

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE RULES COMMITTEE  
OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NEW YORK  
HELD ON THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024 ON THE ZOOM MEETING APP**

**MEMBERS PRESENT**

Andrew Kolstee, Chair  
Mark Braiman  
Daniel Castello  
Pietro Geraci  
Paul Grindle

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Christopher Olenski  
Michael Rebmann  
Karyn Thompson

An informal discussion began at 7:15 p.m. since it was determined that quorum was not present.

Pietro Geraci entered the meeting at 8:01 p.m., establishing quorum.

The meeting was called to order at 8:04 p.m. by Andrew Kolstee, Chair. It was determined that quorum was present.

**The reading of the minutes of June 11, 2024 and July 30, 2024 meetings of the Rules Committee were waived and the minutes were approved** without objection.

Motion by Mark Braiman to **recommend Proposal O as follows to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Rules of the Libertarian Party** was seconded by Pietro Geraci and passed by voice vote.

**Article 6. State Committee**

6.1. **AUTHORITY.** The State Committee shall be the highest governing body of the LPNY. It shall have full authority to set policies and goals for the LPNY, establish committees, raise and allocate financial resources, and hire staff.

~~7.1-6.1.1. AUTHORITY.~~ **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** The Executive Committee shall consist of all the Officers of the LPNY. This committee shall carry on the duties and exercise the powers of the State Committee when it is not in session or stands in recess. The Executive Committee shall, in any county where no County Affiliate has been organized pursuant to these rules and the Election Law, exercise and discharge within such counties all of the powers, functions, and duties of a County Affiliate as permitted

by these rules or by law. Any action of the Executive Committee may be overruled by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Committee.

6.2. **MEMBERS.** Members of the State Committee must be LPNY Members and elected in accordance with these Rules. If at any time the LPNY is unable to elect a new State Committee under the auspices of the New York State Board of Elections, the members of the State Committee shall be elected in accordance with Article ~~6.4.~~ 6.5. Members of the State Committee shall also include any LPNY Member who fills a vacancy in the State Committee or is an Officer ~~elected to the Executive Committee.~~

6.3. **COMPOSITION...**

6.4. **ELECTION THROUGH THE BOARD OF ELECTIONS...**

6.5. **ELECTION THROUGH THE LPNY...**

~~6.6. OFFICERS...~~ [see below - merging with Executive Committee into Article 7]

~~6.7.~~ 6.6. **VACANCIES.** ~~6.7.1. STATE COMMITTEE.~~ If a vacancy exists on the State Committee, the position shall be vacant until filled by election by a majority vote of the State Committee. Nominations for filling any vacancy may be submitted to the Secretary at least seven (7) days in advance of the meeting in which the filling of the vacancy shall be considered. Once the filling of vacancies begins, the Secretary shall present the nominations received. Subsequent nominations may be made on the floor prior to the election to fill such vacancies. The Chair shall request that each nominee is qualified to fill the vacancy and accepts the nomination in order to be entered into nomination to fill the vacancy they seek.

~~6.7.2. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.~~ If a vacancy occurs on the Executive Committee... [moved to Article 7]

~~6.8.~~ 6.7. **TERM.** State Committee members shall serve until the conclusion of the Organization Meeting following the election at which their successors are elected. State Committee members who move their residence out of their Judicial District but within the State of New York may keep their offices until the end of their term.

## Article 7. ~~Executive Committee Officers~~

~~6.6.7.1. OFFICERS: GENERAL.~~ The officers of the ~~State and Executive Committee~~ shall be the Chair, ~~1st~~ Vice-Chair, ~~2nd Vice-Chair,~~ Secretary, ~~and~~ Treasurer, Communications Director, Fundraising Director, Information Technology (IT) Director, Legislative Affairs Director, Outreach Director, Political Director, and Volunteer Director. ~~All officers shall be considered ex-officio members of the State Committee and shall have the same rights and privileges as any member of the State Committee.~~ ~~7.2. MEMBERSHIP.~~ The Executive Committee shall consist of the officers of the State Committee as defined in Article 6.5 and five (5) Members At Large elected by the State

~~Committee. There shall be no more than one (1) Member At Large from a single Judicial District. Members At Large, if not a member of the State Committee, shall be considered ex-officio members of the State Committee and shall have the same rights and privileges as any member of the State Committee. Only LPNY Members are eligible to be officers.~~ Within three days after the election a certificate stating the names and post office addresses of such officers shall be filed with the New York State Board of Elections as required by law.

