



Report of the Style Committee to the Board of Directors of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

Jake Campbell

Caryn Ann Harlos, previous Platform Committee Chair

**Richard Longstreth, previous Constitution and Bylaws
Committee Chair**

Michael Seebeck, Chair

Jay Stooksberry, Secretary

Report prepared by Chair Michael Seebeck
Approved by the Style Committee

FOREWARD

The 2017 Style Committee was established as a new committee at the 2017 Libertarian Party of Colorado’s State Convention. As a result, the Committee reviewed the Constitution, Bylaws, and Platform per its charter for non-substantive cleanup of the language of each document. Issues that were felt to be substantive were referred to the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and Platform Committee, respectively, for proposed resolution at the 2018 LPCO State Convention.

This report is divided into 6 sections. Parts I, III, and V are the marked-up versions of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Platform, respectively, and they show the proposed changes by this Committee. Parts II, IV, and VI are the clean copy versions of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Platform, respectively, and they show what the finished documents would look like if the Board adopts the proposed changes.

The 2017 Style Committee and all of its members have been proud to serve the Libertarian Party of Colorado, and thank the Board for their consideration on all proposals presented. The Chair wishes to express gratitude to all members of the 2017 Style Committee for their hard work and dedication.

In Liberty,

Michael Seebeck
2017 Style Committee Chair

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PART I: CONSTITUTION MARKUP

Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

[Adopted in Convention March, 2017]

Article I – NAME

Section 1: The name of the political party shall be the Libertarian Party of Colorado, hereinafter referred to as “the Party.”

Article II – PURPOSES

Section 1: The purpose of the Party is to implement and give voice to libertarian principles, such as those in the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party, throughout the state of Colorado by:

- (a) providing leadership and direction for the Libertarian movement in Colorado;
- (b) communicating the message and positions of the Party;
- (c) entering into political information and educational activities;
- (d) promoting, chartering, coordinating, and supporting Party affiliates;
- (e) growing the Party through attracting and retaining members;
- (f) attracting, nominating, and promoting professional, serious Libertarian candidates for political office; and
- (g) promoting Libertarian legislation throughout Colorado.

Article III – PRINCIPLES

Section 1: The Party shall take no positions inconsistent with the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party.

Article IV – MEMBERS

Section 1: Membership in the Party is exclusively limited to all registered electors (“Voters”) in the State of Colorado whose **Party Affiliation** party affiliation is “Libertarian.”

Membership in the Party begins on the date an eligible Voter signs an approved voter application form or signs a personal letter conforming to statute, or submits an authorized online request (collectively, “Application”), where **“Libertarian,”** or a reasonable abbreviation thereof, has

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been indicated as the party affiliation, and the Application is subsequently accepted by the Voter's County Clerk and Recorder. Membership in the Party ends on the date the Voter **either** signs or submits an Application where another party, **“Unaffiliated,”** or a reasonable abbreviation of either, has been indicated as the party affiliation, and the Application is subsequently accepted by the Voter's County Clerk and Recorder **;** or **the Voter** registers in another state.

Section 2: In the absence of the receipt section from the voter application form which has been properly initialed and dated by a **VRD Voter Registration Drive** circulator, or a copy of the Application notarized no later than the first business day following the date of signing, proof of membership by voter registration shall be determined by the Records Director or the Credentials Committee through confirmation with the Secretary of State or the Clerk & Recorder of the county in which the applicant has registered.

Section 3: A prospective member may challenge an error of the Secretary of State or a Clerk and Recorder by virtue of an affidavit signed by two **(2)** other Party members who are in good standing.

Section 4: Any current member of the Party, in good standing, may challenge the validity of the proof of membership. The burden of proof of invalidation shall be upon the challenging member.

Section 5: No membership in any other organizations shall be required of any applicant for consideration for Party membership.

Section 6: All offices, delegations, candidacies, and other roles within the Party and its **Affiliates**~~affiliates~~ shall be occupied and exercised only by Party Members.

Article V – OFFICERS

Section 1: There shall be eleven **(11)** Party Officers, as follows: State Chair, Vice Chair, Regions Director, Campaigns Director, Outreach Director, Membership Director, Communications Director, Records Director, Legislative Director, Treasurer, and Fundraising Director. Only Convention delegates eligible to vote may run for a Party Office, and only if they promise to fulfill the requirements of this article.

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Section 2: Except in the case of an appointed Officer, the following Officers shall be elected in odd-numbered years: State Chair, Vice Chair, Regions Director, Campaigns Director, Membership Director, and Communications Director; and the following Officers shall be elected in even-numbered years: Outreach Director, Records Director, Legislative Director, Treasurer, and Fundraising Director. The election of each Office shall be conducted independently of the others, in the order designated in Section 1 of this Article. Such elections shall be conducted as provided in the Bylaws by the delegates to the annual Party Convention, and shall not take effect until the Convention has adjourned and the Officer-Elect has signed the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals. The term of each Office shall be two **(2)** years or until a successor is elected or appointed.

Section 3: An appointed **officer's**Officer's term ends at the adjournment of the next Convention, regardless of year, when an election shall fill either the remainder of the term or the next full term, based on the schedule in **section**Section 2.

Section 4: Officer elections shall exclude any office eliminated upon adjournment and shall include any **office**Office created upon adjournment, regardless of the year designated for it in **section**Section 2, with the term adjusted to end at the convention of the designated year.

Article VI – BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Section 1: The Board of Directors shall consist of the Party Officers. The Board of Directors shall be the Party's **state central committee**State Central Committee.

Section 2: Any member of the Board of Directors may be suspended by vote of two-thirds **(2/3)** of the current Board of Directors. Any member of the Board of Directors absent from two **(2)** consecutive meetings of the Board shall be automatically suspended at adjournment of the second meeting. The Board of Directors may, by a two-thirds **(2/3)** vote of the current members, appoint or reinstate officers if vacancies or suspensions occur, such members to serve until the next Convention.

Section 3: The Board of Directors shall have the control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of the Party consistent with this Constitution and shall meet in the manner specified in the Party Bylaws. The Board shall serve as the Party's **vacaney**
committeeVacancy Committee.

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Article VII – CONVENTIONS

Section 1: The Party shall hold a Convention of Party Delegates each calendar year, scheduled so that it convenes at least six **(6)** months after the previous convention and adjourns no later than sixty-five **(65)** days before the day of the Colorado primary election.

Section 2: Arrangements may be made by the Board of Directors to provide for members to participate in the Convention from remote locations. At least forty-five **(45)** days prior to Convention, the Board shall call the Convention by notifying members of the date and location of the Convention, as well as any remote locations. Additionally, the time and place of any Convention and remote locations shall be published fifteen **(15)** days prior to such Convention in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein the members of the Party reside.

Section 3: No fee **may shall** be required of any Party member to participate in the business sessions of any Party Convention; however, fees may be required for participation in other convention events.

Section 4: Delegates to the business meetings of the Convention must have been Members for at least ninety **(90)** days immediately prior to the day the first such meeting convenes. The Credentials Committee is authorized to impose general selection criteria, such as capping the number of delegates from any number of counties or districts, giving preference to more senior delegates, or other criteria that will ensure fair representation of the Party Membership, provided such criteria are established prior to and included with the call of the Convention.

