

Libertarian Party of Colorado Convention Minutes  
Saturday, April 1 and Sunday, April 2, 2023  
Location: American Mountaineering Center, Golden CO

1. Call to order
  1. The convention was called to order at 8:33 by Wayne Harlos. The convention stood at ease until the credentialing report was ready at 8:44.
2. Introduction of Convention Officials
  1. The following convention officials were introduced:
    - Convention Chair: Wayne Harlos
    - Convention Secretary: Andrew Buchkovich
3. Approval of Credentials Report and Declaration of Quorum
  1. Mr. Seebeck moved to accept Mr. Blake Huber as a delegate despite anomalies with his voter registration. *The motion PASSED.*
  2. The Credentials Committee Chair presented the Credentials Report, which was approved by the convention. A declaration of quorum was made.
4. Approval of Convention Rules
  1. Ms. Harlos presented and moved to approve the Convention Rules. *The motion PASSED.*
5. Presentation of Angela McArdle
  1. Angela McArdle gave a presentation from 9:05 to 9:56.
6. Break
  1. The convention took a break for 10 minutes.
7. Updated Credentials Report and Declaration of Quorum
  1. The Credentials Committee Chair presented an updated Credentials Report, which was approved by the convention. A declaration of quorum was made of 29.
8. Bylaws Committee Report
  1. The Bylaws Committee Chair presented the Bylaws Committee Report. Please see the attached spreadsheet for proposal vote results.
9. Lunch Break – Speaker Mike Ter Maat

1. The convention took a lunch break from 12:00 to 1:32 to hear a speech from Mike Ter Maat.
10. Updated Credentials Report and Declaration of Quorum
  1. The Credentials Committee Chair presented an updated Credentials Report, which was approved by the convention. A declaration of quorum was made of 36.
11. Bylaws Committee Report Continued
  1. The Bylaws Committee Chair continued to present the Bylaws Committee Report.
12. After the Bylaws Committee Report, Mr. Blake Huber moved to suspend the rules for two minutes to hear from the people who voted against Bylaws proposal 14. The motion FAILED.
13. Mr. Seebeck moved to suspend the rules to hear the platform committee report after our scheduled break. The motion FAILED.
14. Saturday Adjournment
  1. The convention adjourned at 3:05.

## MINUTES – DAY 2

Date: Sunday, April 2, 2023

Location: American Mountaineering Center

1. Call to Order
  1. The Convention Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.
2. Approval of Credentials Report and Declaration of Quorum
  1. The Credentials Committee Chair presented the Credentials Report, which was approved by the convention. A declaration of quorum was made of 26.
3. Mr. Buchkovich moved to reconsider Bylaws Committee Report 14. *The motion PASSED.*
  1. Mr. Buchkovich moved to amend the motion by substitution to the following:

## Section 1. State Committees

(a) The Bylaws Committee and the Platform Committee shall each consist of five (5) at-large *Party* Members selected by the Board and an additional Member selected by each chartered affiliate.

(1) The Board shall solicit applications for the members of the Bylaws Committee as well as the Platform Committee and set the appointment date for these positions by announcement to all *Party* Members ~~at least six (6) months prior to the Convention at which amendments to the Platform and Bylaws are considered~~ no later than sixty (60) days after adjournment sine die of an even-year Annual Convention. The Board shall appoint five (5) at-large *Party* Members at a Board meeting held at least ~~one (1) month thirty (30) days~~ after the final solicitation, but no later than ~~four (4) months prior to the Convention at which amendments to the Platform and Bylaws are considered~~ one hundred twenty (120) days after adjournment sine die of an even-year Annual Convention. If any subsequent vacancies occur in the initially-appointed, at-large positions, the Board may select *Party* Members to fill the vacancies. The Board shall select the committee Chairs from the members of each committee.

2. . *The motion PASSED.*

3. *The amended motion under reconsideration PASSED 36-0.*

### 4. Platform Committee Report

1. The Platform Committee presented their report, which was discussed by the delegates for 45 minutes. Details on what was passed are available in the attached spreadsheet.
2. Mr. Rutledge moved to amend Platform Proposal 3 by adding the words “incitement to” between the words “or” and “violence”:
  1. Mr. Lam moved all previous questions, which passed.
  2. The amendment FAILED.
  3. The proposal PASSED.

### 5. Break

1. There was a 10-minute break.

### 6. Updated Credentials Report and Declaration of Quorum

1. The Credentials Committee Chair presented the Credentials Report, which was approved by the convention. A declaration of quorum was made.
7. Mr. Buchkovich moved to suspend the convention rules to conduct board elections by raised-hand counted votes. *The motion PASSED.*

8. Mr. Rutledge moved to adopt a resolution instructing the next Platform Committee to investigate adding a plank addressing the responsibilities incumbent upon Libertarians.
  1. Mr. Seebeck raised a Point of Order that the motion violates scope of notice.
    1. The Chair ruled the P.o.O. well taken.
      1. Ms. Harlos appealed from the ruling of the chair, which passed.
    2. Mr. Huber moved the previous question, which PASSED.
    3. The main motion FAILED.
9. Nominations for Board Positions, Nomination Speeches, and Election
  1. Ms. Goodman moved to suspend the rules to extend her nomination speech time to 8 minutes. *The motion was seconded and PASSED.*
  2. The following board positions were open for nominations: Chair (10 minutes), Vice-Chair (10 minutes), Affiliate Development Director (5 minutes), Campaigns Director (5 minutes), Membership Director (5 minutes), Communications Director (5 minutes), Outreach Director (5 minutes), Legislative Director (5 minutes), and Treasurer (5 minutes). Nominees gave speeches, and delegates voted for their preferred candidates. The election process took about 45 minutes. The election results can be found in the attached spreadsheet.
10. Mr. Casciato moved to suspend the rules and continue to Judicial Committee Elections. *The motion was seconded and PASSED.*
11. Nominations and Elections of Judicial Committee (5 Members)
  1. Delegates nominated and voted for 5 members of the Judicial Committee. The process took 15 minutes.
12. Lunch Break – Speaker Clint Russell (noon-1:30pm)
13. Updated Credentials Report and Declaration of Quorum
  1. The Credentials Committee Chair presented the Credentials Report, which was approved by the convention. A declaration of quorum was made of 32.
14. Nominations and Elections of Platform Committee Reps (1 Primary and at least 1 Alternate)
  1. Delegates nominated and voted for 1 primary and at least 1 alternate representative for the Platform Committee. The process took 20 minutes. The election results can be found in the attached spreadsheet.
15. Mike Seebeck Farewell Address

1. Mike Seebeck gave a farewell address to the LPCO.
16. Adjournment Sine Die
1. The Convention Chair adjourned the convention sine die at 2:03.
17. Local Activist/Candidate Training – Kathleen Chandler (3pm)
1. Activist training took place after the convention adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew Buchkovich, LPCO Secretary

Bylaws and Platform Committee:

	A	B	
1	BYLAWS		
2	Motion	Result	
3	1.A	PASSED, count not recorded	
4	1.B	44-1	
5	1.C	41-1	
6	2.A	42-4	
7	2.B	44-0	
8	3.A	PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
9	3.B	PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
10		4 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
11		5 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
12		6 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
13		7 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
14		8 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
15		9 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
16		10 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
17		11 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
18		12 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
19		13 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
20		14 FAILED 10-27	
21		15 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
22		16 Failed, Amended then PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
23		17 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
24		18 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
25		19 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
26		20 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
27		21 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
28		22 PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
29		23 FAILED by voice vote	
30	PLATFORM		
31	1A	PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
32	1B	PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
33	2A	PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
34	2B	PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
35		3 MOVED TO BE AMENDED, THE AMENDMENT FAILED, THEN PASSED W/O OBJECTION	
36			

Chair

	A	B	C	D	E	F	
1	Nominee	Nominated By	Votes		Winner:	Hannah Goodman	
2	Hannah Goodman	Justin Savoy	47				
3	NOTA	Mike Seebeck	1				
4							

## Vice Chair

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Nominee	Nominated By	Votes		Winner:	Eliseo Gonzalez	
2	Eliseo Gonzalez	Brandon Wark	48				
3	NOTA	Mike Seebeck	0				
4							

## Affiliates

A1	fx	Nominee					
	A	B	C	D	E		
1	Nominee	Nominated By	Votes		Winner:		
2	Zachary Burgeson	Justin Savoy	46				
3	NOTA	Mike Seebeck	0				
4							
5							
6							
7							

## Campaigns

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	
	Nominee	Nominated By	Votes		Winner:	Jacob Luria		
	Jacob Luria	Jessica Fenske	51					
	NOTA	Mike Seebeck	0					

## Membership

A1	fx	Nominee			
	A	B	C	D	E
1	Nominee	Nominated By	Votes		Winner:
2	John Lockamy	Zachary Burgeson	49		
3	NOTA	Mike Seebeck	0		
4					

## Communications

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Nominee	Nominated By	Votes		Winner:	Jordan Marinovich	
2	Darren Hill*	Sean Vadney					
3	Jordan Marinovich	Justin Savoy	52				
4	NOTA	Mike Seebeck	1				
5							
6							
7							
8							
9							
10	*ruled ineligible by chair b/c not present						
11							

## Outreach

A1	fx	Nominee				
	A	B	C	D	E	F
1	Nominee	Nominated By	Votes		Winner:	Kirsten Steinke
2	Kirsten Steinke	Murl Hendrickson	51			
3	NOTA	Mike Seebeck	0			
4						
5						
6						

## Legislative

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Nominee	Nominated By	Votes		Winner:	Michael Vance	
2	Michael Vance	Murl Hendrickson	48				
3	Bennett Rutledge	Gordon Carleton	5				
4	NOTA	Mike Seebeck	0				
5							
6							



	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Nominee	Nominated By	Votes		Winner:	Murl Hendrickson	
2	Murl Hendrickson	Jacob Luria	47				
3	NOTA	Mike Seebeck	1				
4							
5							
6							

