

Adopted 1-may-77
Amended 2-nov-91
Ratified 13-may-92

Amended 1-nov-2003
Ratified 29-feb-2004
Amended 15-April-2007
Ratified 28-Oct-2007
Amended 25-Oct-2008
Ratified 3-Oct-2009
Amended 3-Oct-2009
Ratified 11-Dec-2010

Constitution of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire

ARTICLE I: **NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire, hereinafter referred to as "the Party".

ARTICLE II: **PERIOD OF DURATION**

The duration of the Party shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE III: **PURPOSES**

The purpose of the organization shall be to give voice to the principles in the National Libertarian Party Statement of Principles in the State of New Hampshire by :

- a. nominating and supporting candidates for public office,
- b. promoting, chartering and coordinating local Libertarian organizations,
- c. entering into political and/or educational activities; and
- d. supporting activities of the National Libertarian Party.

ARTICLE IV: **OFFICERS**

Sec. 1 - All officers and their alternates shall be elected at a Regular Convention of the Party and shall take office immediately upon the close of the convention and serve thereafter until the final adjournment of the next Regular Convention. The officers of the Party shall be a Chair, a Treasurer, a Secretary, and a Vice-Chair from each Congressional District. Alternates for each Vice-Chair shall be chosen, who will serve whenever the Vice-Chair is unable to perform the duties of the office.

[alternates added 2009]

Sec. 2 - No offices shall be combined nor held by the same individual except for short periods of time and then only by the **unanimous** vote of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 3 - The officers shall be full voting members of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 4 - All officers shall be residents of the state of New Hampshire for at least one year and shall be members of the State Party in good standing for at least one year. [Amended 2003]

Sec. 5 - The Executive Committee shall have the power to determine which Vice-Chair shall succeed to the Chair.

Moreover, the Executive Committee shall have the power to fill vacancies in the offices of Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. A vacancy in the office of Vice-Chair shall be filled in accordance with the By-Laws but subject to ratification by two-thirds (2/3) of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 6 - The Chair shall preside at all conventions and all meetings of the Executive Committee. S/He shall be the Chief Executive officer of the Party. S/He shall have the sole authority to appoint Chairs to vacant standing committee Chairships subject to the majority ratification of the Executive Committee and to appoint or remove Chairs and members of ad hoc subcommittees as s/he may, in his or her sole judgment, deem necessary from time to time.

S/He shall have the sole authority to remove from office the Chair of standing committees subject to the majority ratification of the Executive Committee.

Sec. 7 - Each Vice-Chair shall act as an assistant to the Chair and shall, under his/her direction, be responsible for activities of the Party in his/her geographical area and shall perform the duties of the Chair as the Executive Committee may direct should the Chair be unable, for any reason, to perform the duties of the office.

Sec. 8 - The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Party, and shall provide, or make provision for, legal services to the Party.

Sec. 9 - The Treasurer shall receive, expend and account for the funds of the Party under the supervision and direction of the Chair and Executive Committee.

Sec. 10- Except as otherwise provided herein, the officers of the Party shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed in the by-laws.

Sec. 11- The Executive Committee may suspend and/or remove from office any officer or Standing Committee Chair upon three-fourths (3/4) vote of the remaining Executive Committee members.

The suspended or removed person may appeal within seven (7) days to the Judicial Committee which will uphold or revoke the suspension and/or removal on its merits within 30 days thereafter.

ARTICLE V: **MEMBERSHIP**

1. A Party member shall be any person whose state dues are current and who has signed a pledge required by this Article.

[eligible to vote (repealed 1984)]

[in the State of New Hampshire (repealed 2003)]

2. All Party members must certify that they do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means to achieve political or social goals.

ARTICLE VI: **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Sec. 1 - The Executive Committee of the Party shall be composed of the following:

a. the elected officers and the immediate Chair past unless he was removed from office for cause. In the event of the absence of the past chair, any former chair of the party may serve as an alternate, with precedence given to the most recent holder of the office, who remains a member in good standing.

[absence of past chair added 2010]

b. The Chair of the standing committees holding office pursuant to the by-laws.

Sec. 2 - The Executive Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the Regular Convention and serve thereafter until the adjournment of the next Regular Convention.

Sec. 3 - Except as otherwise provided herein, the Executive Committee shall appoint new members if vacancies occur, such members to complete the term of office vacated.

Sec. 4 - The Executive Committee shall have the control and management of all affairs, properties and funds of the Party consistent with this Constitution except that the Chair may veto the selection and hiring of a paid (partial or in whole) Party administrator.

Sec. 5 - The Executive Committee shall meet at the call of the Chair or in a manner, time and place as required by the by-laws or upon the call of the majority of the members of the Executive Committee.

ARTICLE VII : **COMMITTEES**

Sec. 1 - There shall be Standing Committees as provided in the by-laws or as recommended by the Chair and the Executive Committee subject to ratification and adoption by a Regular Convention.

