

Constitution & By-Laws Committee

2021 Annual Report and Amendments

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee was appointed at convention, and was composed of the following members: Tyler Danke, Phil Anderson, Jason Biggs, Chris Nass, and Kevin Litten. Jason Biggs has since left LPWI. The remaining 4 members met in December, and Tyler Danke was elected Chair of the committee.

The committee met several times from December through February and considered several proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws. We received proposals from LPWI members Kevin Litten, Stephen Ecker, and Michael Conard. We voted to forward proposed amendments without recommendation as to whether they should be approved or not, but that we decided should be heard and decided by the convention.

In addition, the final proposal we have submitted is not a Bylaw change, per se, but rather a motion to combine the Constitution and Bylaws into one single document. Having Bylaws, and not a Constitution and Bylaws, is standard organizational practice, and is the how the national Libertarian Party is organized. Should this motion pass, the new committee appointed by this convention will set to work at combining the 2 documents into one set of Bylaws, under the supervision of the Executive Committee (ExCom). If this motion fails, we will continue with separate documents, a Constitution and Bylaws. It is important to note that in either case, whether Constitution and Bylaws are combined or not, the proposed amendments considered before will be coherent and easily integrated into either structure.

Respectfully submitted,

Phil Anderson

Notes

The Constitution and By-laws Committee shall be composed of up to five (5) Party members appointed by the Convention. The term of a member of the Constituion and By-laws committee shall run through the period of the next Party Convention which elects the Constitution and By-Laws Committee and until a successor is appointed. No officer of the Part may serve on the Constitution and By-Laws Committee.

Amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws must be provided to the chair of the Committee in printed form at least three months before the Annual Convention. Such amendments must be considered by the Constitution and By-laws Committee for proposal at the Annual Convention. The chair of the Constitution and By-laws Committee shall notify the author(s) of such an amendment of the final status of the amendment no later than two months prior to the Annual Convention.

The Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members voting on that particular issue at the Annual Convention held in an odd-numbered year. The process to amend this Constitution is defined in the By-Laws Article VII. The By-Laws may be amended by a majority vote of the members voting on that particular issue at the Annual Convention held in an odd-numbered year. The process to amend the By-Laws is defined in the By-Laws Article VII.

Any amendment submitted to the Constitution and By-laws Committee under paragraph 1 of this article that is rejected by the Constitution and By-laws Committee may be proposed to the convention by the author(s) of that amendment. The author(s) of such an amendment shall provide the chair of the Constitution and By-laws Committee or the Party Chair a printed copy of the proposed amendment at least one month before the Annual Convention. No changes may be made to the proposed amendment after this deadline.

The Constitution and By-laws Committee Chair will insure that printed copies of all proposed amendments are made available to all Convention attendees at the registration and sign-in desk.

Amendments shall be discussed and voted on under the following rules:

- Amendments may be identified as “replacement amendments” when introduced. Approval of a replacement amendment removes the replaced verbiage from the appropriate document.
- Amendments may not be amended before being voted on.
- Discussion shall be limited to 5 minutes per person per amendment.

5. Amendments shall take effect after the close of the convention in which they are enacted.

1

Constitution Article X, 1

Author: Kevin Litten

Currently reads:

1. This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members voting on that particular issue at the Annual Convention held in an odd-numbered year. The process to amend this Constitution is defined in the By-Laws Article VII.

Changes:

1. This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members voting on that particular issue at the Annual Convention held in an ~~odd-numbered year~~. The process to amend this Constitution is defined in the By-Laws Article VII.

If amended, would read:

1. This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members voting on that particular issue at the Annual Convention. The process to amend this Constitution is defined in the By-Laws Article VII.

2

By-Laws Article III

Author: Stephen Ecker

Addition:

4) Any resolution passed by the Executive Committee in accordance with applicable Executive Committee by-laws and rules is final and shall take effect immediately unless specified in the text of the resolution otherwise. It may not be amended or delayed without an additional vote of the Executive Committee. Unilateral overrides of Executive Committee resolutions by any officer or other member of the Executive Committee shall not be permitted under any circumstances. Should a situation arise where action needs to be taken to amend or set aside any such resolution the proper course of action shall be to hold an emergency Executive Committee meeting to take up the matter.

3

Constitution Article VI

Author: Stephen Ecker

Addition:

3) All standing committees, (e.g., Platform Committee,) will have a preliminary chair determined at the convention immediately following formation of the committee. The preliminary chair will be the longest tenured party member in good standing of the committee. The committee may elect a different chair at their discretion following close of the convention.