#### Judicial Committee

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
1	Nominee	Nominated By	Votes		Winners:	Caryn Ann Harlos	
2	Caryn Ann Harlos	Caryn Ann Harlos	48			Reyd Dotson	
3	Clayton Casciato	Clayton Casciato	11			Kyle Furey	
4	Kyle Furey	Jacob Savoy	43			Marc Cavin	
5	Wayne Harlos	Blake Huber	20			Eric Bueltel	
6	Nicholas Bennett	Justin Savoy	10				
7	Reyd Dotson	Murl Hendrickson	45				
8	Marc Cavin	Justin Savoy	38				
9	Aron Lam*	Jordan Marinovich					
10	Eric Bueltel	Hannah Goodman	44				
11	NOTA						
12	*withdrew						
13							

#### National Platform Committee

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
1	Primary							
2	Nominee	Email	Nominated By	Votes		Winners:	Rees LaBree	
3	Rees LaBree	<a href="mailto:rees.labree@gmail.com">rees.labree@gmail.com</a>	Justin Savoy	Elected by acclimation (Moved by Mr. Huber)				
4								
5								
6								
7	Alternate							
8	Nominee	Email	Nominated By	Votes		Winners:	1) Jordan Marinovich	
9	Jordan Marinovich	<a href="mailto:communicationsdirector@lpcolorado.org">communicationsdirector@lpcolorado.org</a>	Justin Savoy	41			2) Matias Goodley	
10	Matias Goodley	<a href="mailto:sovereigngood@protonmail.com">sovereigngood@protonmail.com</a>	Justin Savoy	27			3) Eliseo Gonzalez	
11	Eliseo Gonzalez	<a href="mailto:vicechair@lpcolorado.org">vicechair@lpcolorado.org</a>	Aron Lam	17				
12								

#### Bylaws Committee Report:

# LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF COLORADO 2023 STATE

# CONVENTION



## REPORT OF THE BYLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE TO THE DELEGATES

- **Caryn Ann Harlos, Committee Chair**
- Mason Bishop
- Kyle Furey
- Mattias Goodley
- John Hjersman
- Rees LaBree
- Bennett Rutledge

- Orion Schalhamer
- Michael Seebeck
- Brandon Wark

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## INTRODUCTION

It has been my honour to serve the Libertarian Party of Colorado as its Bylaws and Rules Committee Chair while I am concurrently serving in the same capacity on the National level. During my time as an officer on the Libertarian National Committee, I have seen some of the pitfalls that have gotten in the way of some other affiliates due to some ill-planned or overly optimistic bylaws, and the goal of this Committee was to protect Colorado against similar mishaps and keep our bylaws ranked as among the

best in the country amongst state Libertarian affiliates.

We were working on a very short time frame, only beginning to work in January, so I thank the Committee for their extraordinary diligence in getting this task done. We do urge you to pass this amendments as the Committee firmly believes these will serve the Party well into the future.

**In Liberty,  
Caryn Ann Harlos, Registered Parliamentarian  
LPCO Bylaws and Rules Committee Chair**

## **DIGITAL MARK-UP LEGEND**

- In replacements, deletions precede additions.
- Deletions are in ~~**red bold italic strikethrough**~~.

- Additions are in blue bold underline.
- Proposals which may have been passed earlier than a later proposal and are relevant to the current proposal are indicated in *bold purple italics* along with any appropriate underlining or strikethroughs.

## PRINT MARK-UP LEGEND

- In replacements, deletions precede additions.
- Deletions are in ~~*bold italic strikethrough*~~.
- Additions are in **bold underline**.
- Proposals which may have been passed earlier than a later proposal and are relevant to the current proposal are indicated in *bold italics* along with any appropriate underlining or strikethroughs.

## EXPLANATION OF STRUCTURE OF REPORT

Each proposal may be accompanied by motions broken into sub-parts. In nearly every case (and the Bylaws Committee Chair will explain and proceed in the rare instances this may not be the case), the sub-parts are dependent on the immediately preceding parts and will not be heard if the motions they depend upon are not passed.

Additionally, the markup makes clear the prior language and the changes. “Presently worded” and “as worded, if amended” are omitted in most cases. Additionally, when future independent proposals are presented that will have changed language depending on the passage of prior proposals, those earlier proposed changes will be noted when possible.

## PROPOSAL ONE: Adopt Convention Standing Rules

### MANDATE:

At the 2019 Libertarian Party of Colorado convention, the convention delegates instructed a future Bylaws Committee to accomplish two tasks: bring forth proposals to combine the existing Constitution and Bylaws into one document and to establish Convention Standing Rules to be appended to the Bylaws in a fashion similar to the National Party. The first part was accomplished in 2021. Proposal One of this report is this Committee's attempt to fulfill the second requirement.

### RATIONALE:

Each Convention, the delegates have had to take time to adopt a set of convention standing rules which have traditionally remained the same and have been stable. It is better practice to simply adopt them as the Convention Standing Rules and have permanent changes to them come through the Bylaws Committee. Whether temporary or standing, these rules can always be suspended on an as-needed basis. This will save convention time and provide stability to convention procedures. Changes to provide for how and when these Convention Standing Rules are also proposed as well as changing the title the Bylaws to reflect the fact that there are Convention Standing Rules.

### MOTION 1.A:

*Move to adopt the following Convention Standing Rules and append to the Bylaws.*

## CONVENTION STANDING RULES

### Rule 1: Organization of the Convention

- (a) The Party Chair or their appointed designee shall serve as the Convention Chair ("Chair").
- (b) The Chair shall begin the Convention promptly at the time published in the Call to Convention.
- (c) The first general orders of business shall be:
  - (1) Call to Order
  - (2) Introductions of the Convention Chair, Convention Secretary ("Secretary"), Parliamentarian, Credentials Committee Chair,



and

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- appointments of the following Convention Officials, as needed: (i) Timekeeper  
(ii) Projectionist  
(iii) Teller Team  
(iv) Sergeant-at-Arms  
(v) Any other Convention Officials
- (3) Credentials Committee Report (see below)  
(4) Declaration of Quorum  
(5) Approval of Agenda (see below)
- (d) The Credentials Committee shall report the number and the names of all Delegates registered as present with proper credentials. The list of the names of the Delegates shall be posted or projected in lieu of being read, and the Delegates shall be afforded time to verify the completeness and accuracy of the list, whereupon the report shall be adopted by majority vote. Quorum shall be fixed at the next whole number greater than exactly half of the highest number of Delegates reported by the Credentials Committee each day. Delegates must check in at the beginning of each day's Business Session and shall be considered checked out at the conclusion of each day's Business Session. The Credentials Committee will provide an updated report at times indicated on any approved Convention Agenda. Such update shall only include changes from the initial daily reports and shall be adopted by majority vote.
- (e) The Chair shall report on the Agenda, which may be amended by majority vote of the Delegates and shall be adopted by majority vote of the Delegates. After adoption, the Agenda may only be amended by a two thirds (2/3) vote.

## Rule 2: Conduct Within the Meeting Room

- (a) While in the business meeting, Delegates shall be required to display their appropriate credentials issued by the Credentials Committee upon registration.
- (b) No person shall disturb materials placed at a Delegate seat without said delegate's permission.
- (c) No person shall speak to the body or to the Chair except upon recognition by the Chair or in accordance with parliamentary procedure.
- (d) The Chair shall regulate the proceedings at all times so as not to outpace the Secretary or Projectionist.
- (e) No Delegate shall speak in debate more than twice on the same question on the same day, or longer than one (1) minute, without permission of the

- Delegates granted by a majority, with said vote to be taken without debate.
- (f) The maker of a main motion (including Committee report presenters) shall have the right to speak last for no longer than two (2) minutes even after

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debate is closed.

### Rule 3: Director Nominations and Balloting

- (a) The Chair shall announce which Director positions are open for election in the order in which they appear in the Bylaws. The list of the names of the candidates for Director positions shall be posted or projected in lieu of being read. Director positions to be elected to full terms shall be elected first, followed by Director positions to be elected to complete a term.
- (b) Nominations and/or declarations, nominating speeches, and elections shall take place in the order outlined above. A nominating speech for "None of the Above" may be offered for any Director position. The total duration of candidate and nominating speeches for each candidate (and also for NOTA) shall be no longer than five (5) minutes. Speech order between candidates for a position shall be determined by random draw.
- (c) Voting for Director positions shall be conducted via the following method:
- (1) For each ballot for a Director position, each Delegate shall vote for either one candidate or NOTA. Voting for both one candidate and NOTA, or for more than one candidate, shall disqualify the ballot. (2) If upon tallying the ballots, no candidate earns a majority of the ballots cast, the lowest vote-earner (excluding NOTA) shall be dropped from the next ballot. Candidates so dropped shall have, if they desire, one (1) minute to speak.
- (3) If NOTA earns a majority, then the Director position shall be reopened to new nominations, except that the candidates previously nominated shall be ineligible.

### Rule 4: Partisan Public Office Nominations and Balloting (When Applicable)

- (a) The Campaigns Director shall include in his report and announce a list of partisan public offices open for election in the following order. Nonpartisan offices shall not be included.
- (1) Federal Offices:
- (i) Presidential Electors
- (ii) U.S. Senate
- (iii) U.S. House of Representatives, in order of district number
- (2) Statewide offices:
- (i) Governor
- (ii) Lieutenant Governor

- (iii) Secretary of State
- (iv) Treasurer
- (v) Attorney General
- (vi) University of Colorado Regents at-large

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- (3) State districted offices, in order of district number:
  - (i) Board of Education
  - (ii) University of Colorado Regents
  - (iii) Senate
  - (iv) Representative
  - (v) District Attorney
  - (vi) Coroner
- (4) County offices, in alphabetical order by county:
  - (i) Sheriff
  - (ii) Clerk and Recorder
  - (iii) Treasurer
  - (iv) Assessor
  - (v) County Commissioner, in order of district number
- (b) The Chair shall report and cause to be projected the offices in the order they appear in Rule 4(a).
- (c) Nominations and/or declarations, nominating speeches, and elections shall take place in the order outlined in Rule 4(a). The total duration of candidate and nominating speeches and questions for each candidate shall be no longer than four (4) minutes. A nominating speech for NOTA may be offered for any public office. NOTA is always a voting choice (non-suspendable) but is not considered to be a candidate. For each ballot for a nomination, each Delegate shall vote for either candidate(s) or NOTA, but not both. Voting for both candidate(s) and NOTA shall disqualify the ballot.
- (d) Should a written ballot be required, the candidate(s) (or NOTA) that the Delegates choose to vote for shall be written in by the Delegates on the ballots they receive, using the approval voting process (non-suspendable). Delegates shall legibly print their name and sign each of their ballots. Any ballot with an illegibly-printed name shall be disqualified.
- (e) Should NOTA win the nomination for a partisan office, nominations may be reopened for one additional round of voting, with only new candidates eligible to run, plus NOTA. If NOTA wins this additional round, then there will be no candidate for that race (non-suspendable).

