

**CONSTITUTION (AND ARTICLES of ASSOCIATION)
LIBERTARIAN PARTY of IOWA
A Non-Profit Association**

ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of the association shall be the "Libertarian Party of Iowa" hereinafter referred to as the "Party".

ARTICLE II: DURATION AND DISSOLUTION

The duration of the Party shall be perpetual. In event of dissolution, all assets would go to the (National) Libertarian Party, a non-profit association.

ARTICLE III: PURPOSE

The purpose for which the Party is organized is to implement and give voice to the principles embodied in the Statement of Principles by:

- a. Nominating candidates for national, state, and local offices and supporting candidates for political office.
- b. Entering into political information activities.

ARTICLE IV: OFFICERS

Section 1. The officers of the Party shall be a Chairperson, a Deputy Chairperson of Membership & Development, a Deputy Chairperson of Advocacy & Public Policy, a Deputy Chairperson of Campaigns & Elections, a Secretary, and a Treasurer. All of these officers shall be elected at each Regular Convention occurring in an odd-numbered year by the attending delegates and shall take office immediately upon the close of the Convention and serve thereafter until the final adjournment of the next Regular Convention occurring in an odd-numbered year.

Section 2. In addition, one of the three Deputy Chairpersons shall be elected to serve as Vice Chairperson. Otherwise, no offices shall be combined.

Section 3. The Chairperson shall preside at all Conventions and all meetings of the Executive Committee. He or she shall be the chief executive officer of the Party.

Section 4. The Vice Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in the event the Chairperson is for any reason, unable to perform the duties of the office.

Section 5. The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Party, and shall provide, or make provision for, legal services to the Party.

Section 6. The Treasurer shall receive, expend, and account for the funds of the Party under the supervision and direction of the Chairperson and Executive Committee.

Section 7. Except as otherwise provided herein, the officers of the Party shall have such powers and perform such duties as may be prescribed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE V: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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

- a. The six elected officers of the Party; plus
- b. At least four and no more than seven members elected at each Regular Convention occurring in an odd-numbered year, so as to be representative of the state as prescribed by the Bylaws. Any seat not filled at a Regular Convention occurring in an odd-numbered year may be filled at any time for the remainder of the term at a Regular Convention occurring in an even-numbered year, at a Special Convention, or by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the Regular Convention occurring in odd-numbered years, and serve until the adjournment of the next Regular Convention occurring in an odd-numbered year.

Section 3. Any Executive Committee member, including any officer, may be suspended, that is, denied the authority to perform his or her specific functions, by a two-thirds vote of the entire Executive Committee.

The position of a suspended member shall be declared vacant unless the suspended member appeals to the Judicial Committee within three days of notification of suspension. If the suspension is appealed, the Judicial Committee must rule within thirty days. If the Judicial Committee upholds the suspension by a three-fourths majority, the position of the suspended member will be declared vacant. If the Judicial Committee fails to uphold the suspension, the member shall be reinstated.

Section 4. If a vacancy in the Executive Committee (including an officer vacancy) should occur through suspension, or through the resignation, death or disability of a member, the vacancy may be filled for the remainder of the term at a Regular Convention occurring in an even-numbered year, at a Special Convention, or by the Executive Committee.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall have the control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of the Party consistent with this Constitution.

Section 6. The Executive Committee shall meet in a manner, time, and place as prescribed in the Bylaws.

ARTICLE VI: CONVENTIONS AND CAUCUSES

Section 1. The Party shall hold a Regular Convention every year at the time and place selected by the Executive Committee.

Section 2. For all Regular Conventions, Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be elected to be representative of the State as prescribed by the Bylaws. In addition, the Executive Committee members shall automatically be entitled to Delegate status.

Section 3. A duly selected Alternate may be freely substituted for the Delegate who is temporarily or permanently absent from the floor.

Section 4. The State Executive Committee, by a three-fourths majority vote of the Executive Committee membership, may call a Special Convention. Delegates must be notified two weeks prior to the convention.