Article VIII – NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

Section 1: The United States Supreme Court has recognized that the nomination of candidates under political party rules falls under First Amendment Freedom of Association protections and therefore overrides state laws when such rules so state. Therefore, all rules for nominating candidates are limited to only the Party Constitution and Bylaws, and all state laws regarding nominating candidates are to be considered overridden and void. The Party reserves all First Amendment Rights in this regard.

Section 2: Nomination of candidates for offices requiring the vote of all the electors of the state shall be made by the Delegates to the Convention, or by a committee designated thereby.

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Nomination of candidates for all other offices may be made in the same way. In addition to prospective candidates, “None **Of The of the** Above” (NOTA) shall be a choice on every ballot cast. At no time shall NOTA be removed from the ballot, even under suspension of convention rules.

Section 3: Nomination of all other candidates may be made by the Party affiliates or district caucus of Party members and affiliates representing the area or district in which the candidate must run in accordance with such procedures as the affiliate or district caucus may provide, subject to the requirements of this article and ratification by a Party Convention or the Convention’s designated committee.

Section 4: Each candidate must have been a Member for at least one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the Primary Election, and shall sign a statement to the effect that he or she supports the Statement of Principles of the **national** Libertarian Party.

Section 5: In order to qualify for campaign assistance from the Party, any candidate for public office shall be endorsed by a majority of Party members at the State Convention, by a committee designated thereby, or by the Board of Directors.

Section 6: Any candidate representing the Party in a partisan contest where party identification on the ballot is permitted shall use the designation “Libertarian **.”** Only candidates approved by the process set forth in this article may use this designation.

Article IX – PARTY AFFILIATES

Section 1: The Board of Directors of the Party may charter as affiliates those organizations requesting such status to represent counties, or other geographical entities, if requested by affected members and approved by the Board of Directors. Affiliates shall be chartered for, but shall not be limited to, the following purposes:

1. nominating candidates for public office;
2. working to elect Libertarian candidates and **to** promote Libertarian principles through political information and educational activities; **and**
3. selecting representatives to appropriate Party activities.

Each affiliate so chartered shall declare, for the purposes of liaison between the Party and the chartered affiliate, an Affiliate Representative.

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Section 2: Every organization so chartered shall ratify the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party. They shall also submit contact information for their officers, who shall include at least a ~~chair~~**Chair** and a ~~treasurer~~**Treasurer**, with both being separate people; they shall maintain at least **five (5)** members, publish their ~~bylaws~~**Bylaws** to those members and the State Board of Directors, and file their initial ~~fair-campaign-practices act~~**Fair Campaign Practices Act** filings as necessary.

Section 3: The Board of Directors shall have the power to revoke the affiliate status of any organization by a three-fourths **(3/4)** vote of the current Board if said affiliate supports candidates, policies, or positions inconsistent with the ~~national Party~~**Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party** or the State Party Platform; fails to hold an annual meeting with at least five **(5)** members where officers are elected with contact information and minutes submitted to the State Board of Directors; or fails to report to the proper governmental agencies their fair campaign practices act filings. Thirty **(30)** days' notice by certified mail shall be given to the Affiliate Representative of the affected affiliate.

Article X – BYLAWS

Section 1: The Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Delegates to the Convention, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Constitution ~~And~~**and** Bylaws Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two **(2)** Members is provided at least two **(2)** Board meetings prior to the Convention to the Board, ~~which. Such~~ notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two **(2)** business days of receipt.

Article XI – PLATFORM

Section 1: The Party may adopt or amend, by a two-thirds **(2/3)** vote of the Delegates to the Convention, a Platform stating its position on all political issues affecting the state or any constituent entity thereof, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Platform Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two **(2)** Members is provided at least two **(2)** Board meetings prior to the Convention to the Board, ~~which. Such~~ notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two **(2)** business days of receipt. Any platform plank, or the entire Platform, may be repealed by a simple majority of the Delegates to the Convention.

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Article XII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1: The Constitution may be amended at any Party Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Delegates to the Convention, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two (2) Members is provided at least two (2) Board meetings prior to the Convention to the Board, ~~which. Such~~ notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two (2) business days of receipt. No amendment shall take effect until the adjournment of the Business Session.

Section 2: Any clause which requires a vote greater than the proportion in ~~section~~Section 1 shall not be amended except by a vote of the greater proportion, and this ~~section~~Section shall not be amended except by a vote of the greatest proportion specified anywhere within this Constitution.

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PART II: CONSTITUTION CLEAN COPY

Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

[Adopted in Convention March, 2017]

Article I – NAME

Section 1: The name of the political party shall be the Libertarian Party of Colorado, hereinafter referred to as “the Party.”

Article II – PURPOSES

Section 1: The purpose of the Party is to implement and give voice to libertarian principles, such as those in the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party, throughout the state of Colorado by:

- (a) providing leadership and direction for the Libertarian movement in Colorado;
- (b) communicating the message and positions of the Party;
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- (d) promoting, chartering, coordinating, and supporting Party affiliates;
- (e) growing the Party through attracting and retaining members;
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Section 1: The Party shall take no positions inconsistent with the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party.

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Section 1: Membership in the Party is exclusively limited to all registered electors (“Voters”) in the State of Colorado whose party affiliation is “Libertarian.” Membership in the Party begins on the date an eligible Voter signs an approved voter application form or signs a personal letter conforming to statute, or submits an authorized online request (collectively, “Application”), where “Libertarian,” or a reasonable abbreviation thereof, has been indicated as the party

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affiliation, and the Application is subsequently accepted by the Voter's County Clerk and Recorder. Membership in the Party ends on the date the Voter either signs or submits an Application where another party, "Unaffiliated," or a reasonable abbreviation of either, has been indicated as the party affiliation, and the Application is subsequently accepted by the Voter's County Clerk and Recorder; or registers in another state.

Section 2: In the absence of the receipt section from the voter application form which has been properly initialed and dated by a Voter Registration Drive circulator, or a copy of the Application notarized no later than the first business day following the date of signing, proof of membership by voter registration shall be determined by the Records Director or the Credentials Committee through confirmation with the Secretary of State or the Clerk & Recorder of the county in which the applicant has registered.

Section 3: A prospective member may challenge an error of the Secretary of State or a Clerk and Recorder by virtue of an affidavit signed by two (2) other Party members who are in good standing.

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Section 2: Except in the case of an appointed Officer, the following Officers shall be elected in odd-numbered years: State Chair, Vice Chair, Regions Director, Campaigns Director, Membership Director, and Communications Director; and the following Officers shall be elected in even-numbered years: Outreach Director, Records Director, Legislative Director, Treasurer,

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and Fundraising Director. The election of each Office shall be conducted independently of the others, in the order designated in Section 1 of this Article. Such elections shall be conducted as provided in the Bylaws by the delegates to the annual Party Convention, and shall not take effect until the Convention has adjourned and the Officer-Elect has signed the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals. The term of each Office shall be two (2) years or until a successor is elected or appointed.

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Section 2: Any member of the Board of Directors may be suspended by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the current Board of Directors. Any member of the Board of Directors absent from two (2) consecutive meetings of the Board shall be automatically suspended at adjournment of the second meeting. The Board of Directors may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current members, appoint or reinstate officers if vacancies or suspensions occur, such members to serve until the next Convention.

