

BYLAWS OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS  
September 12, 2010

Article I. NAME

The name of this organization shall be the "LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS," hereinafter referred to as the "Party."

Article II. PURPOSE

Section 1. The purpose of the Party shall be to promote the ideals specified in the National Libertarian Party Statement of Principles by any means consistent with those Principles.

Section 2. The mission of the Party shall be to elect Libertarians to office and move public policy in a Libertarian direction.

Article III. MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. A member shall be any person who requests membership and provides and maintains a current mailing address or a current phone number and whose Party dues, if any, are current.

Section 2. A member, upon joining the Party, must agree that "People have the right to control their own lives as long as they do not initiate the use of force or fraud against others."

Article IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Section 1. There shall be a State Organizing Committee, herein after referred to as "SOC," consisting of representatives of Local Chapters and elected Party Officers to oversee the Party's affairs.

Section 2. Officers

(a) The officers of the Party shall be State Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, Deputy Secretary, and Deputy Treasurer. Contractors may be hired by the SOC to fill one or more of these roles, if needed, except State Chair and Vice Chair. Any such contractors would not become Party Officers; they would be supervised by the State Chair or a designate.

(b) All officers shall be residents of Illinois and Party members. No Party Officer shall be an officer in any other political party.

(c) A member holding more than one office shall be counted only once for voting purposes or establishing a quorum.

(d) Terms of offices shall be from the close of the State Convention at which the Officers were elected until the close of the second State

Convention following their election.

(e) Members can receive the name and contact information of Party Officers, SOC Representatives, and Judicial Committee members as well as minutes from the past two years' SOC meetings, annual Business Meetings, and annual financial reports by requesting them of the Secretary or State Chair.

### Section 3. Election and Replacement

(a) Each Party Officer shall be elected by a majority vote at the State Convention.

(b) In the event of a vacancy of the State Chair, the Vice Chair shall serve the remainder of the State Chair term, as State Chair. In the event of a vacancy of the Treasurer, the Deputy Treasurer shall serve the remainder of the Treasurer term as Treasurer. In the event of the vacancy of the Secretary, the Deputy Secretary shall serve the remainder of the Secretary term as Secretary.

(c) In the event of vacancies of the Vice Chair, Deputy Treasurer, and Deputy Secretary, the SOC shall appoint an interim officer from among qualified members.

(d) Interim officers appointed by the SOC shall serve until the close of the next annual State Convention, at which time they may be elected or replaced by majority vote of the Convention. Mid-term replacement officers elected by the Convention shall serve only the remainder of the original officer's term.

(e) Any Party Officer may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the SOC. Chapter representatives to the SOC may only be removed by their respective Local Chapters according to the Local Chapters' bylaws.

### Section 4. Duties

(a) The SOC shall:

(1) Authorize and manage all activities undertaken in the name of or representing the Party.

(2) Hold regular meetings at least quarterly. In addition, the State Chair or any three SOC members may call an emergency meeting.

(3) On written request of any Party member, consider convening the Judicial Committee.

- (4) Determine the date, location, and agenda of the State Convention.
- (5) Determine membership dues and period of membership.
- (6) Elect a Chair pro tem to preside over any single meeting in the event that the State Chair and Vice Chair are unable to do so.
- (7) The Quorum shall be five, at least three of whom shall be Party Officers; the others shall be Local Chapter representatives.
- (8) The SOC may meet by any means that allow simultaneous aural communication among all participants.

(b) The Executive Board shall:

- (1) Consist of all Party Officers.
- (2) Perform duties as authorized by these bylaws, delegated to it by the SOC, and such other duties as necessary between SOC meetings.
- (3) The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the State Chair or at the request of any two Party Officers.
- (4) The Executive Board may meet by any means that allow simultaneous aural communication among all participants.

(c) Officers' duties shall include but not be limited to the following:

(1) State Chair

- (i) Preside over Executive Board, SOC, and annual Business Meetings.
- (ii) Serve ex-officio on all committees formed by the SOC.
- (iii) Set the agenda for SOC meetings.
- (iv) Supervise the activities of all paid employees and independent contractors of the Party.

(2) Vice Chair

- (i) Preside over Executive Board, SOC, and annual Business Meeting in the absence of the State Chair.

(ii) Assist the State Chair when necessary or delegated by the State Chair.

(iii) Serve ex-officio on all committees formed by the SOC.