These conventions shall consist of the state officers and all eligible delegates to the last annual convention. Such a Special Convention cannot take the place of an annual convention. Only those matters mentioned in the call to the convention may be considered at a Special Convention.

Section 5. The Executive Committee, by a three-fourths majority vote of the Executive Committee membership, may call a Caucus of Eligible Electors representing this political organization for making one nomination of a candidate for each office to be filled at a general election. The Executive Committee shall name the officers of such Caucus.

ARTICLE VII: COMMITTEES

Section 1. There shall be a standing Judicial Committee, composed of 3 to 9 members exclusive of the Executive Committee. The Judicial Committee shall be elected at each Regular Convention occurring in an odd-numbered year, and shall serve the same term as the Executive Committee. In the event that a maximum number of people have not been elected in an odd-numbered year, or if other vacancies occur, then new members may be elected at Regular convention in an even-numbered year to serve the remainder of the term. The Judicial Committee may fill any vacancies occurring between conventions. The Judicial Committee shall select its own chairperson.

Section 2. At least one month prior to each Regular Convention, the Executive Committee shall appoint a Credentials Committee, a Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Committee and a Platform Committee, including the chairperson of each committee, as follows:

- a. The Credentials Committee shall consist of one member from each Congressional District when available, exclusive of Executive Committee members.
- b. The Constitution & Bylaws and Rules Committee shall consist of 3 to 5 members.
- c. The Platform Committee shall consist of at least three members, including one member from each Congressional District when available, plus one member-at-large. Additional at-large members may be appointed if necessary to meet minimum requirements.

ARTICLE VIII: PLATFORM

Section 1. The Party shall adopt a Platform at its first Regular Convention. Said Platform shall include, but not be limited to, the Statement of Principles of the (National) Libertarian Party and the implementation of these principles contained in the Statement, in the form of Planks.

Section 2. The Statement of Principles affirms that philosophy upon which the Libertarian Party is founded, by which it shall be sustained, and through which Liberty shall prevail.

Section 3. The Platform, other than the Statement of Principles, may be amended by deletion, substitution, or addition of any Plank by the Convention Delegates in session and voting. The Substitution of a new Plank for an old Plank, or the addition of a new Plank, shall require approval by a vote of 90% of the Delegates in session voting. A Plank may be deleted from the Platform by a vote of 50% of the Delegates in session voting. A Plank must not be in violation of, or in contradiction to, the Statement of Principles.

If any Member of the Judicial Committee considers a Plank in violation or in contradiction to the Statement of Principles, it may be deleted only by a unanimous vote of the committee.

ARTICLE IX: NOMINATIONS OF CANDIDATES

Section 1. Party nominees for U.S. President and Vice-President are automatically the nominees of the national Libertarian Party for those offices. Presidential electors shall be nominated by the Chairperson and ratified by majority vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 2. Nomination of candidates for U.S. Senator and the executive offices of Iowa will be made at the Regular Convention held preceding the election.

a. Nominations shall be made from the convention floor by the Delegates. All balloting shall be done by secret ballot.

b. If, after a ballot, no candidate has attained a majority vote, all nominees who have received less than 10% of the total vote shall be struck from subsequent ballots. If, after two ballots, no candidate has attained a majority vote, the candidate with the least votes shall be struck from the subsequent ballots; this procedure shall be repeated after each ballot in which no candidate has received a majority vote until one candidate attains a majority.

Section 3. Nomination of candidates for U.S. House of Representatives and Iowa legislature will be made at the Regular Convention held preceding the election following the procedure in Section 2.

Section 4. Notwithstanding Sections 2 and 3, nominations of candidates may be made by a Caucus of Eligible Electors following the procedure of Iowa §44. If a caucus of Eligible Electors is called, Section 2a. and Section 2b. of this Article shall apply, with Eligible Electors as the Delegates.

Section 5. In the event that no candidate was nominated or a subsequent vacancy occurs in a nomination made under Sections 2 through 4 of this Article, then the Executive Committee may fill the vacancy. Nominations made by the Executive

Committee under this Section shall require that the candidate be approved by at least 60% of the full Executive Committee.