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Article VIII – NOMINATION OF CANDIDATES

Section 1: The United States Supreme Court has recognized that the nomination of candidates under political party rules falls under First Amendment Freedom of Association protections and therefore overrides state laws when such rules so state. Therefore, all rules for nominating candidates are limited to only the Party Constitution and Bylaws, and all state laws regarding nominating candidates are to be considered overridden and void. The Party reserves all First Amendment Rights in this regard.

Section 2: Nomination of candidates for offices requiring the vote of all the electors of the state shall be made by the Delegates to the Convention, or by a committee designated thereby. Nomination of candidates for all other offices may be made in the same way. In addition to prospective candidates, “None of the Above” (NOTA) shall be a choice on every ballot cast. At no time shall NOTA be removed from the ballot, even under suspension of convention rules.

Section 3: Nomination of all other candidates may be made by the Party affiliates or district caucus of Party members and affiliates representing the area or district in which the candidate must run in accordance with such procedures as the affiliate or district caucus may provide, subject to the requirements of this article and ratification by a Party Convention or the Convention’s designated committee.

Section 4: Each candidate must have been a Member for at least one hundred fifty (150) days prior to the Primary Election, and shall sign a statement to the effect that he or she supports the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party.

Section 5: In order to qualify for campaign assistance from the Party, any candidate for public office shall be endorsed by a majority of Party members at the State Convention, by a committee designated thereby, or by the Board of Directors.

Section 6: Any candidate representing the Party in a partisan contest where party identification on the ballot is permitted shall use the designation “Libertarian.” Only candidates approved by the process set forth in this article may use this designation.

Article IX – PARTY AFFILIATES

Section 1: The Board of Directors of the Party may charter as affiliates those organizations requesting such status to represent counties, or other geographical entities, if requested by affected members and approved by the Board of Directors. Affiliates shall be chartered for, but shall not be limited to, the following purposes:

1. nominating candidates for public office;
2. working to elect Libertarian candidates and to promote Libertarian principles through political information and educational activities; and
3. selecting representatives to appropriate Party activities.

Each affiliate so chartered shall declare, for the purposes of liaison between the Party and the chartered affiliate, an Affiliate Representative.

Section 2: Every organization so chartered shall ratify the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party. They shall also submit contact information for their officers, who shall include at least a Chair and a Treasurer, with both being separate people; they shall maintain at least five (5) members, publish their Bylaws to those members and the State Board of Directors, and file their initial Fair Campaign Practices Act filings as necessary.

Section 3: The Board of Directors shall have the power to revoke the affiliate status of any organization by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the current Board if said affiliate supports candidates, policies, or positions inconsistent with the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party or the State Party Platform; fails to hold an annual meeting with at least five (5) members where officers are elected with contact information and minutes submitted to the State Board of Directors; or fails to report to the proper governmental agencies their fair campaign

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practices act filings. Thirty (30) days' notice by certified mail shall be given to the Affiliate Representative of the affected affiliate.

Article X – BYLAWS

Section 1: The Bylaws may be amended by a majority vote of the Delegates to the Convention, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two (2) Members is provided at least two (2) Board meetings prior to the Convention to the Board. Such notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two (2) business days of receipt.

Article XI – PLATFORM

Section 1: The Party may adopt or amend, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Delegates to the Convention, a Platform stating its position on all political issues affecting the state or any constituent entity thereof, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Platform Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two (2) Members is provided at least two (2) Board meetings prior to the Convention to the Board. Such notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two (2) business days of receipt. Any platform plank or the entire Platform may be repealed by a simple majority of the Delegates to the Convention.

Article XII – AMENDMENTS

Section 1: The Constitution may be amended at any Party Convention by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Delegates to the Convention, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two (2) Members is provided at least two (2) Board meetings prior to the Convention to the Board. Such notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two (2) business days of receipt. No amendment shall take effect until the adjournment of the Business Session.

Section 2: Any clause which requires a vote greater than the proportion in Section 1 shall not be amended except by a vote of the greater proportion, and this Section shall not be amended except by a vote of the greatest proportion specified anywhere within this Constitution.

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PART III: BYLAWS MARKUP

Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

[Adopted in Convention March, 2017]

Article I – PARTY AFFILIATES

Section 1: Organizations applying for charter as affiliates shall make such applications on a standard petition form as adopted by the Board of Directors. The petition shall include ratification of the Statement of Principles **of the national Libertarian Party**. The petition and the ratification shall be signed by no fewer than five (5) Party members.

Section 2: Affiliates shall make known to the Party the Affiliate Representative to whose attention all Party business shall be directed. The Affiliate Representative shall be a Party member.

Section 3: Affiliates may choose to accept as “Associate Members” Libertarians who are members of the **National national** Libertarian Party, even though they have signed an approved voter application form establishing their Party affiliation as “Unaffiliated” rather than “Libertarian.” If adopted, this policy must be included in the affiliate’s Bylaws. **“Associate Members” may be allowed to vote at local affiliate meetings and receive newsletters and mailings from the affiliate. “Associate Members” shall not be allowed to vote at the State Convention, serve as an officer of the Party, including at the affiliate level, or seek nomination as a Libertarian Party candidate for any public office.”** ~~“Associate Members” may be allowed to vote at local affiliate meetings, but shall not be allowed to vote at the State Convention. “Associate Members” may be allowed to receive newsletters and mailings from the affiliate, but would not be allowed to serve as an officer of the Party, including at the affiliate level, or seek nomination as a Libertarian Party candidate for any public office.~~

Article II – DUTIES OF THE BOARD

Section 1: The State Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Party, holding the powers of administration pertaining to the ordinary business affairs of the Party and such other powers as may be delegated by the Board of Directors. The State Chair may appoint such Party functionaries as a recording and corresponding secretary, an office manager, and an events chair. The State Chair shall compile, maintain, and make available to the Board of Directors a publication listing all “Standing ~~rules~~Rules” and “Special ~~rules~~Rules” adopted by the Board of Directors. The State Chair shall specify the date and time of the next Convention at least forty-five (45) days before it is convened. The State Chair, or his or her designee, including other Board members acting within their designated job duties at the direction of the Chair, shall be the person who shall communicate on behalf of the Party. The State Chair shall file any amendments to the Party’s Constitution or Bylaws with the Secretary of State within fifteen (15) days after such amendments are adopted.

Section 2: The Vice Chair shall assist the State Chair in the performance of executive duties, act as Chair in the temporary absence of the State Chair, develop and support affiliate parties and district caucuses, ensure affiliate compliance with requirements in the Party Constitution and Bylaws, communicate with Affiliate Representatives on a monthly basis, and facilitate resource sharing and cooperation among the affiliates.

Section 3: The Regions Director shall be responsible for representing the regions and for coordinating campaigns, media, outreach, and other party functions in those regions. The regions shall be composed of the following counties:

1. **Pikes Peak:** El Paso, Park, Teller
2. **Upper Arkansas:** Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Lake
3. **Southeast:** Baca, Bent, Crowley, Huerfano, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo
4. **San Luis:** Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, Saguache
5. **San Juan:** Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, San Juan, San Miguel
6. **Western Slope:** Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray
7. **Central:** Clear Creek, Eagle, Garfield, Gilpin, Grand, Pitkin, Summit
8. **Northwest:** Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt
9. **Metro:** Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson
10. **Northeast:** Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld
11. **Plains:** Cheyenne, Elbert, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Yuma

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Section 4: The Campaigns Director shall identify political races and coordinate candidate and issue development. The Campaigns Director shall be responsible for and coordinate all political campaigns of the Party.