#### Rule 5: Nomination and Election of National Committees Representatives and Alternates (When Applicable)

Representatives and Alternates to National Committees shall be elected in the manner outlined in the Bylaws.

Rule 6: Nomination and Election of National Convention Delegates and Alternates (When Applicable)

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Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention shall be elected in the manner outlined in the Bylaws.

Rule 7: Nomination and Election of State Committees (When Applicable)

State Committee Members (Platform, Bylaws, Style) shall be elected in the manner outlined in the Bylaws.

Rule 8: Nomination and Election of Judicial Committee (When Applicable)

Judicial Committee Members shall be elected in the manner outlined in the Bylaws.

Rule 9: Reports

- (a) All reports and other material for the permanent record or printed proceedings shall be in an acceptable commonly-used electronic format and shall be sent to the Projectionist and the Secretary prior to presentation.
- (b) Board reports, including questions from the Delegates, shall be limited to four (4) minutes for each Director.
- (c) Full reading of the entire main motion for Bylaws amendment proposals and Platform amendment proposals just prior to final vote shall only be made by Delegate request, in the interest of time.
- (d) The Chairs or their designees of the Platform, Bylaws, and the Rules Committees shall report each recommendation of their Committee to the Convention separately and shall have two (2) minutes to explain the intent or purpose of the proposed amendment(s). Each recommendation shall be considered and adopted separately, with a maximum of ten (10) minutes debate on any recommendation, after which, the Convention Chair shall bring the recommendation to a vote.
  - (e) Minority report(s) shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner: (1) If there is only one minority report, then spokespersons for both positions shall each have two (2) minutes to present their views, with the

- majority position going first. The Chair shall then open consideration of both positions for five (5) minutes, during which time any delegates may express their views without offering amendments. After which, there will be a vote on which of the two reports shall be considered for purposes of adopting a recommendation in accordance with these Rules.
- (2) If there is more than one minority report, the one with the most co signatures (if there are equal numbers of signatures, the Committee Chair shall designate the priority) will be handled first as described

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below.

- (i) Spokespersons for the first two minority positions shall each have two (2) minutes to present their views.
- (ii) The Chair shall then open consideration of both minority positions for five (5) minutes, during which time any delegates may express their views without offering amendments. After which, there will be a vote on which of the two minority reports shall be considered for purposes of adopting a recommendation or to be considered against any additional minority reports until there is only one report remaining. Once there is only one minority report remaining, it will then be considered against the majority report for purposes of adopting a recommendation in accordance with these Rules.

#### Rule 10: Notices for Announcements

Notices for announcement to the Convention shall be in an acceptable electronic format or legibly printed and signed by the person (or a proper representative of the persons) under whose authority the announcement is issued and shall be sent to the desk of the Secretary.

#### Rule 11: Minutes

Draft minutes will be posted to the Party website within sixty (60) days of adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the Convention for Member comment. Convention minutes shall be approved by the Board within ninety (90) days of adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the Convention.

#### MOTION 1.B:

*Move to amend Bylaws Article XIII(a) as noted.*

### **Article XIII: Amendments**

- (a) During odd-numbered years, these Bylaws [and Convention Standing Rules](#) may be amended 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 Bylaws Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two (2) Members is provided to the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the convention. Such notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two (2) business days of receipt.

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#### **MOTION 1.C:**

*Move to amend the title of the Bylaws as noted.*

**The Bylaws [and Convention Standing Rules](#) of the Libertarian Party of Colorado**

## PROPOSAL TWO: Add Dues-Paying Level of Membership and Conforming Amendments

### MEMBER SUPPORT:

Over the years, members have requested consideration of a dues structure for the Party, and this has been discussed multiple times. In the past, the Bylaws Committee has been told that this was prohibited by Colorado Minor Party law. However, upon research, this is not the case, and we are free to implement this structure.

### RATIONALE:

It is difficult for the Party to know who its actual active members are since all that is required for membership is Libertarian registration. Adding this level of membership would have numerous benefits, not limited to the following:

- Adequate convention planning and marketing (in theory over 40,000 are presently entitled to show up to our conventions and vote)
- Targeted and effective fundraising
- Rewarding members who have “skin in the game”
- True indicators of our active size and strength

Non-dues payers would retain the rights to attend meetings and serve on state-level committees.

### MOTION 2.A:

*Revise Bylaws Article IV to restructure membership to include “Party Members” and “Sustaining Members” and the noted conforming amendments.*

### Article IV: Members

~~(a) Membership (“Party Membership”) in the Party is exclusively limited to all registered and 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 personal letter conforming to statute (collectively, “Application”), where “Libertarian,” or a~~

~~reasonable abbreviation thereof, has been indicated as the party affiliation, and the Application is subsequently accepted by the Voter's county Clerk and Recorder's office registers with the State of Colorado as "Libertarian" and Membership in the Party ends on the date the Voter either signs an~~

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~~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's office; or the Voter registers in another state or country; or the Voter is removed from the voter rolls.~~

- ~~(b) 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 of 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 Secretary or the Credentials Committee through confirmation with the Secretary of State's office or the applicable county Clerk and Recorder's office.~~
- ~~(c) 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 Members who are in good standing.~~
- ~~(d) Any current Member in good standing may challenge the validity of the proof of membership. The burden of proof of invalidation shall be upon the challenging Member.~~
- ~~(e) No membership in any other organizations shall be required of any applicant for consideration for Party membership.~~
- ~~(f) All Directors, delegations, candidacies, and other roles within the Party and its affiliates shall be occupied and exercised only by Party Members.~~

## Section 1. Basic Membership

- (a) Basic Membership ("Party Membership") in the Party is exclusively limited to all Colorado registered and pre-registered electors whose party affiliation is Libertarian.
- (b) Basic Members ("Party Members") have the right to attend meetings and are eligible to serve on state-level committees, subject to any further express limitations in these Bylaws.

## Section 2. Sustaining Membership

- (a) Sustaining Members are Party Members who pay, or has have paid on their behalf, yearly dues of \$25.00 or Party Members who are Life Members of the national Libertarian Party.
- (b) Dues must be paid in a single payment at least once every 365 days and expire on the anniversary date of the last payment of at least that amount. Smaller donations are not counted as payment towards a cumulative dues



payment.

- (c) Loss of Party Membership status automatically results in loss of Sustaining Membership regardless of dues payment and no refund of dues will be owed. Lapse of Sustaining Membership from non-payment of dues by the anniversary date results in loss of rights, privileges, and eligibilities

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available only to Sustaining Members.

- (d) Only Sustaining Members are eligible to receive the Party's nomination for partisan public office, vote as a delegate at any state conventions, be elected as a delegate to national Party Conventions, or be elected as the state appointee to any national Party committee, subject to any further express limitations in these Bylaws.

### Section 3. Challenges Regarding Membership

- (a) The Judicial Committee is empowered to hear all challenges regarding status of membership and make a determination in cases of doubt pending resolution of the issue with the Secretary of State regarding voter registration or with the Party regarding timely payment of dues.

*PROVISO: These provisions will go into effect at adjournment sine die except that all dues paid between the time of passage of these changes to October 1, 2023, will have an anniversary date of October 1, 2024.*

Article IV currently reads:

### **Article IV: Members**

- (a) Membership ("Party Membership") in the Party is exclusively limited to all registered and 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 personal letter conforming to statute (collectively, "Application"), where "Libertarian," or a reasonable abbreviation thereof, has been indicated as the party affiliation, and the Application is subsequently accepted by the Voter's county Clerk and Recorder's office registers with the State of Colorado as "Libertarian" and Membership in the Party ends on the date the Voter either signs 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's office; or the Voter registers in another state or country; or the Voter is removed from the voter rolls.
- (b) 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 of 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 Secretary or the Credentials Committee through confirmation with the Secretary of State's office or the applicable county Clerk and Recorder's office.

- (c) 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 Members who are in good standing.
- (d) Any current Member in good standing may challenge the validity of the proof of

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membership. The burden of proof of invalidation shall be upon the challenging Member.

- (e) No membership in any other organizations shall be required of any applicant for consideration for Party membership.
- (f) All Directors, delegations, candidacies, and other roles within the Party and its affiliates shall be occupied and exercised only by Party Members.

If adopted, Article IV will then read:

## **Article IV: Members**

### **Section 1. Basic Membership**

- (a) Basic Membership ("Party Membership") in the Party is exclusively limited to all Colorado registered and pre-registered electors whose party affiliation is Libertarian.
- (b) Basic Members ("Party Members") have the right to attend meetings and are eligible to serve on state-level committees, subject to any further express limitations in these Bylaws.

### **Section 2. Sustaining Membership**

- (a) Sustaining Members are Party Members who pay, or have paid on their behalf, yearly dues of \$25.00 or Party Members who are Life Members of the national Libertarian Party.
- (b) Dues must be paid in a single payment at least once every 365 days and expire on the anniversary date of the last payment of at least that amount. Smaller donations are not counted as payment towards a cumulative dues payment.
- (c) Loss of Party Membership status automatically results in loss of Sustaining Membership regardless of dues payment and no refund of dues will be owed. Lapse of Sustaining Membership from non-payment of dues by the anniversary date results in loss of rights, privileges, and eligibilities available only to Sustaining Members.
- (d) Only Sustaining Members are eligible to receive the Party nomination for partisan public office, vote as a delegate at any state conventions, be elected as

a delegate to national Party Conventions, or be elected as the state appointee to any national Party committee, subject to any further express limitations in these Bylaws.

### **Section 3. Challenges Regarding Membership**

- (a) The Judicial Committee is empowered to hear all challenges regarding status of membership and make a determination in cases of doubt pending resolution of the issue with the Secretary of State regarding voter registration or with the Party regarding timely payment of dues.

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## **LISTING OF CONFORMING AMENDMENTS REQUIRED BY MOTION**

### **2.A Article VII: Judicial Committee**

#### **Section 2. Eligibility**

- (b) Judicial Committee members must have been [Party](#) Members for the past three (3) years, and shall have signed the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.

