporting status and frequency as determined by applicable regulatory agencies at the federal and state level.

E. File the proper forms to all applicable regulatory agencies at the federal and state level within two weeks of succeeding a previous Treasurer to be identified as the new Treasurer.

F. Expend funds only through check, electronic transfer, or other common methods which allow for a detailed audit trail. Cash is not an acceptable method of expenditure.

G. Provide all financial records as requested by the Audit Committee within 21 days of any such request.

H. Perform all other duties prescribed by statute or usually exercised by the Treasurer and not inconsistent with the Constitution, Bylaws, and Standard Operating Procedures of the Party.

I. In the event of the Treasurer's absence, the deputy Treasurer designated by the Executive Committee shall perform the duties of the Treasurer, except he or she shall not have a vote on the Executive Committee.

J. File the proper forms to all applicable regulatory agencies at the federal and state level within two weeks of appointing a Deputy Treasurer to allow the Deputy Treasurer to be identified as an authorized person of account.

K. The Treasurer and Deputy Treasurer shall not be permitted to serve on the Audit Committee during their terms of office or appointment.

L. Issue directives clarifying the operations or policies affecting operations or procedures directly pertaining to the duties of the Treasurer.

1. Such directives may be amended or repealed by a majority vote of the Executive or Central Committee.

2. If a directive is acted upon (amended or repealed) by both the Executive and Central Committees, the actions of the Central Committee shall override any taken by the Executive Committee.

3. Any directive amended by the Executive or Central Committees may not be altered by the issuing officer alone for the duration of their current term of office.



# Bylaw 315 - Censure/Punitive Action of Internal Management

## Section 1 (Applicability)

Members of Internal Management, which includes members and officers of the Executive Committee and Central Committee, or appointees of either committee, may be formally accused by the Central Committee of misconduct or neglect of duty, or previously non-disclosed felony convictions or new felony indictment(s). Only one member may be charged at a hearing, and only one hearing may be conducted at a time.

## Section 2 (Internal Indictment)

A. In order for a member of Internal Management to be indicted, three members of the Central Committee must state their reasons and recommend in writing, or in electronic form, to begin a proceeding. These recommendations must be received within a reasonable time frame from one another; no complaint older than thirty days shall count towards this number.

1. The ExComm chair may submit a recommendation on behalf of Party members who have sent complaints but who are not members of the Central Committee, to be included with the Central Committee complaints (does not count towards the required minimum complaints from Cent Comm members).

B. The accused member of Internal Management shall be notified in writing or electronically within two weeks' that the action by the Central Committee is being contemplated and shall be provided the reasons for the proceeding. Said member shall be given a reasonable opportunity to make an appearance and produce evidence and witnesses in his or her own favor prior to any vote being taken.

## Section 3 (Hearing)

A "Special Meeting" (as defined by Robert's Rules) of the Central Committee shall be called to occur no later than 30 days after the accused is notified, to initiate a proceeding. All members of the Central Committee must be notified of the meeting no less than two weeks in advance by normal written or electronic means. Electronic attendance is not permitted for this meeting. If the scheduled meeting doesn't meet quorum, another meeting for the

proceedings shall be scheduled to occur within 30 days.

## Section 4 (Conviction and Penalty)

A. Conviction shall require either a majority of the entire seated Central Committee or two-thirds of those present, whichever is greater. It may include punitive actions including but not limited to censure, or removal from office. The accused member's seat doesn't count towards the required vote totals and the accused does not get a vote in the proceedings.

B. The period of any punitive action taken shall be determined by the Central Committee.

C. The majority of delegates at a State Convention may reduce the time period of punitive action.

D. Nothing in this Bylaw shall prevent a member of the Central Committee from being removed pursuant to Bylaw 200 Section 6, or any other Bylaw.

# Bylaw 320 - Budgets and Expenses

## Section 1 (Budget)

The Party shall have an annual budget, fixed to the calendar year, which shall be approved by the Executive Committee and available to any Party member upon request.

## Section 2 (Expenses)

All expenses must be approved by the Executive Committee.

A. Expenses outlined in an annual budget and approved by the Executive Committee shall be considered approved expenses, provided that actual costs are at or lower than the budgeted amount.

B. All expenses not outlined in the budget or expenses in excess of the budgeted amount shall require a majority vote of the Executive Committee for approval.

## Section 3 (Debt)

The Executive Committee may incur debt with term of no more than 4 years pursuant to Article V, Section 5A of the Party Constitution.

A. Exception can be made for debt incurred for the purchase of real property or capital expenditures.

B. Any debt incurred must have a pre-defined rate of interest and terms of payment.

C. The total non-mortgage debt for the Party may not exceed \$5,000 at any one time, including interest and past salary obligations.