Section 6. The nomination of any person for any office may be voided by a three-fourths vote of the entire membership of the combined Judicial and Executive Committees, meeting in joint session.

ARTICLE X: REPRESENTATION TO THE (NATIONAL) LIBERTARIAN PARTY

Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be selected as prescribed by the Bylaws in numbers permitted by the (National) Libertarian Party. One of the Delegates shall be the State Chairperson, if he or she chooses to take the position.

ARTICLE XI: MEMBERSHIP

Section 1. Members shall be:

- a. those persons who are registered with the state of Iowa as voters affiliated with the Libertarian Party, and
- b. those persons resident in Iowa who are unable to so register or have been able to so register for less than 90 days and who have indicated their intent to so register in a form specified by the state party.

Section 2. Voting members shall be members who have maintained continuous membership for a period of at least 30 days prior to the state party's convention, provided that their dues, if any, are also current. Any member who does not otherwise qualify as a voting member may be granted voting privileges and status as a convention Delegate at a state convention provided that a 4/5 majority of voting members in attendance consent.

ARTICLE XII: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

In addition to the responsibilities set forth in Articles V and VIII, the Judicial Committee shall be responsible for the following:

Disciplinary actions against any Party Member shall be in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, except as otherwise provided herein.

ARTICLE XIII: BYLAWS

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall follow the Bylaws. The Executive Committee may adopt non-conflicting bylaws between conventions which will not remain in effect beyond the next convention unless ratified.

Section 2. The Bylaws of the Party may be amended by a majority vote of the Delegates at any Regular Convention of the Party, or by a vote of three-fourths of the Executive Committee at any other time.

ARTICLE XIV: CONVENTION GOVERNMENT

Conventions of the Party shall be governed by the current Convention Rules and Bylaws, unless otherwise amended at a Regular Convention.



ARTICLE XV: OPEN MEETINGS

Section 1. All meetings in the Party shall be open to all Members.

Section 2. The secret ballot may not be used for any committee decision. The secret ballot may be used for elections.

ARTICLE XVI: AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

This Constitution may be Amended by a 90% vote of the Delegates at any Regular Convention.

BYLAWS OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF IOWA

BYLAW I: DUTIES OF OFFICERS

Section 1. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Executive Committee and all Party Conventions, keeping such records and minutes as necessary. He or she shall make an annual report to the Executive Committee; which report shall contain all information required by the Executive Committee. He or she shall perform or make provisions for the performance of any legal assistance the Party may require.

Section 2. The Treasurer shall receive all monies paid to the Party, and shall deposit the same in such bank or banks as have been designated by the Executive Committee, and shall disburse said monies upon order of the Executive Committee. He or she shall make complete financial reports to the Executive Committee, and at least annual reports to the Membership. He or she shall perform all duties required of his or her office by applicable federal and state law.

BYLAW II: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Section 1. The Executive Committee shall meet at such times and places as may be determined by action of the Committee, by call of the Chairperson, or by the written request of one-third or more of the Members of the Executive Committee. A written notice of the time and place of all meetings shall be mailed to each Member of the Executive Committee not less than thirty days before said meeting.

Section 2. The Executive Committee may, without meeting together, transact business by hard copy mail, electronic mail, or telephone by voting on questions submitted to them by, or with the approval of, the Chairperson. Ten days shall be allowed for the return of the votes cast, by any method, to the Secretary. Methods of security, receipt, and verification shall be left to the discretion of the

Executive Committee. The method of communication shall be selected by the individual Executive Committee Member.

If, at the expiration of the applicable period, the majority of the Executive Committee have not returned their votes, the measure being voted upon shall be deemed to have failed; in all other cases, a majority of the votes returned shall carry the measure, except where a higher vote is required by the Constitution.

The Secretary must preserve all such votes until the next meeting of the Executive Committee, at which meeting the Executive Committee shall order the disposition of such votes.

Section 3. More than one-half of the Membership thereof shall constitute a quorum at all meetings of the Executive Committee for the transaction of all business.