Section 5: The Outreach Director shall be responsible for recruiting members, having speakers, conducting recruiting events, organizing and supporting student clubs and organizations at high schools, colleges, and universities, and setting up and operating a speakers bureau.

Section 6: The Communications Director shall be responsible for all communications, web sites, multimedia, social media, press releases, media appearances, and media inquiries.

Section 7: The Records Director shall be responsible for maintaining membership records, coordinating membership data with the National LP, providing information (such as mailing labels and precinct walking lists) as needed, and administering the Party's physical office space (including computer systems, telephone systems, and any paid positions). The Records Director shall act as recording secretary for all legal purposes and shall maintain a Party calendar of all deadlines required by these Bylaws, the Party Constitution, and the Secretary of State.

Section 8: The Legislative Director shall be responsible for monitoring activity in the State Legislature, communicating with that body, developing issue-oriented interest groups, and working with other organizations on areas of mutual concern.

Section 9: The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records of all income and expenses associated with the operation of the Party and shall present a summary of all income and expenses incurred at the regular meeting of the Board. The income and expense summary may be limited to activity since the last regular meeting of the Board. The Treasurer shall also prepare budgets for the other board members or assist them in preparing their own budgets.

Section 10: The Fundraising Director shall be responsible for establishing and operating fundraising activities including, but not limited to, a monthly pledge program, and for reporting all income and expenses related to fundraising at the regular Board meeting.

Section 11: The Membership Director shall be responsible for: developing membership education programs and publications (including final responsibility for publishing a regular newsletter); recruiting and training activists from the membership; ~~and;~~ overseeing leadership training and succession planning at all levels within the Party; ~~;~~ categorizing and contacting current individual members (registered Libertarian voters) to ask/persuade the members to

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support the LPCO financially or actively; and ~~for~~ monthly reporting the same to the Board and ~~Affiliates~~affiliates.

Section 12: Each Officer shall be responsible for maintaining documentation within his or her area and shall provide a written report to be passed on to the next Officer. He or she shall not incur expenses beyond budget without approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 13: Each Officer shall be an ex-officio member of each Party ~~Affiliate~~affiliate Board of Directors for the purposes of (A) upholding the spirit and letter of the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party; (B) enforcing the Party Constitution and Bylaws, and the Rules and Resolutions adopted by the Convention or the State Board, and (C) providing relief in times of distress. Officers shall not be counted in determining the number required for a quorum at an ~~Affiliate~~affiliate Annual or Board Meeting but may be counted in determining that a quorum is present. Each Officer shall actively participate in a meeting of at least one (1) Party ~~Affiliate~~affiliate or Development Group each calendar year.

Article III – MEETINGS

Section 1: Any meeting to elect ~~party officers~~Party Officers, including Delegates, and any assembly to nominate candidates, shall be held at a public place at the time specified by the State Chair, and the time and place of such meeting shall be published once, no later than fifteen (15) days before such meeting, in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein Members reside.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall convene in open meeting at such times and places as may be determined by action of the Board, by call of the State Chair, or by written request of one-third (1/3) or more of the Board, with notice to be sent to the official email address of each Board Member at least ~~forty-eight~~ (48) hours prior to such meeting. Such meetings shall be called at least once per calendar month.

Section 3: More than one-half (1/2) of the current membership of the Board of Directors shall constitute a quorum at all meetings for the transaction of business, except where a larger vote is required by the Constitution. Any member of the Board may participate in a Board meeting or committee meeting by means of telephone conference or similar communications equipment which allows all persons participating in the meeting to hear or otherwise communicate with each other.

Section 4: Boards may transact business by electronic communications as specified by **standing rules**Standing Rules adopted by the State Board. Committees appointed by the Board **have the authority to**may transact business by electronic **communication**communications as specified by their own **standing rules**Standing Rules or Special Rules of Order.

Section 5: Any active member of the Party may attend the Board Meetings as an **“**alternate delegate**”** at the request of that Board Member who temporarily cannot attend. **No**An alternate delegate may **not** represent more than one Board Member at any Board Meeting. The Board Member who is being represented by an alternate must notify at least two **(2)** other Board Members.

Article IV – FINANCES AND ACCOUNTING

Section 1: The fiscal **term**year of the Party shall end **on the last day of** March **31st**.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be established and maintained.

Article V – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Party Constitution, Party Bylaws, and any standing rules and any special rules of order the Party or the Board of Directors may adopt. If a new edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised is released six **(6)** months prior to the next State Party Convention, they **will**shall become the Party's Parliamentary authority following the conclusion of that convention. If they are released less than six **(6)** months prior to the next State Party Convention, they **will**shall become the Party's Parliamentary authority following the conclusion of the next year's State Convention.

Article VI – COMMITTEES

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Section 1: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Platform Committee shall each consist of five **(5)** at-large members selected by the Board of Directors and an additional member selected by each chartered **Affiliate**affiliate.

Section 2: The Board shall solicit applications for the members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and Platform Committee and set the appointment date for these positions by announcement to all Party members at least six **(6)** months prior to the Party Convention. The Board shall appoint five **(5)** at-large members at an open Board meeting held at least one **(1)** month after the final solicitation, but no later than four **(4)** months prior to the Party Convention. If any subsequent vacancies occur in the initially appointed at-large positions, the Board of Directors may select Party members to fill the vacancies. The Board shall select the committee Chairs from the members of each committee.

Section 3: Each chartered affiliate may appoint one **(1)** member to the committees. Should an affiliate not appoint its delegate, the Board of Directors may appoint an additional at-large member at the time of committee formation. The Board shall solicit one **(1)** delegate from each chartered affiliate on the same schedule implemented by the Board pursuant to Section 2 above, and at its meeting for appointment of the members of the committees it shall confirm such delegates as have been certified by the Affiliate Representatives. If a member appointed by an affiliate resigns from a committee or fails to attend two **(2)** consecutive committee votes, the affiliate may appoint a replacement.

Section 4: Committees shall submit their final reports to the Board for publication to the membership **not no** later than six **(6)** weeks before the Party Convention. These reports shall be available in their complete form to any Party member upon request, and the Board may charge only the cost of reproduction and mailing. The Party Chair shall ensure that the committees' reports, and any reports of committee members submitted separately, are presented at the Convention.

Section 5: Chairs of committees shall be responsible for completion and reproduction at Party expense of their final reports, and of interim documents for committee use, and for scheduling of committee meetings. All committee meetings shall be open to Party members, who may request the committees' schedules from their respective Chairs.

Section 6: The Chair of each committee shall certify and cause to be published at Party expense a report representing each document in its entirety as approved by the Convention.