~~6.8.1. OFFICER TERMS. Officer terms expire upon the conclusion of the next Organization Meeting held following the Organization Meeting in which they were elected.~~

~~7.4.2. TERM. All Executive Committee members~~ Officers shall be elected at the first State Committee meeting following the primary election in even-numbered years and shall serve a term of two (2) years or until their successors are duly elected as provided herein or by statute. ~~Executive Committee members who move out of their State Committee district but within the State of New York may keep their offices until the end of their term. All other officers shall be elected at the annual convention and shall serve a term of one (1) year or until their successors are duly elected.~~

**7.3. DUTIES OF OFFICERS.** Duties of such officers are provided in this section.

~~6.6.1.~~7.3.1. **CHAIR.** The Chair shall preside at all meetings of the State Committee. The Chair shall perform such duties as usually pertain to the office of Chair and shall perform such other duties as are assigned to the Chair by the State Committee. ~~7.3. PRESIDING OFFICER.~~ The Chair shall be the Presiding Officer for the purpose of signing and filing documents as provided by law. [\[merged these Chair duties\]](#)

~~6.6.2.~~7.3.2. **VICE-CHAIRS.** The ~~1st and 2nd~~ Vice-Chairs shall act as assistants to the Chair. The ~~1st~~ Vice-Chair shall preside in the absence of the Chair and shall assume all the duties of the Chair in the event the Chair is unable to execute the duties of the Chair. ~~The 2nd Vice-Chair shall assume such duties in the event that the 1st Vice-Chair is unable to execute such duties.~~

~~6.6.3.~~7.3.3. **SECRETARY.** The Secretary shall keep an accurate and complete record of the proceedings of all meetings of the State Committee and shall keep these records up-to-date and in order at the LPedia page containing the official minutes of the LPNY. At meetings of the State Committee and the Executive Committee, the Secretary shall present the minutes of the previous respective meeting for approval. In all elections and roll call votes, the Secretary shall call the roll of the voting members and shall keep an accurate tally of such votes. The Secretary with unanimous consent may dispense with a roll call vote. The Secretary may appoint assistants for this purpose and, in contested elections, with the consent of a majority of the members of the State Committee present and voting shall appoint an Elections Board which shall include one representative of

each contestant in question plus one additional member, so that the Board shall consist of an odd number of persons.

~~6.6.4.~~7.3.4. **TREASURER.** The Treasurer, or the Treasurer's designated agent, shall receive and give receipts for all monies paid to the LPNY and shall deposit the same in such bank or banks as shall have been designated by the State Committee. The Treasurer shall present a written report at each meeting of the State Committee or at any other time when so requested by the State Committee. The Treasurer shall, at the discretion of the State Committee, present the financial records of the LPNY for audit by such auditor(s) as the State Committee shall specify. Expenditures of funds shall be made only in accordance with regulations established by the State Committee.

~~6.6.5.~~7.3.5. **ASSISTANTS.** The Secretary and Treasurer may appoint another LPNY Member to serve as Assistant Secretary and Assistant Treasurer respectively in order to assist in their duties. Such appointment shall only be effective if confirmed by the Executive Committee.

#### **[DEFINITIONS TAKEN FROM POLICY MANUAL AND AMENDED]**

7.3.6. **COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR.** The Communications Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ Communications Division, which shall be led by the Communications Director. ~~The Division~~ is responsible for overseeing public relations, social media, content creation, and messaging. ~~The Division shall consist of a Communications Committee chaired by the Communications Director; and a Social Media Committee.~~

7.3.7. **FUNDRAISING DIRECTOR.** The Fundraising Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ Fundraising Division, which shall be led by the Fundraising Director. ~~The Division~~ shall be responsible for obtaining finances, including managing donor relationships, sponsorships, vendor relationships, and merchandising.