#### **Section 4. Scope of Duties**

The Judicial Committee shall be limited to hearing and deciding cases involving the following:

- (1) [challenges to membership status](#),
- (2) suspensions or other disciplinary actions,
- (3) disaffiliation of chartered affiliates,
- (4) appeals of Board decisions, and
- (5) challenges to resolutions or platform planks.

#### **Section 6. Adjudicating Cases**

- (b) The Chair of the Judicial Committee must present all requests for appellate review to the Committee within five (5) days of receipt. The Committee shall then have five (5) days to decide whether or not to hear the appeal, with the agreement of two (2) or more Judicial Committee members being sufficient to hold a hearing. The Committee Chair shall then schedule this hearing to be held within thirty (30) days with at least ten (10) days' notice to the [Party](#) Membership and all involved parties.
- (c) Hearings may be virtual or in-person. The Committee may require written briefs or arguments from the Appellants or Respondents, and may decide to hold additional hearings. Any [Party](#) Member may attend any hearing and submit

written briefs or arguments to the Committee which may be considered at the Committee's discretion.

## **Article VIII: Meetings**

- (e) Any ~~active~~ **Sustaining** Member of the Party may attend the Board Meetings as a "Proxy" at the request of that Director who temporarily cannot attend. No Proxy may represent more than one (1) Director at any board meeting. The Director who is being represented by a Proxy must notify at least two (2) other Directors of the substitution.

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## **Article IX: Conventions**

### **Section 1. Annual Conventions**

- (b) The Board may arrange for **Sustaining** Members to participate in the Convention from remote locations. No later than forty-five (45) days prior to Convention, in accordance with state law, the Chair shall call the Convention by notifying **Sustaining** 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 no later than fifteen (15) days prior to such Convention in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein the Members reside.
- (c) No fee may be required of any ~~Party~~ **Sustaining** Member to participate in the Business Session of any Convention; however, fees may be required for participation in other Convention events.
- (d) A **Sustaining** Member, having been so for at least the ninety (90) days immediately prior to the Business Session of the Convention may attend and vote at the Business Session as a "Delegate." 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 **Sustaining** Party Membership—provided such criteria are established prior to and included with the Call of the Convention.

**PROVISO: All provisions regarding conventions and delegate eligibility that have changed do not go into effect until after adjournment sine die of this convention.**

### **Section 2. Special Conventions**

- (b) Such call to Special Convention shall include its purposes, shall be announced

no later than fifteen (15) days in advance to the [Sustaining](#) Members, and shall include the time and place of the Special Convention and remote locations. The time and place and purposes and remote locations of any Special Convention shall be published fifteen (15) days prior to such Special Convention in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein the Members of the Party reside. Arrangements may be made by the Board to provide for Sustaining Members to participate in a Special Convention from remote locations.

- (d) All current [Sustaining](#) Members that were eligible to vote at the previous annual Convention shall be eligible to vote at a Special Convention.

### **Section 3. Nomination of Candidates**

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- (b) [Sustaining](#) Members who wish to be a candidate for partisan office in Colorado other than President or Vice President may submit an application to the Board or its designated committee no later than forty-five (45) days before the Convention. [Sustaining](#) Members shall be notified that the application process is open no later than ninety (90) days before the Convention. A web page for the candidates shall be posted on the Party website at least thirty (30) days before the Convention.

- (d) Each candidate must have been a [Sustaining](#) Member during the entire period from January 1<sup>st</sup> of the Convention year until the nominating Convention.

### **Section 4. National Convention Delegates and Alternates**

- (a) All National Convention Delegates must have been [Sustaining](#) Members ~~or have been pre-registered to become Members~~ for at least ninety (90) days immediately prior to the first day of the Convention 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.
- (b) The Board shall solicit applications from qualified [Sustaining](#) Members for election as National Convention Delegates and Alternates at least sixty (60) days prior to the Convention and shall publish the completed applications (with addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses redacted) to the Party website at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. An application is not required for nomination.
- (d) Nominations for National Convention Delegates shall be received from the floor with no seconding required. [Sustaining](#) Members may nominate themselves. Each state Convention Delegate in attendance at the state Convention shall cast a single vote for each National Convention Delegate candidate of their choice by

submitting a signed ballot prepared by the Board for this purpose. The total votes cast by each state Convention Delegate shall not exceed the number of National Convention Delegates to be elected. National Convention Delegates shall be elected by a majority of the state Convention Delegates voting. Subsequent ballots shall be taken as necessary to fill any remaining National Convention Delegate slots. In the event that there are more candidates receiving a majority vote than there are National Convention Delegate slots to be filled, those candidates receiving the highest vote totals shall be elected. No elections by slate shall be permitted.

## **Article X: Committees**

### **Section 1. State Committees**

- (a) The Bylaws Committee and the Platform Committee shall each consist of five (5) at-large [Party](#) Members selected by the Board and an additional [Party](#) Member

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selected by each chartered affiliate.

- (1) The Board shall solicit applications for the members of the Bylaws Committee as well as the Platform Committee and set the appointment date for these positions by announcement to all [Party](#) Members at least six (6) months prior to the Convention at which amendments to the Platform and Bylaws are considered. The Board shall appoint five (5) at-large [Party](#) Members at a Board meeting held at least one (1) month after the final solicitation, but no later than four (4) months prior to the Convention at which amendments to the Platform and Bylaws are considered. If any subsequent vacancies occur in the initially-appointed, at-large positions, the Board may select [Party](#) Members to fill the vacancies. The Board shall select the committee Chairs from the members of each committee.
- (2) Each chartered affiliate may appoint one (1) [Party](#) Member to each committee. Should an affiliate not appoint a committee member, the Board may appoint an additional at-large [Party](#) Member at the time of committee formation. The Board shall solicit one (1) committee member from each chartered affiliate on the same schedule implemented by the Board pursuant to subsection 1 above, and at its meeting for appointment of the members of the committees it shall confirm such committee members as have been certified by the Affiliate Representatives. If a committee member appointed by an affiliate resigns from a committee or fails to attend two (2) consecutive committee votes, the affiliate may appoint a replacement.
- (e) Chairs of committees shall be responsible for completion and submission to the Board of their final reports at Party expense. They shall also be responsible for 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 2. National Committee Representatives and Alternates** (a)

Representatives and Alternates to national Party committees and subcommittees, excluding Regional Representatives and Alternates to the Libertarian National Committee, shall be elected by one of the following methods: If the number of representatives to national Party committees is known at the time of the Convention and the committees are to convene after the Convention, the Convention Delegates shall elect the committee representatives and alternates in the same manner as and immediately after the election of At-Large National Convention Delegates; otherwise the Board shall elect the committee representatives and alternates by majority vote after soliciting applications from [Sustaining](#) Members.

### **MOTION 2.B:**

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*Revise Articles V.1, VII.6, and XIII as noted.*

*These are required structural amendments to support the new membership structure but are not strictly conforming amendments as different decisions can be made between "Party Members" and "Sustaining Members" and related procedures.*

## **Article V: Affiliates and Development Groups**

### **Section 1. Affiliates**

- (a) The Board may charter as affiliates those organizations requesting such status to represent counties, or other geographical entities, if requested by affected [Party](#) Members and approved by the Board.
- (b) Organizations applying for charter as affiliates shall make such applications on a standard petition form as adopted by the Board. 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.
- (c) Every organization so chartered shall ratify the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party. They shall also submit contact information for their officers/directors, who shall include at least a Chair and a Treasurer, being separate people. They shall maintain at least five (5) [Party](#) Members, publish their bylaws to those Members and the State Board of Directors, and file their initial Fair Campaign Practices Act filings as necessary.

- (g) ~~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 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.~~ Affiliates must require at least Party Membership in the state party as a requirement for membership and for service on their governing Board and may establish a dues structure of their own as a requirement for voting rights or service on their governing Board.
- (h) The Board 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 organization: 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) Party Members where officers are elected with

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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.

**PROVISO: Affiliates who had different Membership requirements in their bylaws complying with the prior Membership provision at the date of adoption of this amendment shall be grandfathered in until such time as their bylaws regarding Membership are changed.**

## **Article VII: Judicial Committee**

### **Section 6. Adjudicating Cases**

- (a) All appeals shall be resolved within sixty (60) days of the date of submission to the Chair of the Judicial Committee with the exception of disputes over membership status which will affect delegate voting status at any state convention which will be decided during the credentialing process. In the event the Judicial Committee cannot make a prompt decision regarding challenges to membership status, the question will be put to the delegates with a majority vote resolving membership status in favor of the disputed member.

## **Article XIII: Amendments**

- (a) During odd-numbered years, these Bylaws and Convention Standing Rules



may be amended 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 Bylaws Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two (2) [Sustaining](#) Members is provided to the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. Such notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two (2) business days of receipt.

- (b) During odd-numbered years, 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) [Sustaining](#) Members is provided to the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. 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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## **PROPOSAL THREE: Revamp Conventions Language and Conforming Amendments**

### PRECEDENT CONDITIONS:

These proposal(s) are dependent upon Proposal Two being adopted in some form, and the language used here to show amendments will assume the passage of Proposal Two as written. This Proposal can be slightly tweaked on the floor to reflect minor amendments made to Proposal Two. If Proposal Two is defeated or amended too greatly (though still within scope of notice as required), the Bylaws Committee Chair may opt to forgo Proposal Three, as agreed to by the Committee.

### RATIONALE:

Now that there are discrete classes of membership that has Annual convention voting rights, we should be sending them personal notice of Convention which also would comply with Colorado Non-Profit Corporation law. Further, with having two (2) different types of conventions, it is cleaner to list one section with provisions that apply to all conventions, and then separate sections for the items unique to the two (2) different kinds of conventions.