### (3) Secretary

(i) Keep all official Party records and ensure records are posted online to facilitate access by authorized persons.

(ii) Take accurate minutes and submit them in writing for SOC approval. Update Policy Manual, Board of Directors Manual, Bylaws, and Convention Rules when updates are voted on by the Executive Board, SOC, and members attending the Annual Business Meeting.

(iii) Distribute the proposed agenda of the upcoming SOC meeting and the Minutes of the most recent meeting to SOC members and committee chairs prior to each meeting.

(iv) Conduct all official correspondence between the Party and other bodies and individuals.

(v) Oversee the integrity of the membership database.

(vi) Oversee the integrity of the Party's Group memberships, such as Yahoo Groups.

### (4) Treasurer

(i) Receive, record, and disburse all party funds.

(ii) Prepare a budget for the calendar year, to be approved by the SOC, and transmitted to the next treasurer at the term's conclusion.

(iii) Get Executive Board approval for any non-budgeted item exceeding \$50.

(iv) Distribute written monthly financial reports to the SOC.

(v) Manage preparation of required FEC reports and other governmental financial reports for the Party as required. Distribute FEC report confirmations and access links to the SOC.

(vi) Present a detailed annual income statement at the state convention.

(vii) Be personally liable for misuse of Party funds or failure to perform his duties.

(4) Deputy Treasurer

(i) Review online bank account and bank statements monthly and report anomalies.

(ii) Assist Treasurer when necessary or delegated by Treasurer. Become de-facto Treasurer in absence of Treasurer.

(iii) Be personally liable for his misuse of Party funds or failure to perform his duties.

(4) Deputy Secretary

(i) Take accurate minutes and submit them in writing for SOC approval in the absence of the Secretary.

(ii) Assist Secretary when necessary or delegated by the Secretary. Become de-facto Secretary in absence of the Secretary.

## Article V. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Section 1. There shall be a Judicial Committee whose purpose shall be:

(a) To hold trials in those cases in which a Party member has been accused of violating a Party rule or engaging in wrongdoing;

(b) To hold hearings in those cases in which a procedure followed, a policy adopted or a decision made by a Party member or members is thought to be in violation of a Bylaw of the Party.

Section 2. The Judicial Committee shall consist of five members. Members must be elected at the State Convention. Each member may serve on the committee for up to three years, after which he or she must be reelected by the State Convention. Any vacancy occurring between State Conventions because of resignation, disqualification or any other reason may be filled by majority vote of the SOC. If a member is disqualified or is unable to attend a trial or hearing, any person chosen to fill the vacancy shall serve on the Judicial Committee only with regard to that single case. If a vacancy is filled by the SOC, that person shall

serve on the Judicial Committee only until the next State Convention, at which time that person's membership shall end unless he or she is elected to be a member by the State Convention.

Section 3. In those cases in which a Party member is accused of violating a Party rule or law, the Judicial Committee shall hold a trial. The accusers and the accused shall be given the opportunity to present evidence before the Judicial Committee, and after the evidence has been heard, the Judicial Committee shall decide whether the accused is guilty or innocent. If the Party member is found guilty, the Judicial Committee will decide what penalty, if any, should be imposed. The trial will be open to all Party members unless the accused desires a closed proceeding.

Section 4. In those cases where the Judicial Committee is serving as an appellate body, the Judicial Committee will accept a written brief or argument from any party wishing to present one and will consider the arguments presented therein in rendering a decision. The briefs may be presented before or at the beginning of the hearing. The Judicial Committee will hold a hearing at which it will discuss the issues presented. All Party members shall be entitled to be present at this meeting, and the Judicial Committee may, if it so desires, allow the presentation of oral argument from any person attending the meeting.

Section 5. The Judicial Committee must hold a trial or hearing upon receiving a written request to do so signed or supported by at least three Party members. A written request for a trial should state the name of the accused, the action taken by the accused, and which rule of rules the action supposedly violated. A written request for a hearing should state the action taken and describe how this action allegedly violates a bylaw or bylaws. The written request for a trial or hearing should be mailed, delivered in person or emailed to any member of the Judicial Committee, who must then notify the other members of the Judicial Committee of the request. The Judicial Committee must hold a trial or hearing within sixty days after receiving a written request to do so by any Party member. The Judicial Committee shall render a decision on any question within thirty days after the conclusion of a trial or hearing. The decision must be in writing and must be submitted to the editor of the newsletter for publication.