## Section 4 (Fund Disbursement)

Funds from the Treasury of the Libertarian Party of Ohio shall not be used to take action in the name of any person or entity, without their prior knowledge and expressed consent.

# Bylaw 330 – Party Logo and Brand

## Section 1 (Approval)

The Executive Committee of the Party shall approve and enforce the use of any Party logo and brand. The official logo and its variations will be kept by the Executive Committee Secretary as pursuant to Bylaw 310, Section 3D of these Bylaws and the Party Standard Operating Procedures.

# Bylaw 340 – Standard Operating Procedures

## Section 1 (Manual)

The Executive Committee must create and maintain the **Standard Operating Procedure Manual** for the Party. The Standard Operating Procedure Manual may be organized and maintained in any format deemed reasonable by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee must transmit to the Executive Committee Secretary a complete and current copy, to be maintained in the State Office. The Standard Operating Procedure Manual shall define the operating parameters and responsibilities of the various units of the Party's operations.

A. The **Standard Operating Procedure Manual** shall include a section for each standing committee as appointed by the Central Committee Chair, and a section for any other operations of the Central Committee as deemed appropriate by the Central Committee Chair.

1. The Central Committee Chair is authorized to update these sections of the Standard Operating Procedure Manual as needed.
2. The Central Committee may update these sections of the Standard Operating Procedure Manual with a majority vote. Such votes may be done in executive session.

B. The **Standard Operating Procedure Manual** shall include a section for each standing committee outside of any division as appointed by the Executive Committee Chair.

1. The Executive Committee Chair is authorized to update the section of the Standard Operating Procedure Manual pertaining to each such standing committee.
2. The Executive Committee Chair is authorized to add or remove the section of the Standard Operating Procedure Manual pertaining to a standing committee upon the creation or elimination of such a committee.

C. The **Standard Operating Procedure Manual** shall include a section for each Division appointed by the Executive Committee.

1. The Executive Committee Chair is responsible for setting the scope of each division, the responsibilities of the Director(s) of each division, and is responsible for updating the Standard Operating Procedure Manual and notifying the Director of each division of any changes thereto in a timely and reasonable manner.

2. The Director of each Division is authorized to update the section of the Standard Operating Procedure Manual pertaining to their Division as needed, except the scope of their division and the responsibilities of the Director. Directors may delegate their responsibilities, but remain ultimately accountable for these responsibilities

D. The **Standard Operating Procedure Manual** must include a section listing the directives of the various Central and Executive Committee officers, as issued in the legal pursuance of their duties.

1. Officers who have the power to add, remove, or amend directives specifically related to their office shall keep these directives current within the Standard Operating Procedures Manual.

E. The Executive Committee retains the privilege to add, remove, and amend the **Standard Operating Procedure Manual**.

1. The Executive Committee may amend any section of the Standard Operating Procedure Manual that is not controlled by the Central Committee Officers or the Central Committee with a majority vote. Such votes may be done in executive session.

F. The Executive Committee Secretary (or outgoing Secretary in the event of a newly-elected Secretary) shall provide the most current copy of the **Standard Operating Procedure Manual** to each member of the Central and Executive Committees at the start of each member's term, and upon the request of any member of the Executive or Central Committees in the manner specified in the Standard Operating Procedure Manual.

# Bylaw 500 - National Conventions

## Section 1 (Delegation Priority)

The Party will be represented by delegates and alternates at the National Libertarian Convention by members of the State Party or by certified candidates for partisan office under the Libertarian label (LP). Delegates and alternates must have signed the LP pledge.

Preference will be given in the following order, and whichever category fills the last available spots for delegate and alternate, the applicants in that category will be prioritized by date/time of application.

- A. The Delegation Chair
- B. Members of the State Central Committee
- C. Members of the State Executive Committee
- D. LP Incumbents, in order as found in sections H-M
- E. Appointed Directors, Deputy Directors, and Deputy positions of the State Executive Committee
- F. Chairs of the affiliated County Central Committees
- G. Chairs of the affiliated County Executive Committees
- H. LP candidates for statewide office, including Ohio Supreme Court
- I. LP candidates for Federal office
- J. LP candidates for Ohio House, Senate, and Appeals Court
- K. LP candidates for state level non-partisan office
- L. LP candidates for any local partisan and judicial office
- M. LP candidates for any local non-partisan office
- N. Party members who are LNC officers, at-large or regional representatives or alternates to the LNC, or who serve on other committees or hold other positions with the LNC except staff as prohibited by LNC rules.
- O. Members of the management or committees of the Party or affiliated counties
- P. Other LP members in Ohio, as approved by the State Executive Committee.