### MOTION 3.A:

*Move to amend Bylaws Article IX as noted and to add the word "Annual" as noted as conforming amendments and instruct the Style Committee to review the Bylaws to ensure that no instances where the word "Annual" should have been added were not missed, and to correct, provided the meaning and intent is clear. Renumber Sections as appropriate.*

### **Article IX: Conventions**

#### **Section 1. General Provisions for Conventions**

**(a) Proxy voting is expressly prohibited.**

**(b) Only the Annual Convention is to be considered a "regular convention." (c) Direct notice of any state convention to Sustaining Members is to be provided via first class mail to the address on file with the Secretary of State at least forty-five (45) days prior to the convention and concurrently be posted on the Party website.**

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**(d) The time and place of all Party conventions shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein Members reside, no later than fifteen (15) days before such convention.**

**(e) No fees may be levied to participate in the Business Session of any convention; however, fees may be required for participation in other convention events.**

#### **Section 12. Annual Conventions**

(a) The Party shall hold an **Annual** Convention of Party Delegates ~~("Convention")~~ each calendar year, scheduled so that it convenes at least six (6) months after the previous **Annual** Convention and adjourns no later than seventy-three (73) days before the day of the Colorado primary election, or whatever state law requires. **No later than forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Convention, the Chair shall call the Annual Convention by notifying Sustaining Members. Said notice shall include all particulars for participation and the expected items of business, though any business allowed under these Bylaws at a regular convention may be raised.**

(b) ~~The Board may arrange for Sustaining Members to participate in the Convention from remote locations. The Board may provide for remote participation in the Annual Convention if any state or federal edict makes physical conventions unlawful. No later than forty-five (45) days prior to Convention, in accordance with state law, the Chair shall call the Convention by notifying Sustaining 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 in each county wherein the Members reside.~~

~~(c) No fee may be required of any Party Sustaining Member to participate in the Business Session of any Convention; however, fees may be required for participation in other Convention events.~~

(c) ~~(d)~~ A Sustaining Member, having been so for at least the ninety (90) days immediately prior to the Business Session of the Annual Convention may attend and vote at the Business Session as a "Delegate." 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 Sustaining Party Membership—provided such criteria are established prior to and included with the Call of the Convention.

### **Section 23. Special Conventions**

(a) In the event that there is an urgent situation in which items of business ~~normally reserved for the annual Convention~~ must be done ~~in~~ between ~~annual~~ Annual Conventions, the Board by a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall call a Special Convention ~~which shall be~~ limited to only those items of business specified by the Board as

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required to bring or keep the Party in compliance with state or federal law and these Bylaws, or other urgent matters, including amendments to these Bylaws, regardless of year.

- (b) ~~Such call to Special Convention shall include its purposes, shall be announced noticed no later than fifteen (15) days in advance to the Sustaining Members, and shall include the time and place of the Special Convention and remote locations. The time and place and purposes and remote locations of any Special Convention shall be published fifteen (15) days prior to such Special Convention in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein the Members of the Party reside. Arrangements may be made by the Board to provide for Sustaining Members to participate in a Special Convention from remote locations. The Board may provide for remote participation in any Special Convention.~~
- (c) Any required changes to the Party Bylaws that are made at a Special Convention must be ratified by the next ~~annual~~ Annual Convention, regardless of the year of the Convention, using the same voting threshold required to change the document as provided for in these Bylaws, or else they will be rendered null and void.
- (d) All current Sustaining Members that were eligible to vote at the previous ~~annual~~ Annual Convention shall be eligible to vote at a Special Convention.

Article IX currently reads:

## **Article IX: Conventions**

### **Section 1. Annual Conventions**

- (a) The Party shall hold a Convention of Party Delegates ("Convention") each calendar year, scheduled so that it convenes at least six (6) months after the previous Convention and adjourns no later than seventy-three (73) days before the day of the Colorado primary election, or whatever state law requires.
- (b) The Board may arrange for Members to participate in the Convention from remote locations. No later than forty-five (45) days prior to Convention, in accordance with state law, the Chair shall call the Convention by notifying Sustaining 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 each county wherein the Members reside.
- (c) No fee may be required of any Party Member to participate in the Business Session of any Convention; however, fees may be required for participation in other Convention events.
- (d) A Sustaining Member, having been so for at least the ninety (90) days immediately prior to the Business Session of the Convention may attend and vote at the Business Session as a "Delegate." The Credentials Committee is

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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 Sustaining Party Membership—provided such criteria are established prior to and included with the Call of the Convention.

### **Section 2. Special Conventions**

- (a) In the event that there is an urgent situation in which items of business normally reserved for the annual Convention must be done in between annual Conventions, the Board by a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall call a Special Convention which shall be limited to only those items of business specified by the Board as required to bring or keep the Party in compliance with state or federal law, or other urgent matters, including amendments to these Bylaws, regardless of year.
- (b) Such call to Special Convention shall include its purposes, shall be announced no later than fifteen (15) days in advance to the Members, and shall include the time and place of the Special Convention and remote locations. The time and place and purposes and remote locations of any Special Convention shall be published fifteen (15) days prior to such Special Convention in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein the Members of the Party reside. Arrangements may be made by the Board to provide for Members to

- participate in a Special Convention from remote locations.
- (c) Any required changes to the Party Bylaws that are made at a Special Convention must be ratified by the next annual Convention, regardless of the year of the Convention, using the same voting threshold required to change the document as provided for in these Bylaws, or else they will be rendered null and void.
  - (d) All current Members that were eligible to vote at the previous annual Convention shall be eligible to vote at a Special Convention.

If adopted, Article IX will then read:

## **Article IX: Conventions**

### **Section 1. General Provisions for Conventions**

- (a) Proxy voting is expressly prohibited.
- (b) Only the Annual Convention is to be considered a “regular convention.”
- (c) Direct notice of any state convention to Sustaining Members is to be provided via first class mail to the address on file with the Secretary of State at least forty-five (45) days prior to the convention and concurrently be posted on the Party website.
- (d) The time and place of all Party conventions shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein Members reside, no later than fifteen (15) days before such convention.

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- (e) No fees may be levied to participate in the Business Session of any convention; however, fees may be required for participation in other convention events.

### **Section 2. Annual Conventions**

- (a) The Party shall hold an Annual Convention of Party Delegates each calendar year, scheduled so that it convenes at least six (6) months after the previous Annual Convention and adjourns no later than seventy-three (73) days before the day of the Colorado primary election, or whatever state law requires. No later than forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Convention, the Chair shall call the Annual Convention by notifying Sustaining Members. Said notice shall include all particulars for participation and the expected items of business, though any business allowed under these Bylaws at a regular convention may be raised.
- (b) The Board may provide for remote participation in the Annual Convention if any state or federal edict makes physical conventions unlawful.
- (c) A Sustaining Member, having been so for at least the ninety (90) days immediately prior to the Business Session of the Annual Convention may attend and vote at the Business Session as a “Delegate.” 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 Sustaining Party Membership—provided such criteria are established prior to and included with the Call of the Convention.

### **Section 3. Special Conventions**

- (a) In the event that there is an urgent situation in which items of business must be done between Annual Conventions, the Board by a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall call a Special Convention limited to only those items of business specified by the Board as required to bring or keep the Party in compliance with state or federal law and these Bylaws, or other urgent matters, including amendments to these Bylaws, regardless of year.
- (b) The Board may provide for remote participation in any Special Convention.
- (c) Any required changes to the Party Bylaws that are made at a Special Convention must be ratified by the next Annual Convention, regardless of the year of the Convention, using the same voting threshold required to change the document as provided for in these Bylaws, or else they will be rendered null and void.
- (d) All current Sustaining Members that were eligible to vote at the previous Annual Convention shall be eligible to vote at a Special Convention.

## **LISTING OF CONFORMING AMENDMENTS REQUIRED BY MOTION**

### **3.A Article VI: State Party Directors**

#### **Section 1. Composition of the Board of Directors**

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- (c) Any Director may be suspended by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the current Board. Any Director absent from two (2) consecutive regular meetings of the Board may be suspended at adjournment of the second regular meeting. The Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current Directors, appoint or reinstate Directors if vacancies or suspensions occur. Reinstated or appointed Directors are to serve until the next [Annual](#) Convention.

#### **Section 2. Director Elections**

- (a) Only [Annual](#) Convention Delegates eligible to vote may run for a Party Director position, and only if they promise to fulfill the requirements of this Article.
- (b) Except in the case of an appointed Director, the following Directors shall be elected in odd-numbered years, in this order: Chair, Vice Chair, Affiliate Development Director, Campaigns Director, Membership Director, and Communications Director; and the following Directors shall be elected in even numbered years, in this order: Outreach Director, Secretary, Legislative Director, Treasurer, and Fundraising Director. The election of each Director shall be conducted independently of the others. Such

elections shall be conducted by the Delegates to the Convention as provided in these Bylaws, and shall not take effect until adjournment *sine die* of Business Session of the [Annual](#) Convention and the Director-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 Director shall be two (2) years or until a successor is elected or appointed.

- (c) An appointed Director's term ends at the adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the next [Annual](#) Convention, regardless of year, when an election shall fill either the remainder of the term or the next full term, based on the schedule above.
- (d) Director elections shall exclude any Director eliminated upon adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the [Annual](#) Convention and shall include any Director created upon adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the [Annual](#) Convention, regardless of the year designated for it above, with the term of each Director adjusted to end at the adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the [Annual](#) Convention of the designated year.

## **Article VII: Judicial Committee**

### **Section 1. Composition, Election, and Term**

- (a) The Judicial Committee shall consist of five (5) Party Members elected by the Delegates in attendance at every odd-year [Annual](#) Convention. In the case of vacancy, the existing members of the Judicial Committee may vote to fill the vacancy from qualified Party Members until the next election.

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- (b) The term of each Judicial Committee member shall begin at the adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the odd-year [Annual](#) Convention and end at the adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the next odd-year [Annual](#) Convention.

## **Article IX: Conventions**

### **Section 3. Nomination of Candidates**

- (b) [Sustaining](#) Members who wish to be a candidate for partisan office in Colorado other than President or Vice President may submit an application to the Board or its designated committee no later than forty-five (45) days before the Annual Convention. [Sustaining](#) Members shall be notified that the application process is open no later than ninety (90) days before the Annual Convention. A web page for the candidates shall be posted on the Party website at least thirty (30) days before the Annual Convention.

- (e) Candidates may be nominated by Delegates to the [Annual](#) Convention. (1) For any partisan offices, [Annual](#) Convention Delegates shall vote by approval voting to nominate candidates for those offices.
- (f) Candidates may be nominated by a Vacancy Committee designated by the Delegates.
  - (1) The Board or its designees shall serve as the Vacancy Committee unless the Delegates to the [Annual](#) Convention direct otherwise.
  - (2) The Vacancy Committee shall operate between [Annual](#) Conventions and shall vet candidates as needed.