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Section 7: The Style Committee shall consist of the previous chairs of the Constitution and Bylaws, and Platform Committees from the previous Convention year and three **(3)** at-large Party members selected by the Board of Directors. The Style Committee shall propose stylistic changes to the Platform, Constitution, and Bylaws, non-substantive in nature, to the Board for Ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, rejection, or determination as a substantive change. Substantive changes to be proposed shall be forwarded or referred to the current Platform or Constitution and Bylaws Committees as appropriate.

Section 8: Such other committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the State Chair as the Board of Directors or State Convention shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of the Party.

Article VII – ELECTION OF DELEGATES & ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Section 1: All delegates must have been members or have been pre-registered to become members of the state Party for at least ninety **(90)** days immediately prior to the first day of the business in which they are elected and must sign a statement to the effect that they support the Statement of Principles of the **national** Libertarian Party.

Section 2: The Party Chair shall announce to the Convention body the number of delegates and the number to be selected by the Convention.

Section 3: Nominations for delegate positions shall be received from the floor with no seconding required. Members may nominate themselves. ¶ Each member in attendance at the Convention shall cast a single vote for each delegate candidate of his or her choice. The total votes cast by each member shall not exceed the number of delegates to be selected. Delegates shall be elected by a simple majority of those voting. Subsequent ballots shall be taken as necessary to fill any remaining delegate positions. In the event that there are more candidates receiving a majority vote than there are delegate positions to be filled, those candidates receiving the highest vote totals shall be elected.

Section 4: After the delegates are elected, alternates may be selected by a majority of those voting.

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Section 5: The duly-elected delegates shall immediately select a delegation chair and determine their own substitution procedures. Such substitutions shall be made without regard to Congressional District representation. A list of the delegates and alternates, and a description of the substitution procedures, shall be submitted by the delegation chair to the State Chair and the secretary of the national Libertarian Party within seven (7) days after the Convention is adjourned.

Section 6: Representatives and alternates to national Party committees and subcommittees shall be elected by one of the following methods: If the number of representatives to national Libertarian Party Committees is known at the time of the Party Convention and the committees are to convene after the Convention, the Convention shall elect representatives and alternates in the same manner as and immediately after the election of at-large national convention delegates; otherwise the Board of Directors shall elect the committee representatives and alternates by majority vote.

Article VIII – COUNTY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Section 1: For each county without an **Affiliate**, the Board or a committee it appoints for this purpose may charter one **(1)** or more Development Groups for the purpose of increasing Party membership, communication, and influence within the county as an interim to establishing a formally organized **Affiliate**. Subject to the provisions below and any rules and instructions issued by the Board, a Development Group shall have the power to select its own name and leadership; adopt rules and agenda; and set times and places of meeting.

Section 2: A Development Group may be assigned to a subset of precincts within a county. Development Groups shall not overlap geographically. Development Groups may negotiate among themselves with respect to merging ~~or~~, splitting ~~or~~, gaining or releasing one or more precincts, and shall notify the Board within three **(3)** business days of any such changes made.

Section 3: A Development Group may have as members any residents within its geographical boundary, as well as any residents not living within any other currently chartered Development Group boundary. Development Group leadership shall be limited to Party Members and shall submit a report of activities to the Regions Director at least once per quarter or upon request.

Section 4: Development Groups may, jointly or separately, engage in outreach and voter registration; membership education, support, and training; recruiting activists and potential

candidates; raising funds on behalf of the Party; and supporting or opposing local issues, subject to Board approval. ¶ **A Development Group shall follow applicable law with respect to collecting and recording donations by political parties, and shall submit all money collected and records of the donors to the Party Treasurer within three (3) business days of receipt.** A Development Group shall not nominate or endorse candidates for office. ~~**A Development Group;**~~ shall not interact with the media except by the approval and instruction of the State Chair. ¶ ~~**A Development Group shall follow applicable law with respect to collecting and recording donations by political parties, and shall submit all money collected and records of the donors to the Party Treasurer within three (3) business days of receipt. A Development Group; and**~~ shall not spend money except as authorized by the Party Treasurer or the Board.

Section 5: The Board may revoke the charter of any Development Group at any time and without cause. ¶ Upon the formation of an ~~**Affiliate**~~**affiliate** within a county, all Development Groups therein shall become constituents of and wholly subject to that ~~**Affiliate**~~**affiliate**.

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PART IV: BYLAWS CLEAN COPY

Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

[Adopted in Convention March, 2017]

Article I – PARTY AFFILIATES

Section 1: Organizations applying for charter as affiliates shall make such applications on a standard petition form as adopted by the Board of Directors. The petition shall include ratification of the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party. The petition and the ratification shall be signed by no fewer than five (5) Party members.

Section 2: Affiliates shall make known to the Party the Affiliate Representative to whose attention all Party business shall be directed. The Affiliate Representative shall be a Party member.

Section 3: Affiliates may choose to accept as “Associate Members” Libertarians who are members of the national Libertarian Party, even though they have signed an approved voter application form establishing their Party affiliation as “Unaffiliated” rather than “Libertarian.” If adopted, this policy must be included in the affiliate’s Bylaws. “Associate Members” may be allowed to vote at local affiliate meetings and receive newsletters and mailings from the affiliate. “Associate Members” shall not be allowed to vote at the State Convention, serve as an officer of the Party, including at the affiliate level, or seek nomination as a Libertarian Party candidate for any public office.”

Article II – DUTIES OF THE BOARD

Section 1: The State Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Party, holding the powers of administration pertaining to the ordinary business affairs of the Party and such other powers as may be delegated by the Board of Directors. The State Chair may appoint such Party functionaries as a recording and corresponding secretary, an office manager, and an events chair. The State Chair shall compile, maintain, and make available to the Board of Directors a publication listing all “Standing Rules” and “Special Rules” adopted by the Board of Directors. The State Chair shall specify the date and time of the next Convention at least forty-five (45) days before it is convened. The State Chair, or his or her designee, including other Board members acting within their designated job duties at the direction of the Chair, shall be the

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person who shall communicate on behalf of the Party. The State Chair shall file any amendments to the Party's Constitution or Bylaws with the Secretary of State within fifteen (15) days after such amendments are adopted.

Section 2: The Vice Chair shall assist the State Chair in the performance of executive duties, act as Chair in the temporary absence of the State Chair, develop and support affiliate parties and district caucuses, ensure affiliate compliance with requirements in the Party Constitution and Bylaws, communicate with Affiliate Representatives on a monthly basis, and facilitate resource sharing and cooperation among the affiliates.

Section 3: The Regions Director shall be responsible for representing the regions and for coordinating campaigns, media, outreach, and other party functions in those regions. The regions shall be composed of the following counties:

1. **Pikes Peak:** El Paso, Park, Teller
2. **Upper Arkansas:** Chaffee, Custer, Fremont, Lake
3. **Southeast:** Baca, Bent, Crowley, Huerfano, Las Animas, Otero, Prowers, Pueblo
4. **San Luis:** Alamosa, Conejos, Costilla, Rio Grande, Saguache
5. **San Juan:** Archuleta, Dolores, Hinsdale, La Plata, Mineral, Montezuma, San Juan, San Miguel
6. **Western Slope:** Delta, Gunnison, Mesa, Montrose, Ouray
7. **Central:** Clear Creek, Eagle, Garfield, Gilpin, Grand, Pitkin, Summit
8. **Northwest:** Jackson, Moffat, Rio Blanco, Routt
9. **Metro:** Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, Jefferson
10. **Northeast:** Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld
11. **Plains:** Cheyenne, Elbert, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Yuma

Section 4: The Campaigns Director shall identify political races and coordinate candidate and issue development. The Campaigns Director shall be responsible for and coordinate all political campaigns of the Party.