## Section 2 (Cutoff)

Delegate priority for the State of Ohio will be finalized 40 days prior to the start of the National Convention. Any requests received after the cutoff will receive the lowest priority, and will be subject to the approval of the Delegation Chair.

## Section 3 (Delegation Chair)

A Delegation Chair shall be appointed by a vote of the Executive Committee no later than 60 days prior to the start of the Convention.

A. The Delegation Chair shall act as a representative of the State Party during the National Convention.

B. The Delegation Chair shall have the authority and responsibility to manage the affairs of the Delegation for the National Convention. The Chair may delegate this authority.

## Section 4 (Vacancies)

After the start of the convention, the Party may consider LP pledge- signing citizens of voting age from other states to join their delegation if Ohio delegate positions remain or become open. The Delegation Chair will approve each addition.

A. An out-of-state member of the Ohio delegation may be removed from the delegation with a petition signed by  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the present, Ohio-residing delegates.



# Bylaw 510 - State Conventions

## Section 1 (Timing)

The Party should hold a Regular Convention in even-numbered years, the date and site to be selected by the Central Committee.

A. A Regular Convention shall be held no later than 90 days before the general election, unless the ORC requires a different timeframe for the purpose of nominating a slate of candidates or electors.

B. A Regular Convention may consider such business as the delegates or Central Committee may deem appropriate.

C. The Central Committee shall appoint the Convention Oversight Committee from the members in good standing.

1. The Convention Oversight Committee shall consist of 5 members and will elect a chair from their membership.

2. The Convention Oversight Committee shall appoint the various Convention committees as necessary from the national or state Party membership, provided they are not affiliated with any other political party; these may include, but are not limited to Credentials, Platform, and National Convention Committees. These Committees shall have such functions and duties as prescribed by the Standing Rules of the Party and by the Convention Oversight Committee.

D. A Special Convention may be called as defined in Article VII of the Party Constitution and should be held at least 75 days prior to the General Election. Section C of this Bylaw shall apply to Special Conventions.

## Section 2 (Delegation Priority)

Delegates to the regular State Convention will be as follows, pursuant to Ohio Revised Code section 3513.11 (until major party status is attained).

A. Candidates for election to state offices, except judicial offices

B. Candidate for election to the United States Senate

C. Candidates for election to the United States House of Representatives

D. Candidates to the Ohio General Assembly

E. Incumbent Libertarians for any of the above offices in years when there is no election for a successor to be held.

F. Members of the State Central Committee

G. Members of the State Executive Committee

H. Chairs of affiliated County Central Committees

I. Chairs of affiliated County Executive Committees

J. Up to 500 additional delegates approved by the State Central Committee.

## Section 3 (Public Notice)

Public notice of no less than ninety days shall be given for all regular conventions by reasonable and common methods.

Public notice of no less than thirty days shall be given for all special conventions by reasonable and common methods.

## Section 5 (Fees)

The Central Committee Chair and the Convention Oversight Committee may establish, with guidance from the Executive Committee, such registration and attendance fees as may be required. These fees shall be established no later than 90 days prior to a Regular Convention and no later than 30 days prior to a Special Convention.

# Bylaw 600 - Endorsements

## Section 1 (Opposition Endorsements)

No committee, officer, or appointee of the Party shall endorse any candidate running in opposition to a candidate endorsed or nominated by the Party or the National Libertarian Party.

## Section 2 (Presidential Endorsements)

The Party, at the state or county development level, shall not endorse a nominee for the Libertarian Party Presidential race prior to the State Convention held in Presidential years.

A. The delegates to a State Convention may endorse a nominee for the Libertarian Party Presidential primary race before the National Convention.

B. In the event the Secretary of State denies the Party ballot access, the Executive Committee may collect petition signatures for a "favorite son" independent ticket of one Presidential and one Vice Presidential candidate who have pledged in writing to withdraw from the race at an appropriate time for the National Libertarian Party nominees to be substituted in accordance with ORC 3513.31(F).

## Section 3 (Party Endorsements)

The Party shall not endorse or oppose any candidate for State or County Affiliate Central Committee.

# Bylaw 610 - Campaign Funding

## Section 1 (Funding)

The Party may provide funding to a candidate it has endorsed or to the Libertarian Party Presidential nominee.

## Section 2 (Restrictions)

The Party shall not provide funding to any candidate for State or County Affiliate Central Committee

# Bylaw 620 – Presidential Primary Election

While there is currently no Presidential Primary Election in Ohio for minor parties per the Ohio Revised Code, the Libertarian Party of Ohio defers the nomination for President of the United States to the National Libertarian Party convention.