## **Article X: Committees**

### **Section 1. State Committees**

- (a) The Bylaws Committee and the Platform Committee shall each consist of five (5) at-large [Party](#) Members selected by the Board and an additional Party Member selected by each chartered affiliate.
  - (1) The Board shall solicit applications for the members of the Bylaws Committee as well as the Platform Committee and set the appointment date for these positions by announcement to all [Party](#) Members at least six (6) months prior to the [Annual](#) Convention at which amendments to the Platform and Bylaws are considered. The Board shall appoint five (5) at-large [Party](#) Members at a Board meeting held at least one (1) month after the final solicitation, but no later than four (4) months prior to the [Annual](#) Convention at which amendments to the Platform and Bylaws are considered. If any subsequent vacancies occur in the initially-appointed, at-large positions, the Board may select [Party](#) Members to fill the vacancies. The Board shall select the

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committee Chairs from the members of each committee.

- (3) Committees shall submit their final reports to the Board for publication to the membership no later than six (6) weeks before the [Annual](#) Convention. These reports shall be available in their complete form to any Party Member upon request. The Party Chair shall ensure that the committees' reports, and any reports of committee members submitted separately, are presented at the [Annual](#) Convention.
- (4) The Chair of each committee shall certify and cause to be published at Party expense a report representing each document in its entirety to the [Annual](#) Convention.
- (b) The Style Committee shall consist of the previous Chairs of the Bylaws Committee and Platform Committee from the previous [Annual](#) Convention year and three (3) at-large Party Members selected by the Board of Directors. The at



large Style Committee members shall be selected within sixty (60) days of adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the [Annual](#) Convention. The Style Committee shall propose non-substantive stylistic changes to the Platform and Bylaws, in accordance with the standards published in the latest version of the *Chicago Manual of Style*, 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 Bylaws Committees as appropriate.

(c) The Convention Committee shall be appointed by the Board within ninety (90) days of adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the [Annual](#) Convention.

(d) Such other committees, standing or special, shall be appointed by the Chair as the Board or [Annual](#) Convention Delegates shall from time to time deem necessary to carry out the work of the Party.

## **Section 2. National Committee Representatives and Alternates** (a)

Representatives and Alternates to national Party committees and subcommittees, excluding Regional Representatives and Alternates to the Libertarian National Committee, shall be elected by one of the following methods: If the number of representatives to national Party committees is known at the time of the [Annual](#) Convention and the committees are to convene after the [Annual](#) Convention, the [Annual](#) Convention Delegates shall elect the committee representatives and alternates in the same manner as and immediately after the election of At-Large National Convention Delegates; otherwise the Board shall elect the committee representatives and alternates by majority vote after soliciting applications from [Sustaining](#) Members.

## **Article XII: Parliamentary Authority**

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

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inconsistent with these Bylaws, any Standing Rules, and any Special Rules of Order the Party or the Board of Directors may adopt.

(a) If a new edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* is released more than six (6) months prior to the [Annual](#) Convention, it shall become the Party's parliamentary authority upon the adjournment of that [Annual](#) Convention.

(b) If a new edition of *Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised* is released less than six (6) months prior to the [Annual](#) Convention it shall become the Party's parliamentary authority upon the adjournment of the following year's [Annual](#) Convention.

## **Article XIII: Amendments**

- (a) During odd-numbered years, these Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Delegates to the [Annual](#) Convention, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Bylaws Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two (2) [Sustaining](#) Members is provided to the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the [Annual](#) Convention. Such notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two (2) business days of receipt.
- (b) During odd-numbered years, the Party may adopt or amend, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Delegates to the [Annual](#) 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) [Sustaining](#) Members is provided to the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the [Annual](#) Convention. 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.

### MOTION 3.B: RELATED CHANGE FOR CLARITY ON BYLAWS

AMENDMENTS Move to add the noted additional sentence to the end of Bylaws

*Article XIII(a).*

### **Article XIII: Amendments**

- (a) During odd-numbered years, these Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Delegates to the [Annual](#) Convention, provided the amendment is included in the annual report or a minority report of the Bylaws Committee, or written notice including the formal language of the amendment and signed by two (2) [Sustaining](#) Members is provided to the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the [Annual](#) Convention. Such notice shall be posted to the Party's website within two (2) business days of receipt. [Additionally, these Bylaws may](#)

[further be amended by following the provisions for Special Conventions.](#)

## **PROPOSAL FOUR: Provisions for Dissolution of Party/Disaffiliation from the national Libertarian Party**

### **RATIONALE:**

There have been unfortunate events in several state affiliates in which Boards have seized power for themselves that rightfully belonged to the membership in convention. It has taken and continues to take a great deal of money to set things right, and we can help protect Colorado from similar situations by this amendment which unequivocally reserves this right to the convention delegates.

### **MOTION 4:**

*Move to amend Bylaws Article I as noted.*

### **Article I: Name and Affiliation**

- (a)** The name of the political party shall be the Libertarian Party of Colorado, hereinafter referred to as “the Party.”
- (b)** The Party shall be an affiliate of the national Libertarian Party which relationship can be severed by the Party only by a 3/4 vote of all registered delegates at a regular state convention with the same threshold required for any additional affiliations. Notice of this action must be included in the call to convention.
- (c)** The Party can only be dissolved by a 7/8 vote of all registered delegates at a regular state convention. Notice of this action must be included in the call to convention.

## PROPOSAL FIVE: Provisions for when Party is

### **Incorporated** RATIONALE:

Many state parties incorporate long after their formation (and without a vote of the convention delegates to do so) to limit Board liability. In fact, it can be difficult to have competent people willing to serve without this protection. However, in other states this has been used as a way to delegitimize elections and sabotage the parties. The affiliates exist independently of any corporation, but if the issue comes up it can be an expensive and time-wasting enterprise. While there is no way to make sure this never can be raised, we can provide direction and clarity in our Bylaws.

### MOTION 5:

*Add new Bylaws Article just prior to existing section on Severability (currently Bylaws Article XIV) as noted.*

### Article TBD: Incorporation

The Board may choose to incorporate in order to limit the personal liability of Directors. Any corporate status or failure to follow laws to maintain corporate status or hold corporate elections shall have no effect on the continued existence of the Party or the legitimacy of the elections and decisions made at a valid Party convention.

## **PROPOSAL SIX: Add Audit Committee**

### **RATIONALE:**

There were discrepancies and mishandling of filings with the State of Colorado recently which can cause serious issues. Also, another state affiliate has allegations that a treasurer may have stolen some funds, which has happened many times over the history of the party with many state affiliates. An Audit Committee will make sure we are in compliance and ensure the best practices are followed.

### **MOTION 6:**

*Add new Bylaws Article on Audit Committee just prior to existing section on the Judicial Committee (currently Bylaws Article VII), add new phrase to end of Treasurer job description, and add additional category of ineligibility to serve on Judicial Committee as noted. Upon determination of insertion of the new Article, renumber subsequent Articles accordingly.*

## **Article VI: State Party Directors**

### **Section 3. Director-Specific Duties**

- (j) 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 at each 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 may also prepare budgets for the other Directors or assist them in preparing their own budgets. The Treasurer shall maintain an efficient double-entry system of accounts and cooperate with the Audit Committee in ensuring financial integrity.

## **Article TBD: Audit Committee**

### **Section 1. Composition and Term**

The Audit Committee shall consist of three (3) Party Members appointed by the non-Officer members of the Board of Directors in the sixty (60) days following every even-year Convention. Their terms end upon the appointment of their successors. Vacancies in the Audit Committee are filled by the remaining members of the Committee, or, if no members remain, by the non Officer members of the Board.

### Section 2. Eligibility

Members of the State Board and Judicial Committee shall be ineligible to serve on the Audit Committee.

### Section 3. Committee Chair

The Chair of the Audit Committee shall be elected by the members of the Committee.

### Section 4. Scope of Duties

The Audit Committee is responsible for providing independent review and oversight of financial transactions, including reviewing all financial records and reports to government authorities, reporting findings, and making recommendations to strengthen the Party's financial systems. The Audit Committee has no decision-making authority. A written report of their findings and recommendations shall be prepared for the delegates at every regular Party convention.

*PROVISO: For the 2023 convention only, the members of the Board of Directors (excluding the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer) shall appoint an audit committee to serve until 2024 when their successors are appointed. The language above mentions "Officers" which is dependent upon the passage of a later provision. If that later provision does not pass, the phrase "appointed by the non-Officer members of the Board of Directors" shall instead read "appointed by the members of the Board of Directors, excluding the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer."*

## **Article VII: Judicial Committee**

### **Section 2. Eligibility**

(a) Members of the State Board and Audit Committee shall be ineligible to serve on the Judicial Committee.

## PROPOSAL SEVEN: Add Assistant Treasurer

### RATIONALE:

Multiple other state parties and the national party has an assistant Treasurer (non Board position in most cases) to fill when necessary to mitigate any gaps in coverage.

### MOTION 7:

*Amend Bylaw Article XI as noted.*

### **Article XI: Finances and Accounting**

The fiscal year of the Party shall end December 31<sup>st</sup>. The Board shall designate an Assistant Treasurer to temporarily serve in the event the Treasurer is incapacitated or unavailable, or vacates the position.

## PROPOSAL EIGHT: Revise Job Description of

### Treasurer RATIONALE:

There were major reporting issues last term with the state and the expectations of the Treasurer in this important and potentially costly role need to be clearly spelled out in the bylaws to avoid this in the future.

### MOTION 8:

*Revise Bylaws Article VI.3(j) as noted.*

## Article VI: State Party Directors

### Section 3. Director-Specific Duties

- (j) 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 at each regular meeting of the Board. The income and expense summary may be limited to activity since the last regular meeting of the Board.~~ A contributions and expense summary shall be included in the Treasurer monthly Board Report and may be limited to activity since the last regular meeting of the Board. Every contribution and expenditure must be reported to TRACER in a timely manner per the noted reporting due date. Every contribution and expenditure received through any means must balance against the financial institution statements and TRACER. The Treasurer's board report shall include a calendar of Secretary of State TRACER report due dates for the previous and next three (3) months together with documentation showing that the report was filed. The Treasurer may also prepare budgets for the other Directors or assist them in preparing their own budgets. The Treasurer shall maintain an efficient double-entry system of accounts and cooperate with the Audit Committee in ensuring financial integrity.