Section 6. No person may serve simultaneously on the SOC and the Judicial Committee. Qualifications for serving on the Judicial Committee are the same as those for Party Officers. No person may serve on the Judicial Committee during a particular trial or hearing if that person is the person who submitted the written request for trial or hearing.

Section 7. Any decision of the Judicial Committee may be appealed to the general membership at a State Convention, which may overrule the decision of the Judicial Committee, by two-thirds vote.

Section 8. Notification of the time, date and place of any trial or hearing before the Judicial Committee will be provided to Party members via email, postal mail, or telephone at least 30 days prior to the trial or hearing.

Section 9. No decision may be made by the Judicial Committee unless five members participate. Decisions need not be unanimous; decisions will be made by majority rule. If one or more members cannot attend a trial or hearing, the SOC must appoint temporary replacements.

Section 10. If a Party member is found guilty of having violated a rule of the Party, the Judicial Committee may impose the following punishments:

- (a) The guilty party may be expelled from the Party.
- (b) The guilty party may be required to engage in an action, refrain from engaging in an action, or pay a fine, or, if he or she refuses, may be expelled from the Party.

#### Article VI. LOCAL CHAPTERS

Section 1. Any five members who wish to form a Local Chapter and affiliate with the Party may so petition the SOC. Each Local Chapter shall have one representative on the SOC. No Party member shall be listed for purposes of SOC voting representation as a member of more than one chapter.

Section 2. Each local chapter shall, prior to recognition by the SOC, and annually within 30 days following each State Convention, submit credentials to the Secretary consisting of the following:

- (a) The Local Chapter's bylaws.
- (b) A list of current Local Chapter officers and SOC Representative.
- (c) Date, time and location of regular scheduled meetings, which are to be held at least quarterly, and a contact person's name, phone, and/or email address.

Section 3. Any changes in or additions to a Local Chapter's bylaws, officers, SOC Representative, or regular scheduled meeting information shall be communicated to the Secretary within 30 days.

Section 4. Geographically defined Local Chapters that are located where the Party is an established political party under the laws of Illinois shall function as an authorized political committee. These Local Chapters, when affiliated with the Party, shall have all the rights and privileges in all functions that are generally permitted to local political organizations by the state of Illinois.

## Article VII. STATE CONVENTION

The annual State Convention will be held at a time and place to be determined by the SOC. Announcement will be made to all Party members no fewer than 60 days before the convention.

## Article VIII. MEMBERSHIP DATABASE

Section 1. The SOC shall maintain a database of those people that have expressed an interest in the Party. Such database and all future additions shall be the sole property of the Party.

Section 2. Any uses of the database or subset of the database, other than for official Party business, must be approved by a three-fifths vote of the SOC. The database shall be coded so that any person may request that his or her name be removed from any part of the database released to other organizations. Official Party business includes the use of the database to develop Local Chapters at the discretion of the Membership Chair.

Section 3. All organizations provided access to the database will, as a condition of authorization, make their database or a mutually agreeable subset of their database available to the Party.

## Article IX ENDORSEMENT OF OTHER PARTIES OR CANDIDATES

The Party shall not fund or advocate the election of a candidate of any other political party.

## Article X. AUTHORIZED POLITICAL COMMITTEES

Section 1. An "authorized political committee" is one that is permitted access to the Party mailing list only during the period of authorization and only on behalf of such candidate, candidates, or activities as represented by the committee at the time of its authorization, otherwise provided by the SOC.

Section 2. An authorized committee for political campaigns must be endorsed by the SOC.

## Article XI. PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the conduct of the annual Business Meeting, SOC meetings, and Executive Board meetings unless inconsistent with these Bylaws.

## Article XII. AMENDMENT

Section 1. These bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote at the annual Business Meeting. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Secretary no fewer than 45 days before the annual Business Meeting, and the proposed amendments shall be published and made available to the Party membership no fewer than 30 days before the annual Business Meeting.

(a) During debate of a proposed amendment, a member may offer an amendment to the proposed amendment that has the effect of correcting conflicts with existing bylaws.

Section 2. When the Party becomes an established political party, as determined by the State Board of Elections under the laws of Illinois, the Judicial Committee, with the approval of the SOC, shall amend these Bylaws only in order to conform to law.