Section 4. Executive Committee Members shall be prohibited from holding office in, or taking part in a working committee of, another political party; and from being members of a campaign committee for candidates affiliated with any other political party.

Section 5. The Executive Committee shall define the process of accepting application by members in good standing of the Party to establish a local affiliate organization. Further, the Executive Committee shall authorize said affiliate by a simple majority of the attending Executive Committee Members.

BYLAW III: CONVENTIONS AND CAUCUSES

Section 1. The Chairperson of the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Committee and of the Platform Committee shall be the presiding officers of their respective committees.

Section 2. A majority vote of those of the Committee Members present is necessary for a "do-pass" recommendation, and in the case of the Platform Committee, a three-fourths majority must approve each specific Plank separately.

Section 3. The Committees shall report their recommendations to the floor of the Convention in accordance with the Party Rules.

Section 4. Two or more Members of the Platform Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding any Plank to the floor of the Convention. Two Members of the Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding their business.

Section 5. A Member must be present in Committee to vote.

Section 6. More than one-half of the Membership of each Committee shall constitute a quorum.

Section 7. General requirements and procedures for any Party election

a. To be eligible for any Party office, a candidate must be a member of the Party and reside in Iowa.

b. Nominations may be made by nominating committee and/or from the delegates.

c. The names of all nominees, in the order nominated, will be clearly listed in front of the delegates.

d. All votes for Party office will be by secret ballot.

e. Two tellers to tally votes will be appointed by the Chairperson from among the delegates.

f. At the completion of each ballot, the tellers will place all ballots in a pile and clearly identify them (e.g., 1st ballot for Chair). These ballots will be turned over to the Secretary at the end of all balloting for an office. The Secretary will safeguard the ballots and make them available to any interested delegate at any time during the course of the Convention. The ballots will be destroyed at the end of the Convention.

g. Any delegate who inspects the ballots and determines that a mistake has been made by the tellers, may bring the matter to the Convention's attention at any time. A delegate may move that a discussion of the discrepancy be placed on the Convention agenda and a simple majority vote of the delegates will be sufficient to pass the motion.

Section 8. Procedures for election of Officers

a. Officers shall be elected in the order of Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson of Membership & Development, Deputy Chairperson of Advocacy & Public Policy, Deputy Chairperson of Campaigns & Elections, one of which Deputy Chairpersons shall be elected Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer. The newly elected Chairperson shall nominate one of the newly elected Deputy Chairpersons to be Vice Chairperson. In addition, delegates may nominate one or both of the two other newly elected Deputy Chairpersons to be Vice Chairperson.

b. After nominations have been closed, each nominee for an office will have:

1. 2 minutes for supporting nomination/seconding speeches
2. 3 minutes for a personal speech

3. 2 minutes to answer questions from the floor

c. The Chairperson will appoint a timer.

d. The procedure for speeches will be:

1. All nominating/seconding speeches for all candidates will be given.

2. Then all personal speeches will be given.

3. Then each candidate will stand before the delegates for the two minutes of questions.

e. If, after a ballot, no candidate has attained a majority vote, all nominees who have received less than 10% of the total vote shall be struck from subsequent ballots. If, after two ballots, no candidate has attained a majority vote, the candidate with the least votes shall be struck from the subsequent ballots; this procedure shall be repeated after each ballot in which no candidate has received a majority vote, until one candidate attains a majority.

Section 9. Procedures for election of the Executive Committee

a. Convention delegates shall elect one person to the Executive Committee from each Congressional District, plus two persons to the Executive Committee at-large. Congressional District candidates shall reside in the District they seek to represent. If after Congressional District elections, any Congressional District seat remains unfilled, it may be filled at-large notwithstanding the residence requirement.

b. Each nominee for the Executive Committee will have a total of three minutes at his or her disposal for nomination speeches, a personal speech or for answering questions.

c. After all nominees have had an opportunity to speak, delegates will vote by writing the name of each of the nominees for whom he or she wishes to vote on

the ballot provided. A delegate may not vote more than once for any nominee on any single ballot.