Section 5: The Outreach Director shall be responsible for recruiting members, having speakers, conducting recruiting events, organizing and supporting student clubs and organizations at high schools, colleges, and universities, and setting up and operating a speakers bureau.

Section 6: The Communications Director shall be responsible for all communications, web sites, multimedia, social media, press releases, media appearances, and media inquiries.

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Section 7: The Records Director shall be responsible for maintaining membership records, coordinating membership data with the National LP, providing information (such as mailing labels and precinct walking lists) as needed, and administering the Party's physical office space (including computer systems, telephone systems, and any paid positions). The Records Director shall act as recording secretary for all legal purposes and shall maintain a Party calendar of all deadlines required by these Bylaws, the Party Constitution, and the Secretary of State.

Section 8: The Legislative Director shall be responsible for monitoring activity in the State Legislature, communicating with that body, developing issue-oriented interest groups, and working with other organizations on areas of mutual concern.

Section 9: The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records of all income and expenses associated with the operation of the Party and shall present a summary of all income and expenses incurred at the regular meeting of the Board. The income and expense summary may be limited to activity since the last regular meeting of the Board. The Treasurer shall also prepare budgets for the other board members or assist them in preparing their own budgets.

Section 10: The Fundraising Director shall be responsible for establishing and operating fundraising activities including, but not limited to, a monthly pledge program, and for reporting all income and expenses related to fundraising at the regular Board meeting.

Section 11: The Membership Director shall be responsible for: developing membership education programs and publications (including final responsibility for publishing a regular newsletter); recruiting and training activists from the membership; overseeing leadership training and succession planning at all levels within the Party; categorizing and contacting current individual members (registered Libertarian voters) to ask/persuade the members to support the LPCO financially or actively; and monthly reporting the same to the Board and affiliates.

Section 12: Each Officer shall be responsible for maintaining documentation within his or her area and shall provide a written report to be passed on to the next Officer. He or she shall not incur expenses beyond budget without approval of the Board of Directors.

Section 13: Each Officer shall be an ex-officio member of each Party affiliate Board of Directors for the purposes of (A) upholding the spirit and letter of the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party; (B) enforcing the Party Constitution and Bylaws, and the Rules and Resolutions adopted by the Convention or the State Board, and (C) providing relief in times of distress. Officers shall not be counted in determining the number required for a quorum at an affiliate Annual or Board Meeting but may be counted in determining that a quorum is present.

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Each Officer shall actively participate in a meeting of at least one (1) Party affiliate or Development Group each calendar year.

Article III – MEETINGS

Section 1: Any meeting to elect Party Officers, including Delegates, and any assembly to nominate candidates, shall be held at a public place at the time specified by the State Chair, and the time and place of such meeting shall be published once, no later than fifteen (15) days before such meeting, in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein Members reside.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall convene in open meeting at such times and places as may be determined by action of the Board, by call of the State Chair, or by written request of one-third (1/3) or more of the Board, with notice to be sent to the official email address of each Board Member at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to such meeting. Such meetings shall be called at least once per calendar month.

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Section 4: Boards may transact business by electronic communications as specified by Standing Rules adopted by the State Board. Committees appointed by the Board may transact business by electronic communications as specified by their own Standing Rules or Special Rules of Order.

Section 5: Any active member of the Party may attend the Board Meetings as an “alternate delegate” at the request of that Board Member who temporarily cannot attend. An alternate delegate may not represent more than one Board Member at any Board Meeting. The Board Member who is being represented by an alternate must notify at least two (2) other Board Members.

Article IV – FINANCES AND ACCOUNTING

Section 1: The fiscal year of the Party shall end March 31st.

Section 2: The Board of Directors shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be established and maintained.

Article V – PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

Section 1: The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Party Constitution, Party Bylaws, and any standing rules and any special rules of order the Party or the Board of Directors may adopt. If a new edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised is released six (6) months prior to the next State Party Convention, they shall become the Party's Parliamentary authority following the conclusion of that convention. If they are released less than six (6) months prior to the next State Party Convention, they shall become the Party's Parliamentary authority following the conclusion of the next year's State Convention.

Article VI – COMMITTEES

Section 1: The Constitution and Bylaws Committee and the Platform Committee shall each consist of five (5) at-large members selected by the Board of Directors and an additional member selected by each chartered affiliate.

Section 2: The Board shall solicit applications for the members of the Constitution and Bylaws Committee and Platform Committee and set the appointment date for these positions by announcement to all Party members at least six (6) months prior to the Party Convention. The Board shall appoint five (5) at-large members at an open Board meeting held at least one (1) month after the final solicitation, but no later than four (4) months prior to the Party Convention. If any subsequent vacancies occur in the initially appointed at-large positions, the Board of Directors may select Party members to fill the vacancies. The Board shall select the committee Chairs from the members of each committee.

Section 3: Each chartered affiliate may appoint one (1) member to the committees. Should an affiliate not appoint its delegate, the Board of Directors may appoint an additional at-large member at the time of committee formation. The Board shall solicit one (1) delegate from each chartered affiliate on the same schedule implemented by the Board pursuant to Section 2 above, and at its meeting for appointment of the members of the committees it shall confirm such delegates as have been certified by the Affiliate Representatives. If a member appointed by an affiliate resigns from a committee or fails to attend two (2) consecutive committee votes, the affiliate may appoint a replacement.

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Section 4: Committees shall submit their final reports to the Board for publication to the membership no later than six (6) weeks before the Party Convention. These reports shall be available in their complete form to any Party member upon request, and the Board may charge only the cost of reproduction and mailing. The Party Chair shall ensure that the committees' reports, and any reports of committee members submitted separately, are presented at the Convention.

Section 5: Chairs of committees shall be responsible for completion and reproduction at Party expense of their final reports, and of interim documents for committee use, and for scheduling of committee meetings. All committee meetings shall be open to Party members, who may request the committees' schedules from their respective Chairs.

Section 6: The Chair of each committee shall certify and cause to be published at Party expense a report representing each document in its entirety as approved by the Convention.

Section 7: The Style Committee shall consist of the previous chairs of the Constitution and Bylaws, and Platform Committees from the previous Convention year and three (3) at-large Party members selected by the Board of Directors. The Style Committee shall propose stylistic changes to the Platform, Constitution, and Bylaws, non-substantive in nature, to the Board for Ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, rejection, or determination as a substantive change. Substantive changes to be proposed shall be forwarded or referred to the current Platform or Constitution and Bylaws Committees as appropriate.

Section 8: Such other committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the State Chair as the Board of Directors or State Convention shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of the Party.

Article VII – ELECTION OF DELEGATES & ALTERNATES TO NATIONAL CONVENTIONS

Section 1: All delegates must have been members or have been pre-registered to become members of the state Party for at least ninety (90) days immediately prior to the first day of the business in which they are elected and must sign a statement to the effect that they support the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party.

Section 2: The Party Chair shall announce to the Convention body the number of delegates and the number to be selected by the Convention.