## PROPOSAL NINE: Standardize “Pledge” Language

### RATIONALE:

The Pledge language had two different wordings in the Bylaws and should be standardized for consistency and clarity. One usage required disavowing the “use” of force, and the other required disavowing the “initiation” of force. The latter is the correct intention of the Pledge and the Libertarian position.

### MOTION 9:

*Revise Bylaws Article IX.3(e)(2) as noted.*

### Article IX: Conventions

#### Section 3. Nomination of Candidates

(e) Candidates may be nominated by Delegates to the Convention.

(2) Candidates nominated from the floor shall sign a statement that they support the Statement of Principles of the National Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the ~~use~~ initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.

(f) Candidates may be nominated by a Vacancy Committee designated by the Delegates.

(3) Candidates nominated by the Vacancy Committee shall sign a statement that they support the Statement of Principles of the National Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the ~~use~~ initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.

## **PROPOSAL TEN: Allow Affiliates to Nominate Candidates without Approval by Convention and Consolidate Language on Candidate Pledge Requirements**

### RATIONALE:

Affiliates that comprise an entire geographic area should be able to nominate candidates that qualify under the Bylaws and cannot do so without approval by the State Convention at this time. This proposal eases the tension in which Affiliates believe they are able to nominate candidates (due to potentially conflicting language in the Bylaws). The second part of this proposal tightens up language that can be said in one place rather than repeated multiple times.

### MOTION 10:

*Revise Bylaws Articles V.1(f)(1) and IX.3(d)-(f), with sub-parts, as noted.*

## **Article V: Affiliates and Development Groups**

### **Section 1. Affiliates**

- (f) Affiliates shall be chartered for, but shall not be limited to, the following purposes: (1) nominating candidates for public office, provided the office sought is wholly subsumed by the geographic boundaries of the Affiliate and the candidate meets all of the requirements for candidates as set forth in these Bylaws;
- (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.

## **Article IX: Conventions**

### **Section 3. Nomination of Candidates**

- (d) Each candidate must have been a Sustaining Member during the entire period from January 1st of the Convention year until the ~~nominating~~ convention at which they are nominated, or for ninety (90) days prior to any nomination by an Affiliate.
- (e) Candidates may be nominated by Delegates to the Annual Convention with the exception of candidates previously nominated by an Affiliate.
  - (1) For any partisan offices, Annual Convention Delegates shall vote by approval

- voting to nominate candidates for those offices.
- (2) ~~Candidates nominated from the floor~~ All candidates shall sign a statement that they support the Statement of Principles of the National Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the use initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.
  - (f) Candidates may be nominated by a Vacancy Committee designated by the Delegates.
    - (1) The Board or its designees shall serve as the Vacancy Committee unless the Delegates to the Convention direct otherwise.
    - (2) The Vacancy Committee shall operate between ~~annual~~ Annual Conventions and shall vet candidates as needed.
    - ~~(3) Candidates nominated by the Vacancy Committee shall sign a statement that they support the Statement of Principles of the National Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the initiation to achieve political or social goals.~~

If adopted (along with prior proposals), these articles would then

read: **Article V: Affiliates and Development Groups**

### **Section 1. Affiliates**

- (f) Affiliates shall be chartered for, but shall not be limited to, the following purposes: (1) nominating candidates for public office, provided the office sought is wholly subsumed by the geographic boundaries of the Affiliate and the candidate meets all of the requirements for candidates as set forth in these Bylaws; (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.

## **Article IX: Conventions**

### **Section 3. Nomination of Candidates**

- (d) Each candidate must have been a Sustaining Member during the entire period from January 1st of the Convention year until the convention at which they are nominated, or for ninety (90) days prior to any nomination by an Affiliate.
- (e) Candidates may be nominated by Delegates to the Annual Convention with the exception of candidates previously nominated by an Affiliate.
  - (1) For any partisan offices, Annual Convention Delegates shall vote by approval voting to nominate candidates for those offices.

(2) All candidates shall sign a statement that they support the Statement of

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Principles of the National Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the use initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.

(f) Candidates may be nominated by a Vacancy Committee designated by the Delegates.

(1) The Board or its designees shall serve as the Vacancy Committee unless the Delegates to the Convention direct otherwise.

(2) The Vacancy Committee shall operate between Annual Conventions and shall vet candidates as needed.

## PROPOSAL ELEVEN: Delete Development Groups, Rename Director Position, and Conforming Amendments

### RATIONALE:

This has never been followed the way it is laid out. It is a layer of complexity that actually discourages affiliates and is completely unnecessary. We copied this as a trial from another state affiliate years ago and even that state affiliate no longer supports. It was a good idea that simply doesn't work and causes busy work. There is also arguably a national bylaws violation. Further, regardless of whether or not Development Groups are retained, the name of the Affiliates Development Director has consistently been the "Affiliates Director" for some time, and our bylaws should reflect that.

### MOTION 11:

*Delete Bylaws Article V.2, and perform conforming amendments to title of Bylaws Article V, job description of Affiliates Development Director and duties of Directors in Bylaws Article VI.3.*

### Article V: Affiliates ~~and Development Groups~~

#### ~~Section 2. Development Groups~~

- ~~(a) 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 agendas, and set times and places of meeting.~~
- ~~(b) 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, or gaining or releasing one or more precincts, and shall notify the Board within three (3) business days of any such changes made.~~
- ~~(c) A development group may have, as members, any residents within its geographical boundary, as well as any residents not living within any other current development group boundary.~~
- ~~(d) Development group leadership shall be limited to Party Members and shall submit a report of activities to the Affiliate Development Director at~~

~~least once per quarter or upon request.~~

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- ~~(e) 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.~~
- ~~(f) A development group shall follow applicable law with respect to collecting and recording donations by political parties. A development group shall also submit all money collected and records of the donors to the Treasurer within three (3) business days of receipt.~~
- ~~(g) 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 Chair; and shall not spend money except as authorized by the Board.~~
- ~~(h) The Board may revoke the charter of any development group at any time and without cause.~~
- ~~(i) Upon the formation of an affiliate within a county, all development groups therein shall become constituents of and wholly subject to that affiliate.~~

## **Article VI: State Party Directors**

### **Section 1. Composition of the Board of Directors**

- (b) There shall be eleven (11) Party Directors (“Directors”), as follows: Chair, Vice Chair, Affiliate **Development** Director, Campaigns Director, Membership Director, Communications Director, Outreach Director, Secretary, Legislative Director, Treasurer, and Fundraising Director.

### **Section 2. Director Elections**

- (b) Except in the case of an appointed Director, the following Directors shall be elected in odd-numbered years, in this order: Chair, Vice Chair, Affiliate **Development** Director, Campaigns Director, Membership Director, and Communications Director; and the following Directors shall be elected in even numbered years, in this order: Outreach Director, Secretary, Legislative Director, Treasurer, and Fundraising Director. The election of each Director shall be conducted independently of the others. Such elections shall be conducted by the Delegates to the Convention as provided in these Bylaws, and shall not take effect until adjournment *sine die* of Business Session of the Annual Convention and the Director-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 Director shall be two (2) years or until

a successor is elected or appointed.

### **Section 3. Director-Specific Duties**

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- (c) The Affiliate ~~Development~~ Director shall develop and support affiliates ~~and development groups, and guide development groups towards official affiliate status~~. The Affiliate ~~Development~~ Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to perform these functions.
- (m) Each Director shall be an ex officio member of each Party affiliate's Board of Directors for the purposes of: upholding the spirit and letter of the Statement of Principles of the National Party; enforcing these Bylaws, and the Rules and Resolutions adopted by the Convention or the State Board; and providing relief in times of distress. Directors shall not be counted in determining the number required for a quorum at an affiliate's Annual or Board Meetings but may be counted in determining that a quorum is present. Each Director shall actively participate in a meeting of at least one (1) Party affiliate ~~or development group~~ each calendar year.

## PROPOSAL TWELVE: Eliminate Affiliate Representatives Provision and Further Codify Disaffiliation Notification Requirements

### RATIONALE:

Like Development Groups, this is an idea which looks great on paper but has never been consistently practiced. The fact is that the official spokesperson of any affiliate is its Chair who already has the right to designate someone else for that purpose. This provision adds an unnecessary layer of complication. The second part of this proposal provides clearer direction on the necessary notification of disaffiliation by the Board. There is a further proposal later on to provide more due process to affiliates, but this clarity to notification is needed in the absence of the later proposal.

### MOTION 12:

*Delete Bylaws Articles V.1(d) and (e) and amend Bylaws Article V.1(h) as noted.*

### Article V: Affiliates ~~and Development Groups~~

#### Section 1. Affiliates

~~(d) Each affiliate so chartered shall declare, for the purposes of liaison between the Party and the chartered affiliate, an Affiliate Representative.~~  
~~(e) Affiliates shall make known to the Board the Affiliate Representative to whom all Party business shall be directed. The Affiliate Representative shall be a Member.~~

(h) The Board 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 organization: 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) Party 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~~ highest ranking officer of the affected affiliate using the address on file with the Secretary of State. If there are no officers of record or the certified mail comes back as undeliverable, thirty (30) days' notice shall be posted on the Party website.



## PROPOSAL THIRTEEN: Add Hearings for

### Disaffiliation RATIONALE:

Though they were between the national Party and another state affiliate, the 2021 problems surrounding the LNC and LPNH have drawn attention to the question of whether or not a hearing needs to be held before a vote for disaffiliation actions at any level. Even respected parliamentarians are divided on the issue. Currently the Bylaws are silent on the issue, but silence is neither assent nor dissent. Lack of a hearing is rightfully argued to violate due process.