Sec. 2 - For each Regular Convention there shall be a Platform Committee, a Constitution, by-laws and Rules Committee and a Credentials Committee appointed by the Executive Committee; together with such other committees as the Chair and Executive Committee may, together, deem appropriate.

Sec. 3 - There shall be a Standing Judicial Committee whose Chair and members shall be elected at each Regular Convention by attending delegates and shall take office immediately upon the close of the convention and serve until the final adjournment of the next Regular Convention.

a. The Judicial Committee is charged with the responsibility of hearing, evaluating, and resolving disputes within the Party that may, from time to time, arise and may recommend to a convention certain changes to the Constitution and by-laws that the committee may deem appropriate on the basis of issues it has resolved.

b. Paragraph a. to the contrary notwithstanding the Judicial Committee will carry out those responsibilities specifically outlined in the Constitution.

Sec. 4 - The Chair shall have the authority to appoint ad hoc committee chairs and members as s/he may, from time to time, deem appropriate; subject only to Executive Committee three-fourths (3/4) veto. These committees will have the full force and effect of standing committees including memberships on the Executive Committee, however, without vote.

Sec. 5 - There shall be a Standing Membership Committee whose Chair shall be elected at each Regular Convention by attending delegates and shall take office immediately upon the close of the convention and serve until the final adjournment of the next Regular Convention.

a. Members of the Membership Committee shall be appointed by positive motion of the executive committee. The term of committee membership shall expire at the adjournment of the next Regular Convention.

b. The Membership Committee is charged with the responsibility of maintaining and increasing the membership base of the Party. They are charged with converting prospects into full members, retaining existing members, and recruiting new members. The committee shall work with the outreach coordinator and executive committee in finding and implementing ways to grow the membership of the Party. From time to time they may also present recommendations on membership dues and incentives and membership types to the executive committee for their consideration.

c. Paragraph b. to the contrary notwithstanding the Membership Committee will carry out those responsibilities specifically outlined in the Constitution. [Amended 2007]

ARTICLE VIII: **CONVENTIONS**

Sec. 1 - The Party shall hold one or more conventions every year at a time and place chosen by the Executive Committee which shall provide notice to all members 30 days in advance.

Sec. 2 - Any party member attending a convention who is a resident of New Hampshire and has been a State Party member in good standing for at least 30 days shall become a delegate and may vote at such convention. [Amended 2003]

Sec. 3 - A Regular Convention shall be held in all election years when the Party has ballot access, in compliance with RSA 667:21; in all non-election years, or if the Party does not have ballot access, at the discretion of the Executive Committee. A Regular Convention will be held for the purposes of:

- a. nominating state-wide and congressional candidates for office;
- b. ratifying the selections of local office seekers by affiliated organizations or individuals;
- c. electing officers of the Party as well as standing committee Chairs;

Sec. 4 - A Business Convention shall be held at any time to nominate candidates or ratify changes to the Constitution. Notification will be in conformance with Article VIII, Sec. 1.

ARTICLE IX: **AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS**

Sec. 1 - Any five (5) or more Party members may constitute a local organization and petition the Executive Committee to affiliate with the Party in the sense of this Constitution.

Sec. 2 - Each petition for affiliation must include a copy of its proposed by-laws. These by-laws shall specify a geographical area to be covered by the affiliated organization.

Sec. 3 - Any geographical point in the state shall be covered by only one affiliated organization unless otherwise approved by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have the power to adjust organization geographical boundaries.

Sec. 4 - Upon specific approval of the Executive Committee, an affiliated organization may have responsibility for the nomination of candidates for the office(s) whose districts lie wholly within its geographical region.

Sec. 5 - Upon specific approval of the Executive Committee, affiliated organizations may join together for the nomination of candidates for office whose districts lie wholly or substantially within their combined geographical regions.

Sec. 6 - Membership requirements in affiliated organizations shall not be at odds with the State or National Party requirements. In any dispute the Judicial Committee shall decide.

Sec. 7 - Meetings of affiliated organizations shall be open after proper notice to all their members who are defined as State Party members residing in their region. The public may attend but may not vote on any motions before the meeting.

ARTICLE X: **BY-LAWS**

Sec. 1 - The Executive Committee shall promulgate the By-laws in accordance with applicable law.

Sec. 2 - The by-laws of the Party may be amended by a majority vote of the delegates at any convention of the Party or by vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the Executive Committee at any other time subject to ratification by the next convention.

ARTICLE XII: **CONVENTION GOVERNMENT**

Convention of the Party shall be governed by the by-laws.

ARTICLE XIII: **AMENDMENTS OF THE CONSTITUTION**

Sec. 1 - This Constitution may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the delegates at any Convention provided that a prior convention proposed and accepted by majority, such amendment, and such (an) amendment(s) had been disclosed in the time interval between the conventions to all Party members.