Section 3: Nominations for delegate positions shall be received from the floor with no seconding required. Members may nominate themselves. Each member in attendance at the Convention shall cast a single vote for each delegate candidate of his or her choice. The total votes cast by each member shall not exceed the number of delegates to be selected. Delegates shall be elected by a simple majority of those voting. Subsequent ballots shall be taken as necessary to fill any remaining delegate positions. In the event that there are more candidates receiving a majority vote than there are delegate positions to be filled, those candidates receiving the highest vote totals shall be elected.

Section 4: After the delegates are elected, alternates may be selected by a majority of those voting.

Section 5: The duly-elected delegates shall immediately select a delegation chair and determine their own substitution procedures. Such substitutions shall be made without regard to Congressional District representation. A list of the delegates and alternates, and a description of the substitution procedures, shall be submitted by the delegation chair to the State Chair and the secretary of the national Libertarian Party within seven (7) days after the Convention is adjourned.

Section 6: Representatives and alternates to national Party committees and subcommittees shall be elected by one of the following methods: If the number of representatives to national Libertarian Party Committees is known at the time of the Party Convention and the committees are to convene after the Convention, the Convention shall elect representatives and alternates in the same manner as and immediately after the election of at-large national convention delegates; otherwise the Board of Directors shall elect the committee representatives and alternates by majority vote.

Article VIII – COUNTY DEVELOPMENT GROUPS

Section 1: For each county without an affiliate, the Board or a committee it appoints for this purpose may charter one (1) or more Development Groups for the purpose of increasing Party membership, communication, and influence within the county as an interim to establishing a formally organized affiliate. Subject to the provisions below and any rules and instructions issued by the Board, a Development Group shall have the power to select its own name and leadership; adopt rules and agenda; and set times and places of meeting.

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Section 2: A Development Group may be assigned to a subset of precincts within a county. Development Groups shall not overlap geographically. Development Groups may negotiate among themselves with respect to merging, splitting, gaining or releasing one or more precincts, and shall notify the Board within three (3) business days of any such changes made.

Section 3: A Development Group may have as members any residents within its geographical boundary, as well as any residents not living within any other currently chartered Development Group boundary. Development Group leadership shall be limited to Party Members and shall submit a report of activities to the Regions Director at least once per quarter or upon request.

Section 4: Development Groups may, jointly or separately, engage in outreach and voter registration; membership education, support, and training; recruiting activists and potential candidates; raising funds on behalf of the Party; and supporting or opposing local issues, subject to Board approval. A Development Group shall follow applicable law with respect to collecting and recording donations by political parties, and shall submit all money collected and records of the donors to the Party Treasurer within three (3) business days of receipt. A Development Group shall not nominate or endorse candidates for office; shall not interact with the media except by the approval and instruction of the State Chair; and shall not spend money except as authorized by the Party Treasurer or the Board.

Section 5: The Board may revoke the charter of any Development Group at any time and without cause. Upon the formation of an affiliate within a county, all Development Groups therein shall become constituents of and wholly subject to that affiliate.

PART V: PLATFORM MARKUP

Platform of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

[Adopted in Convention March, 2017]

Preamble

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives, and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others.

We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

We hold that individuals have inherent sovereign rights to their own bodies and property. As such, we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property. These principles are to guide Libertarian policy positions in every area.

In the following sections we **have** set forth our basic principles and ~~enumerated~~**enumerate** various policy positions derived from those principles. These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life—accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action—accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property—accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

Implementation

We support any measure that actually reduces illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual as put forth in our Preamble and Statement of Principles. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks that follow are to be **taken implemented** as quickly as possible.

The Individual

Individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate. Individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life. Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept

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responsibility for the consequences of the choices they make provided those choices do not violate the rights of others. Our support of an individual's right to make choices in life does not mean that we necessarily approve or disapprove of those choices.

Victimless Crimes

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create crimes without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling.

Freedom of Expression

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of communications, media, and technology. We favor the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others. We oppose government actions which aid or attack any religion.

Protection of Privacy

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government's practice of spying on its own citizens. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure includes records held by third parties, such as, but not limited to, email, library, medical, and phone records.

Freedom of Association

Libertarians embrace the concept that all people are born with certain inherent rights and reject the idea that those rights can impose an obligation upon any other person or non-government organization to fulfill that right. The right to trade includes the right not to trade—for any reason. The right of association includes the right not to associate—for any reason. The right to contract includes the right not to contract—for any reason. Individuals and business owners retain their rights and privileges to set their own standards of association and terms of voluntary interaction. Other individuals and business owners are free to respond with ostracism, boycotts, and other free market solutions. We therefore favor the repeal of

any governmental attempts to regulate any private association, including public accommodations laws.

Personal Relationships

Sexual orientation, preference, gender, or gender identity should have no impact on the government's treatment of individuals, such as in marriage, child custody, adoption, immigration, or military service laws. Government does not have the authority to define, license or restrict personal relationships. Consenting adults should be free to choose their own sexual practices and personal relationships. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

Right to Self-Defense

The only legitimate use of force is reasonable and proportional defense of individual rights—life, liberty, and justly-acquired property—against aggression. This right inheres in the individual, who may seek to be, or agree to be, aided by any other individual or group in the exercise of the right to self-defense. Maintaining our belief in the inviolability of the right to keep and bear arms, we reject all laws at any level of government restricting, registering, or monitoring the ownership, manufacture, transport, or transfer of any item or tool that could be used for reasonable and proportional self-defense.

The Market

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. For voluntary dealings among private entities, parties should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable. Therefore, we oppose all intervention by government into the area of economics. The only proper role of existing governments in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. Efforts to forcibly redistribute wealth or forcibly manage and regulate trade violate individual rights. We believe that all individuals have the right to dispose of the fruits of their labor as they see fit.

Taxation

Taxation is government confiscation of the property of its citizens through the use of force. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose.

Therefore we oppose coercive taxation, and we support any and all initiatives to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase any tax or add new ones. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner such as through contributions, lotteries, subscriptions, and user fees. We contend that a tax by any other name, including a fee, excise, or assessment, is still a tax.

Healthcare

We support a free market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and healthcare. We recognize the freedom of individuals to determine the services they want (if any) and all other aspects of their medical care, including end-of-life decisions. People should be free to purchase health insurance across state lines.

Money

Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use ~~as money~~ any mutually agreeable commodity or item as money. We oppose inflationary monetary policies and unconstitutional legal tender laws. We oppose government use of debt to conceal or cover the cost of their expenditures.

Licensing

Licensing is a method for government to convert a natural right into a privilege, then require one to pay fees to the government to exercise. Privileges can be and often are revoked by government and allow for stifling of competition to create government mandated monopolies. Rights must be held inviolate, and no one should be forced to pay to exercise a right. We encourage certifications by voluntary associations of professionals.

Property

We hold that rights to property are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights and that the owners of property have the full right to control, use, dispose of, or ~~in any manner~~ enjoy their property in any manner, without interference, until and unless the exercise of their control infringes the valid rights of others. Eminent domain, civil asset forfeiture, governmental limits on profits, governmental production mandates, and governmental controls on prices of goods and services (including wages, rents, and interest) are abridgements of fundamental rights. We support ending

taxation of real property, which makes the State the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the State.