7.3.8. **IT DIRECTOR.** The IT Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ IT Division, which shall be led by the IT Director. ~~The Division~~ shall be responsible for administering the website, database management, and assisting other divisions with IT-related tasks as necessary.

7.3.9. **LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS DIRECTOR.** The Legislative Affairs Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ Legislative Affairs Division, which shall be ~~shall be led by the~~ Legislative Affairs Director. ~~The Division~~ is responsible for developing and policy; monitoring legislation, and building strategies to advance the party's message in the legislative process. ~~The Division shall consist of a Legislative Affairs Committee chaired by the Legislative Affairs Director. The Division may be further divided into subcommittees based on the category of issues.~~

7.3.10. **OUTREACH DIRECTOR.** The Outreach Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ Outreach Division, which shall be led by the Outreach Director. ~~The Division~~ shall be

responsible for ~~developing and implementing strategies for content creation, activism opportunities,~~ direct citizen action, networking with other organizations, coalition building, and developing County Affiliates and College Campus Affiliates.

**7.3.11. POLITICAL DIRECTOR.** The Political Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ Political Division, which shall be led by the Political Director. ~~The Division~~ shall be responsible for candidate acquisition, candidate support, and ~~supporting~~ elected Libertarians ~~Support.~~

**7.3.12. VOLUNTEER DIRECTOR.** The Volunteer Director shall oversee the ~~The~~ Volunteer Division, which shall be led by the Volunteer Director. ~~The Division~~ shall be responsible for volunteer coordination and organizing trainings. ~~The Division shall consist of a Personnel Committee chaired by the Personnel Director.~~

~~6.7.2.7.4. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. VACANCIES.~~ If a vacancy occurs ~~on the Executive Committee or the State Committee,~~ in any officer position, the position shall be filled in accordance with this section. Vacancies occur by death, resignation, removal, relocation out of state, or change of party enrollment to a choice other than Libertarian.

~~6.7.1.7.4.1. CHAIR.~~ If a vacancy exists in the office of Chair, the ~~1st~~ Vice-Chair shall serve as Acting Chair until the election of a new Chair at the next meeting of the full State Committee. ~~If the 1st Vice Chair declines to serve as Acting Chair, the 2nd Vice Chair shall serve as Acting Chair until the election of a new Chair at the next meeting of the full State Committee. If the 2nd Vice Chair declines to serve as Acting Chair, the Executive Committee shall appoint an Acting Chair at its next meeting, who shall serve as Acting Chair until a new Chair is elected.~~

~~6.7.2. 1ST VICE CHAIR.~~ If a vacancy exists in the office of 1st Vice Chair, the 2nd Vice Chair shall serve as the 1st Vice Chair for the remainder of the term.

~~6.7.3.7.4.3. OTHER OFFICERS.~~ If a vacancy exists in any other ~~the~~ officer position ~~of 2nd Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer,~~ the Executive Committee shall fill the vacancy, subject to ratification by a vote of the State Committee. The individual selected shall serve for the remainder of the term of the office vacated. If the ratification fails, the State Committee shall fill the vacancy.

~~6.7.4. AT-LARGE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS.~~ If a vacancy exists in an At-Large Executive Committee Member position, the position shall be vacant until filled by a majority vote of the State Committee. ~~The Executive Committee is not authorized to fill such vacancies.~~

Motion by Pietro Geraci to **recommend Proposal F2 as follows to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Rules of the Libertarian Party** failed due to lack of a second.

**6.2.1. SERVICE ON COMMITTEE REQUIREMENT.** All State Committee members must serve on at least one other state-level committee. Any member who does not select a committee will be assigned to one by the Chair or the Chair's designee within sixty (60) days of that member's assumption of office.