Section 10. Nomination of Candidates for Political Office

a. The order of offices for which candidates will be selected will be determined by the Executive Committee at a meeting prior to the Convention or Caucus.

b. A candidate for political office must be a member of the Party.

c. Candidates for office will be nominated from the floor.

d. After nominations are closed, each candidate will have a specified amount of time for nomination speeches and for a personal speech to the delegates. The time limits will be set by the Executive Committee at a meeting prior to the Convention or Caucus. The Chairperson will appoint a timer.

e. After all formal speeches, delegates will have an opportunity to make additional comments about candidates from the floor. Time limits on this open discussion will be set by the Executive Committee at a meeting prior to the Convention or Caucus.

f. Voting will be done in accordance with the Constitution, Article IX.

Section 11. More than one-half of the delegates registered and in attendance shall constitute a quorum for Convention business.

BYLAW IV: FINANCES AND ACCOUNTING

Section 1. The fiscal year of the Party shall begin on the first day of January.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall cause an efficient double entry system of accounts to be installed and maintained.

Section 3. All disbursements shall be made solely by check.

Section 4. The Executive Committee shall have the power to designate the depository of all funds of the Party, and shall appoint such officers and employees as in its judgment may seem advisable to deposit and withdraw funds from such depository.

Section 5. An Audit Committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee and an audit shall be conducted prior to each regularly held State Convention.

Section 6. The Party shall incur no debt without approval of 100% of the full Membership of the Executive Committee.

BYLAW V: PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered in the Constitution, Bylaws or Rules of the Party.

BYLAW VI: MEMBERSHIP FEES

Fees for membership in the Party shall be set by the Executive Committee and amended from time to time as the Executive Committee deems necessary.

BYLAW VII: DELEGATE ELECTIONS

Section 1. Only those persons whose application for membership to the Party has been postmarked at least one month prior to the first day of the Convention can be Convention delegates. The Chair of the Credentials Committee will be in charge of informing Party members of the requirements for becoming a delegate. The Credentials Committee will determine which Party members have gained delegate status and the Committee Chair will publish the names and counties of

all delegates by the beginning of the first business session.

Section 2. Delegates to the (National) Libertarian Party Convention shall include the Chairperson, if this officer so desires. Other Delegates and Alternate Delegates shall be elected in the same manner as nomination of candidates, except that additional Alternate Delegates may be selected while the National Convention is in session by majority vote of all Delegates who are registered in attendance at the Convention.

Section 3. Delegates to a Caucus of Eligible Electors shall be limited to those who possess all of the qualifications necessary to entitle him or her to be registered to vote in Iowa. The only additional limitation will be by rules set by the Executive Committee to allow the widest and fullest Libertarian representation at the Caucus. The Executive Committee shall use the Elections Laws of Iowa, especially 44.1, as guidance in these limitations.

BYLAW VIII: LOCAL AFFILIATES

The Libertarian Party of Iowa shall have the right to recognize affiliates, and develop relationships with those affiliates at the discretion of the Executive Committee. Affiliates can also petition for recognition at the annual convention, where recognition will be granted if approved by a majority of the members present. The Libertarian Party of Iowa may grant financial aid to affiliates with a 75% vote of approval by the executive committee. Affiliates shall be defined according to bylaws.

BYLAW IX: MEMBERSHIP EXCEPTIONS

Grandfathering of National Life Members: Those 13 members who currently live in Iowa that obtained a lifetime membership from the national party during the time joint state / national lifetime memberships were available shall have voting

member status with the state party without the necessity of paying dues to the state party each year.

Joint Membership Rate: Any two members that share the same mailing address may obtain voting member status for the same monetary amount set for a single membership.

A special college student rate: Any number of college students in an affiliate group enrolled at the same institution may become voting members for \$50 per group, however no student shall be charged less than one-half the going rate of single membership. The money raised beyond the initial \$50 shall be used by the affiliate group. A listing of members in the affiliate group must be presented to the secretary and Deputy Chair in Charge of Memberships at least one month prior to the state convention or April 1, whichever is earlier.