4

Constitution Article III

Author: Kevin Litten

Addition:

2. The members of the party in convention are its highest authority. All the powers of this party reside in them.

5

Constitution Article VII

Author: Kevin Litten

Addition:

3. All committee meetings shall be open and transparent to all members of the state party. Their times and dates shall be posted online at a site specified by the Executive Committee at least 7 days before the meeting takes place.

6

By-Laws Article VII, 4

Author: Committee

Currently reads:

4. Amendments shall be discussed and voted on under the following rules:

- Amendments may be identified as “replacement amendments” when introduced. Approval of a replacement amendment removes the replaced verbiage from the appropriate document.
- Amendments may not be amended before being voted on.
- Discussion shall be limited to 5 minutes per person per amendment.

Changes:

4. Amendments shall be discussed and voted on under the following rules:

- Amendments may be identified as “replacement amendments” when introduced. Approval of a replacement amendment removes the replaced verbiage from the appropriate document.
- ~~Amendments may not be amended before being voted on.~~ Amendments recommended by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee may be amended from the floor of the convention, but must not be substantive in nature, must directly relate to the topic of the amendment, and not change the fundamental goal of the proposed amendment.
- Discussion shall be limited to 5 minutes per person per amendment.

If amended, would read:

4. Amendments shall be discussed and voted on under the following rules:

- Amendments may be identified as “replacement amendments” when introduced. Approval of a replacement amendment removes the replaced verbiage from the appropriate document.
- Amendments recommended by the Constitution and Bylaws Committee may be amended from the floor of the convention, but must not be substantive in nature, must directly relate to the topic of the amendment, and not change the fundamental goal of the proposed amendment.
- Discussion shall be limited to 5 minutes per person per amendment.

Addition:

E. District Representatives

It shall be the responsibility of the District Representatives to represent the views of their region's party members at the meetings of the Executive Committee and annual convention. They shall assist the members and Affiliate Parties within their district by helping with candidate recruitment, by promoting and attending when possible both live events and virtual events, and by assisting diverse members across their district communicate with each other.

F. At-Large Representatives

It shall be the responsibility of the At-Large Representatives to assist the district representatives in performing their duties. They shall take responsibility over those districts without an active district representative until one maybe appointed or elected. They may also be tasked by the Executive Committee with certain functions, representing the party, that only an elected Executive Committee member should handle.

G. The most recent past Chair

If the most recent past Chair is willing to serve it shall be his / her responsibility to strive for a smooth regime change and to impart their institutional knowledge to the officers and the Executive Committee. The most recent past chair has the privilege of first vote on all proposals.

Addition:

(A) No officer of the party or member of the Executive Committee may endorse or openly support any candidate not a member of the National Libertarian or the state Libertarian Party.

(B) The State Libertarian Party may not endorse or support any candidates who are not members of the state party.

Currently reads:

1. The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of the Party consistent with the Constitution, its by-laws, and any resolutions which may be adopted in Convention. Executive Committee members will be elected by a simple majority of the members attending the Annual Convention during odd-numbered years. The Executive Committee shall take office immediately upon close of the Annual Convention in which it is elected and serve for two years, until the final adjournment of the next odd-numbered year Annual Convention No secret meeting will be held by the members of the Executive Committee of the Party; all meetings will be open to all Party members. The Executive Committee of the Party shall be composed of the following:

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10

Constitution Article X, 1

Author: Kevin Litten

Currently reads:

1. This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members voting on that particular issue at the Annual Convention held in an odd-numbered year. The process to amend this Constitution is defined in the By-Laws Article VII.

Changes:

~~1. This Constitution may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members voting on that particular issue at the Annual Convention held in an odd-numbered year.~~ *This Constitution, Bylaws, and Platform may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members voting on that particular issue at the Annual Convention. The process to amend this Constitution is defined in the By-Laws Article VII.*

If amended, would read:

1. This Constitution, Bylaws, and Platform may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members voting on that particular issue at the Annual Convention. The process to amend this Constitution is defined in the By-Laws Article VII.

11

Constitution Article IV

Author: Kevin Litten

Addition:

5. For members to vote at the state convention their membership in the state party must be current and they must have joined more than 30 days prior to the state convention.

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By-Laws Article VII

Author: Kevin Litten

Addition:

6. The Constitution and Bylaws Committee shall have the responsibility and authority to format the new and/or revised bylaws into the previous Constitution/Bylaws. The Executive Committee, by a majority vote, within 60 days of the state convention, must then either approve the revised Constitution and/or Bylaws or return them to the Committee for further edits / revisions.

13

Merge Documents

Author: Kevin Litten

Action:

To combine the existing Constitution and Bylaws document as approved by the most recent LPWI convention into a single document titled "Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin" without making any changes to current intent, spelling, grammar, or references.