Motion by Pietro Geraci to **recommend Proposal L2 as follows to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Rules of the Libertarian Party** failed due to lack of a second.

**8.1.1. LIMITS ON DISCUSSION OF MOTIONS COMING FROM COMMITTEES.** No motion originating from a committee report may be discussed for more than ten (10) minutes. The motion must immediately be voted upon upon the expiration of this time.

Motion by Pietro Geraci to **recommend Proposal D as follows to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Rules of the Libertarian Party** was seconded by Mark Braiman and passed by voice vote.

~~11.6.~~ **11.3. CONSTITUTED COUNTY COMMITTEES.** When the number of Election District delegates elected at primary is sufficient to meet Election Law requirements, and an organization meeting is held, the County Affiliate shall be referred to as a **Libertarian Constituted** County Committee. No County Committee shall be recognized unless elected, organized, and constituted in accordance with the Election Law. County Committees shall adopt rules that are consistent with these Rules and Election Law.

~~11.3.1.4.~~ **GENERAL COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS.** In any county where ~~an insufficient number of Election District delegates were elected to form~~ a **Constituted** County Committee ~~is unable to be organized in accordance with Election Law,~~ a County Organization may be formed and affiliated in those counties when a convention is held to adopt county rules ~~consistent with Article 11.2 and~~ and elect officers. Quorum at the convention shall be four (4) LPNY Members residing in the county.

~~11.4.1.~~ **AFFILIATION CRITERIA.** ~~To qualify to be an affiliated County Organization,~~ ~~†~~The group that convened ~~in order to form a County Organization~~ must provide documentation to the **Executive** State Committee ~~of the following:~~ that a convention was held in accordance with these Rules, county rules were adopted, and officers were elected. ~~11.3.2.~~ **AFFILIATION.** Upon a majority vote of the ~~Executive Committee of~~ the State Committee, the group that met the criteria ~~for affiliation in Article 11.3~~ shall become an affiliated County Organization.

11.4.4.2. **NOTIFICATION.** Notice of the convention must be made to all LPNY Members in the county as follows ~~by one or more of the following options. 11.4.4.1.~~ The first notice is to be sent to the mailing address, email address, and/or telephone number of the LPNY member on record at the County Board of Elections ~~or the LPNY. The expense of mailing can be reduced by sending a notice by telephone.~~ The first notice must also include a clear statement of how notice of subsequent meetings will be provided. ~~11.4.4.2.~~ Subsequent notification shall be sufficient if it is posted on the County Organization's website or Facebook page.

11.3.3.4.3. **CERTIFICATION.** All County Affiliates shall be recertified as a County Affiliate to ensure they continue to meet the requirements of these Rules. All County Affiliates shall provide the latest copy of the County Rules and minutes of any convention or election to fill vacancies. A quorum of the Executive State Committee shall certify by a majority vote that such requirements have been met by March 31 in each odd-numbered year. County Affiliates that fail to meet such requirements may have their affiliation revoked in accordance with Article 12.

~~11.4.1. CONVENTION. A convention, organization meeting, or special meeting held in accordance with Article 11.2.1. The convention may be held in person, by video teleconference, or a combination thereof. [moving and rewording to Rules governing County Organizations]~~

~~11.4.2. COUNTY RULES. The adoption of County Rules at said convention, organization meeting, or special meeting which contain the following provisions: [simplified in 11.4]~~

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~~11.4.2.1. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. A provision for the election of officers to terms not exceeding twenty five (25) months, elected through single non-transferable votes. [moving and rewording to Rules governing County Organizations]~~

~~11.4.2.3. OTHER PROVISIONS. All other provisions in the county rules must be consistent with Article 11.4. [Reworded in Article 11.5]~~

~~11.4.3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS. An election of officers of the County Committee.~~

11.5. **RULES GOVERNING COUNTY ORGANIZATIONS.** These provisions shall govern all County Organizations and shall supersede the County Rules.