In any case where the 100th day before the general election has been reached and candidates for President and/or Vice President have not been selected by the National Libertarian Party convention, the Central Committee of the Libertarian Party of Ohio shall meet to select candidates, and thereafter shall submit those nominees in accordance with Ohio Revised Code 3505.10(B)(3). Any meeting called under this bylaw shall be considered an "Emergency Meeting" as defined in LPO [Bylaw 200](#) Section 8. The Emergency status of this meeting shall not be subject to challenge.

At such time that the Libertarian Party of Ohio is defined as a "major" party or assumes responsibility for Presidential Primary Elections, the Central Committee of the party is responsible for organizing rules governing primary elections and allocation of delegates in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code.

# Bylaw 710 - County Affiliates

## Section 1 (Requisites)

Each County Affiliate of the Party shall meet the following criteria:

- A. Membership-elected Controlling Committee.
- B. File campaign finance reports to the appropriate government agencies, as required.
- C. Report leadership information, Bylaws, and any necessary information to their local Board of Elections, as required.
- D. Provide the Party with a copy of updated Bylaws within 30 days of adoption or amendment.
- E. Provide the Party with a copy of the Controlling Committee membership rosters within 30 days of any change.
- F. File an annual report with the Executive Committee or its designee on the Affiliate's activities.
- G. Communicate to the Executive Committee or its designee a list of all Libertarian and Affiliate-endorsed candidates on the ballot in the Affiliate's county within 7 days of the filing date and maintain the currency of that list through the General Election.
- H. Communicate to the Executive Committee or its designee the withdrawal of any filed candidate in the Affiliate's county for any reason.
- I. Communicate to the Executive Committee or its designee the endorsements of candidates within 7 days.

## Section 2 (State Party Recognition)

The Executive Committee shall approve the formation of any new affiliate. The Party, with a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee, may choose to disaffiliate a County Affiliate. The reasons for any such vote, and the result of that vote shall be communicated to the Central Committee within 2 business days.

# Amendments

- Adopted on April 05, 2008 at the annual state convention.
- Amended 9/18/11
- Amended 5/12/12 – See CentCom Meeting minutes dated 5/12/12
- Amended 7/14/12 – See CentCom Meeting minutes dated 7/14/12
- Amended 3/8/14 – See 2014 Convention Meeting Minutes
- Amended 4/5/14 – See CentCom Meeting minutes dated 4/5/14
- Amended 10/10/14 (Bylaw 340) See CentCom minutes same date
- Amended 01/17/15 (Bylaw 320, Section 4 added) See CentCom minutes same date
- Amended 09/19/15 (Bylaw 200, Section 9) See CentCom minutes same date
- Amended 03/25/17 (Bylaws 100,120,200 (Section 4),300,310,315,320,330,620. See Central Committee Minutes same date.
- Amended 07/22/17 (Bylaws 200 (except Sections 3 & 4), 340, 500, 510, 600, 610, 700, and 710. See Central Committee Minutes same date.
- Amended 11/11/17 Bylaw 200, Section 2A, 2B, and 2F. See Central Committee Minutes same date.
- Amended 05/19/2018 Bylaw 200, Section 3A and Bylaw 500, Section 1A. See Convention Minutes same date.
- Amended 11/16/2019 Bylaw 100, Section 1; Bylaw 200, Section 1, 2A, 2B, and 3 Bylaw 310 Section 1B, 1C, 1D, 1G, 3F, 3G, 3H, 3K, and 4I. See Central Committee Minutes same date.
- Amended 06/06/2020 Bylaw 620. See Central Committee Minutes same date.
- Amended 07/25/2020 Bylaw 120, Section 2 and Section 3; Bylaw 200, Section 4, 8B, 8C, and 9; Bylaw 510, Section 1 and 4. See Convention Minutes same date.
- Amended 01/09/2021 Bylaw 710, Section 1 and Section 2. See Special Convention Minutes same date.
- Amended 03/10/2021 Bylaw 510, Section 1A. See Central Committee Minutes from following meeting.
- Amended 09/25/2021 Bylaw 200, add Section 10 (Resignations) see meeting minutes from same date.
- Amended 10/13/2021 Bylaw 500, Section 1 (Delegation Priority) in between meeting business, no Cent Comm meeting yet to have minutes published for.
- Amended 04/30/2022 at Convention, see Convention minutes.
- Amended 5/4/2022 by Cent Comm between meeting business, Bylaw 200 added temporary sections J, K, and L.