Labor Markets

The contract between an employer and employee is a voluntary relationship, where both sides choose to enter into it and can only fairly negotiate on the terms of the contract without interference by government. We support the right of employers and employees to freely choose whether or not to bargain with each other through a third party, such as a labor union. There is no inherent “right to work” nor a “right to unionize,” merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment.

The Community

Free and voluntary societies provide the best potential for all members of society to succeed and flourish. A free and competitive market for all services will allocate resources in the most efficient manner. Voluntary cooperation and charity between people meets the needs of others without violating rights through coercion and force. Current problems in many societal areas such as energy, pollution, public services, and poverty are not solved, but instead are caused or exacerbated, by government.

Education

Education is a matter of conscience, values, and free expression, as much as assembly, press, religion, or speech. Accordingly, we advocate the complete separation of school and **stateState**, ending government ownership, operation, regulation, and subsidy of schools, colleges, and universities. Until that time, any government funds for education should be put entirely under parental and student control, for use in schools of choice (including, but not limited to, private, parochial, and home **schoolingschools**) or to carry forward for education in a future year.

Environment

Pollution of air, water, and land violates rights. Polluters, including government, should have strict liability for harms caused by pollution. Strict liability, not government agencies and arbitrary government standards, should regulate pollution.

Welfare

The forced taking of property from an individual for the benefit of others is a violation of individual rights. The most effective source of help for others is voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

Utilities

We advocate the termination of government-regulated franchise privileges and governmental monopolies for public services. The right to offer such services on the market should not be curtailed by the **state**State.

The State

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and citizens. We call for a non-interventionist foreign policy and recognize the rights to unrestricted travel, trade, and immigration, while reserving the right to defend against specific and credible threats.

Equal Treatment

Government should not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's human **right**rights based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits and preferences, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. **And** **any**Any laws which currently do so should be repealed rather than extended to all groups.

Sovereign Immunity

Neither government agencies nor their representatives should be exempted from laws, statutes, and regulations applicable to everyone else. We favor an immediate end to the doctrine of Sovereign Immunity which ignores the primacy of the individual over the abstraction of the State, and holds that the State, contrary to the tradition of redress of grievances, may not be sued without its permission or held accountable for its actions under civil law. Government agents should be subject to civil and criminal liability for any injuries caused by their actions, without regard to whether those actions occurred during the course of their duties.

Judicial

The only real crimes are crimes of violence or ~~threat~~threats of violence, property loss, and fraud where an individual is a victim. The judicial process should be an earnest attempt, through due process of law, to extract reasonable restitution from a person convicted of a crime and to convey that restitution to the victim, to imprison or exclude criminals from society when necessary, to hold persons liable for damage they do, and to fairly settle contract disputes in which the parties have not voluntarily opted for private dispute resolution. A criminal, having paid for the crime, should be accorded full restoration of liberty. We assert the common-law right of juries to judge not only the facts but also the justice of the law.

Death Penalty

The death penalty is irreversible and no recompense for a violation of an individual's right to life can be made for an execution later found to be in error. Given the fallibility of any judicial system, punishments that cannot be reversed or compensated for should not be levied. Even if the death penalty were morally appropriate, it cannot be implemented without risking the execution of innocents. Since it is impossible to trust any government with this kind of power, we reject all state-sanctioned death penalty laws.

Elections

We support election systems that are more representative of the electorate at the national, state, and local levels. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, and conventions. We call for an end to any tax-financed subsidies to candidates or parties and the repeal of all laws which restrict voluntary individual financing of election campaigns. We oppose laws that effectively exclude alternative candidates and parties, deny ballot access, gerrymander districts, or deny the voters their right to consider all legitimate alternatives. We support the addition of the alternative "~~none~~None of the ~~above~~Above" ~~is acceptable~~ to all ballots. In the event that "~~none~~None of the ~~above~~Above" wins, the elective office for that term ~~will~~would remain unfilled and unfunded.

Safety Clause

We adamantly oppose the attachment of a “Safety Clause” to any bill approved by the legislature. Use of the “Safety Clause” limits the ability of the electorate to reject improper bills.

Self Determination

We recognize the right to political and personal self-determination, including, if necessary, secession. Exercise of this right, like the exercise of all other rights, does not remove legal and moral obligations not to violate the rights of others.

Colorado State Sovereignty

In a free society, any existing governments are established of, by, and for the people. The United States Constitution specifies which powers the federal government may exercise, and forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of State Legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds.

Omissions

Our silence about any other particular government law, regulation, ordinance, directive, edict, control, regulatory agency, activity, or machination, including the existence of any particular governmental system, should not be construed to imply approval or disapproval. In every matter, we adhere to the consistent application of the principle of the non-initiation of physical force or fraud.

PART VI: PLATFORM CLEAN COPY

Platform of the Libertarian Party of Colorado

[Adopted in Convention March, 2017]

Preamble

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives, and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others.

We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

We hold that individuals have inherent sovereign rights to their own bodies and property. As such, we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property. These principles are to guide Libertarian policy positions in every area.

In the following sections we set forth our basic principles and enumerate various policy positions derived from those principles. These specific policies are not our goal, however. Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and it is to this end that we take these stands.

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, defend the rights of the individual.

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We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life—accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action—accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property—accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

Implementation

We support any measure that actually reduces illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual as put forth in our Preamble and Statement of Principles. While recognizing that change often takes the form of increments and transitions, the policies in the planks that follow are to be implemented as quickly as possible.

The Individual

Individuals own their bodies and have rights over them that other individuals, groups, and governments may not violate. Individuals have the freedom and responsibility to decide what they knowingly and voluntarily consume, and what risks they accept to their own health, finances, safety, or life. Individuals should be free to make choices for themselves and to accept

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Victimless Crimes

Criminal and civil laws should be limited to violations of the rights of others through fraud, force, or deliberate and credible threats of imminent force. We therefore reject all laws that create crimes without victims, such as the use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes, prostitution, and gambling.

Freedom of Expression

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, or control of communications, media, and technology. We favor the freedom to engage in or abstain from any religious activities that do not violate the rights of others. We oppose government actions which aid or attack any religion.

Protection of Privacy

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government's practice of spying on its own citizens. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, homes, property, and communications. Protection from unreasonable search and seizure includes records held by third parties, such as, but not limited to, email, library, medical, and phone records.

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The Market

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. For voluntary dealings among private entities, parties should be free to choose with whom they trade and set whatever trade terms are mutually agreeable. Therefore, we oppose all intervention by government into the area of economics. The only proper role of existing governments in the economic realm is to protect property rights, adjudicate disputes, and provide a legal framework in which voluntary trade is protected. Efforts to forcibly redistribute wealth or forcibly manage and regulate trade violate individual rights. We believe that all individuals have the right to dispose of the fruits of their labor as they see fit.

Taxation

Taxation is government confiscation of the property of its citizens through the use of force. Because of its non-voluntary nature, it cannot be justified, regardless of the purpose. Therefore we oppose coercive taxation, and we support any and all initiatives to reduce or abolish any tax, and oppose any initiatives to increase any tax or add new ones. We advocate that all public services be funded in a voluntary manner such as through contributions,

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