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11.5.1. **MEMBERS.** LPNY Members residing in the county shall be the voting members of the County Organization. Officers are voting members of the County Organization by virtue of their office, but no individual may cast more than one vote.

11.5.2. **OFFICERS.** Each County Organization shall elect a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All officers and interim officers must be LPNY Members

residing in the county in which they serve. Terms of office shall not exceed twenty-five (25) months and officers must be elected through single non-transferable votes. If a County Affiliate is unable to fill all officer positions, two positions may be held by one member, except that the Chair may not also serve as the Treasurer.

11.5.3. **VACANCIES.** In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chair, the Vice-Chair shall succeed as the Chair of the County Organization, unless otherwise specified in the County Rules. All other vacancies on the County Organization shall be filled by a majority vote of the County Organization or in a manner determined by the County Organization. In the event that any County Affiliate officer position has been vacant for at least six (6) months, the State Committee may fill the vacancy with an interim officer until the County Affiliate elects a new officer.

11.5.4. **AUTHORITY.** Until a Constituted County Committee is elected in a given county by the enrolled voters of the Libertarian Party in accordance with the Election Law, a County Organization shall exercise all of the powers of a County Committee in their respective county as set forth herein and not prohibited by applicable law.

11.4.2.2.5.5. **QUARTERLY MEETINGS.** County Affiliates shall hold ~~A provision in the county rules for~~ meetings ~~of the full County Committee to be held~~ no less often than once per quarter, open to all county members and announced as provided in Article 8 of these rules.

~~11.4.1. CONVENTION. A convention, organization meeting, or special meeting held in accordance with Article 11.2.1. The convention may be held in person, by video teleconference, or a combination thereof.~~

11.5.5.6. **ELECTION DISTRICT DELEGATES.** The County Organization may appoint Election District Delegates. If they do so, they shall appoint no more than two (2) enrolled members of the Libertarian Party to represent each Election District in their county. Any enrolled member of the Libertarian Party residing in the county containing such Election District shall be appointed as an Election District delegate as long as there is a vacancy. An election shall be held if there are more candidates than Election District delegate positions. County Organizations shall determine the manner in which Election District delegates are appointed. Such appointment is not intended to be subject to Election Law 2-104.



Motion by Pietro Geraci to **recommend Proposal M as follows to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Rules of the Libertarian Party** was seconded by Daniel Castello.

#### **Article 17. Resolutions**

To provide the Libertarian Party with a means of expressing its official opinion on any issues ~~of public concern~~, resolutions may be passed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the State Committee. All resolutions shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary with the names of five (5) members of the State Committee co-sponsoring in order for the resolution to be considered.

**Proposal M was amended by inserting “full” as follows as indicated in purple.**

#### **Article 17. Resolutions**

To provide the Libertarian Party with a means of expressing its official opinion on any issues ~~of public concern~~, resolutions may be passed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the **full** State Committee. All resolutions shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary with the names of five (5) members of the State Committee co-sponsoring in order for the resolution to be considered.

Motion by Mark Braiman to **amend Proposal M as follows by inserting “at least seven (7) days in advance” as indicated in purple** failed due to lack of a second.

#### **Article 17. Resolutions**

To provide the Libertarian Party with a means of expressing its official opinion on any issues ~~of public concern~~, resolutions may be passed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the **full** State Committee. All resolutions shall be submitted in writing **at least seven (7) days in advance** to the Secretary with the names of five (5) members of the State Committee co-sponsoring in order for the resolution to be considered.

The original motion to **recommend Proposal M as follows to the State Committee for adoption as an amendment to the Rules of the Libertarian Party as amended** passed 2-1.

#### **Article 17. Resolutions**

To provide the Libertarian Party with a means of expressing its official opinion on any issues ~~of public concern~~, resolutions may be passed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of the **full** State Committee. All resolutions shall be submitted in writing to the Secretary with the names of five (5) members of the State Committee co-sponsoring in order for the resolution to be considered.

The next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

Andrew Martin Kolstee,  
Chair