### MOTION 13:

*Amend Bylaws Article V.1(h) as noted.*

### Article V: Affiliates ~~*and Development Groups*~~

#### Section 1. Affiliates

- (h) The Board 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 organization: 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) *Party* 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-highest ranking officer* of the affected affiliate *using the address on file with the Secretary of State. If there are no officers of record or the certified mail comes back as undeliverable, thirty (30) days' notice shall be posted on the Party website. The Board shall conduct a revocation hearing before a revocation vote, and revocations may be appealed to the Judicial Committee by the affiliate Officers/Directors.*

## PROPOSAL FOURTEEN: Elect Convention-Related

### Committees RATIONALE:

The Platform Committee and Bylaws Committees are committees of the Convention, and the Style Committee indirectly is a committee of the Convention. Appointments to them by the Board of the Directors can be perceived as a conflict of interest because the Committees develop process and policy for the Board as directed by the Delegates.

### MOTION 14:

*Amend Bylaws Article X.1 regarding the Bylaws Committee, the Platform Committee, and the Style Committee as noted.*

### Article X: Committees

#### Section 1. State Committees

~~(a) The Bylaws Committee and the Platform Committee shall each consist of five (5) at-large Party Members selected by the Board and an additional Member selected by each chartered affiliate.~~

- ~~(1) The Board shall solicit applications for the members of the Bylaws Committee as well as the Platform Committee and set the appointment date for these positions by announcement to all Party Members at least six (6) months prior to the Annual Convention at which amendments to the Platform and Bylaws are considered. The Board shall appoint five (5) at-large Party Members at a Board meeting held at least one (1) month after the final solicitation, but no later than four (4) months prior to the Annual Convention at which amendments to the Platform and Bylaws are considered. If any subsequent vacancies occur in the initially-appointed, at-large positions, the Board may select Party Members to fill the vacancies. The Board shall select the committee Chairs from the members of each committee.~~
- ~~(2) Each chartered affiliate may appoint one (1) Party Member to each committee. Should an affiliate not appoint a committee member, the Board may appoint an additional at-large Party Member at the time of committee formation. The Board shall solicit one (1) committee member from each chartered affiliate on the same schedule implemented by the Board pursuant to subsection 1 above, and at its meeting for appointment of the members of the committees it shall confirm such committee members as have been certified by the Affiliate Representatives. If a committee member appointed by an affiliate~~

~~resigns from a committee or fails to attend two (2) consecutive~~

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~~committee votes, the affiliate may appoint a replacement.~~

~~(3) Committees shall submit their final reports to the Board for publication to the membership no later than six (6) weeks before the Annual Convention. These reports shall be available in their complete form to any Party Member upon request. The Party Chair shall ensure that the committees' reports, and any reports of committee members submitted separately, are presented at the Convention.~~

~~(4) The Chair of each committee shall certify and cause to be published at Party expense a report representing each document in its entirety to the Annual Convention.~~

~~(b) The Style Committee shall consist of the previous Chairs of the Bylaws Committee and Platform Committee from the previous Annual Convention year and three (3) at-large Party Members selected by the Board of Directors. The at-large Style Committee members shall be selected within sixty (60) days of adjournment sine die of the Business Session of the Annual Convention. The Style Committee shall propose non-substantive stylistic changes to the Platform and Bylaws, in accordance with the standards published in the latest version of the Chicago Manual of Style, 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 Bylaws Committees as appropriate.~~

(a) The Bylaws Committee and the Platform Committee shall each consist of five (5) at-large Party Members and an additional Member selected by each chartered affiliate.

(1) No Director shall be elected or appointed to the Bylaws Committee or Platform Committee.

(2) At-large committee members shall be nominated and elected by Delegates at an even-year Convention by a single ballot, with Delegates voting for up to five (5) candidates. The five (5) candidates receiving both a majority vote and the most votes shall be elected. Candidates receiving a majority vote but not the most votes shall be ranked by vote totals and shall be considered to be committee alternates. Candidates not receiving a majority vote shall not be committee members or alternates.

(3) A committee member elected by the Delegates who fails to attend two (2) consecutive committee meetings shall be considered to have resigned from the committee and shall be replaced by the highest ranked alternate.

- (4) Each chartered affiliate may appoint one (1) member to each committee no later than one (1) month after adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of an even-year Convention.

- (5) If a committee member appointed by an affiliate resigns from a committee or fails to attend two (2) consecutive committee meetings, the affiliate may appoint another affiliate member as a replacement.

- (6) Each Committee shall elect their committee Chair from the members of their committee.

- (7) Committees shall submit their final reports to the Board for publication to the membership no later than six (6) weeks before the next odd-year Convention. These reports shall be available in their complete electronic form to any Member upon request and on the Convention website or web page. The Party Chair shall ensure that the committees' reports, any reports of committee members submitted separately, and any Member Submissions are presented at the next odd-year Convention.

- (b) The Style Committee shall consist of not more than five (5) Party Members. (1) No Director shall be elected to the Style Committee.

- (2) Each member shall be nominated and elected by Delegates at an odd year Convention, by a single ballot, with Delegates voting for up to five (5) candidates. The five (5) candidates receiving both a majority vote and the most votes shall be elected. Candidates receiving a majority vote but not the most votes shall be ranked by vote totals and shall be considered to be committee alternates. Candidates not receiving a majority vote shall not be committee members or alternates.

- (3) The Chairs of the most recent Bylaws Committee and Platform Committee shall be automatically nominated.

- (4) A committee member who fails to attend two (2) consecutive committee meetings shall be considered to have resigned from the committee and shall be replaced by the highest-ranked alternate.

- (5) The committee members shall elect their committee Chair from the members of the committee.

- (6) The Style Committee shall propose non-substantive stylistic changes to the Platform and Bylaws, guided by the standards published in the latest version of the Chicago Manual of Style, to the Board for ratification by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, rejection, or determination as a substantive change, no later than six (6) weeks before the next even year Convention. Substantive changes to be proposed shall be forwarded or referred to the next Platform Committee or Bylaws Committee as appropriate.

*PROVISO: The Convention Agenda would also be amended to add Style Committee elections at this Convention. Explanation: If passed, this Bylaw change takes effect immediately, adding Style Committee elections to this Convention and requiring amendment of the Convention Agenda. Such an amendment of the Convention Agenda normally requires a 2/3 vote to suspend*

*the rules to amend the Convention Agenda, and the proposal requires a 2/3 vote to adopt anyway.*

## PROPOSAL FIFTEEN: Add Officer Designations

### RATIONALE:

A Director-only model for the Board can diffuse ultimate responsibility for the critical “buck stops here” management of the Party. Also, various case law decisions and parliamentary law differentiates between Officers and other members of boards. Also, it is desirable to exclude Officers from certain votes such as voting for the Audit Committee, and designating the traditional positions as Officers helps facilitate this.

### MOTION 15:

*Add new Bylaw before Article VI designating the traditional positions as Officers and further re-arrange listing of Directors in Article VI Section 1(b) and Section 3 to start with Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Upon determination of insertion of the new Article, renumber subsequent Articles accordingly.*

### Article TBD: State Party Officers

The Officers of the Party shall be the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer in that order of rank. The Officers of the Party shall also be Party Directors.

## PROPOSAL SIXTEEN: Clean-Up Director Duties and

### Description RATIONALE:

There is a needlessly repetitive allowance for Directors to create committees when that can be said once to cover each instance. Also, some of the job descriptions needed tweaking to reflect how the Board actually operates and the terminology used.

### MOTION 16:

*Amend Bylaws Article VI.3 as noted.*

### Article VI: State Party Directors

#### Section 3. Director-Specific Duties

- (a) The 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, ~~as well as overseeing leadership training and succession planning at all levels within the Party.~~ Unless otherwise specified in the Party's Bylaws, Special Rules of Order, or resolutions of the Board, the Chair is responsible for appointing the chairs of all committees. The Chair shall call the Convention as specified in these Bylaws. The Chair, or their designee, including other Directors 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 Chair shall file any amendments to these Bylaws with the Secretary of State within fifteen (15) days after such amendments are adopted.
- (b) The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of executive duties, act as Chair in the temporary absence of the Chair, oversee leadership training and succession planning at all levels within the Party, and ensure affiliate compliance with requirements enumerated in these Bylaws. The Vice Chair shall also review and test the procedures in each Director's continuity binder in accordance with the Policy Manual and report the results to the Chair. ~~In coordination with the Affiliate Development Director, when the number of chartered affiliates justifies additional structure, the Vice Chair shall be responsible for organizing the affiliates into representative regions and shall be responsible for representing the 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~~ (c) The

Affiliate **Development** Director shall develop and support affiliates **and development groups, and guide development groups towards official affiliate status.** ~~The Affiliate Development Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to perform these functions.~~

(d) The Campaigns Director shall identify political races and recruit candidates. The Campaigns Director shall also coordinate candidates and campaigns, and assist candidates in navigating compliance with campaign legal requirements and in obtaining campaign volunteers. ~~The Campaigns Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to perform these and other campaign functions.~~

(e) The Membership Director shall be responsible for developing membership education programs, recruiting and training activists, and publishing a regular internal newsletter. The Membership Director shall also be responsible for managing and accessing membership records for internal party use and coordinating membership data with the national Libertarian Party. The Membership Director shall recruit state Party Members to become national Party members. ~~The Membership Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to accomplish these and other membership functions.~~

(f) The Communications Director shall be responsible for all outward-facing communications, websites, multimedia, social media, press releases, media appearances, and media inquiries. ~~The Communications Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to accomplish these and other communications functions.~~

(g) The Outreach Director shall be responsible for booking and running outreach booths and community events, and for maintaining outreach materials. ~~The Outreach Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to perform these and other outreach functions.~~



- (h) The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining official Party records and shall act as recording secretary for all legal purposes. The Secretary shall maintain a Party calendar of all deadlines required by these Bylaws and the Secretary of State, and shall post these dates within sixty (60) days of their deadlines in accordance with the Party's Standing Rules and Special Rules of Order. The Secretary shall compile, maintain, and make available to the Board and Party Members a ~~publication listing~~ Policy Manual containing all Standing Rules and Special Rules of Order adopted by the Board.
- (i) The Legislative Director shall be responsible for monitoring activity in the State Legislature, communicating with that body, developing legislation or issue oriented committees ~~(including the appointment of any committee chairs);~~ and working with other organizations on areas of mutual concern.
- (k) The Fundraising Director shall be responsible for establishing and operating fundraising activities including, but not limited to, the annual Convention, a monthly pledge program, fundraising from Members, coordinating speakers and events for the purpose of Party fundraising, and reporting all income and expenses related to fundraising at each regular Board meeting. ~~The Fundraising Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to accomplish these and other fundraising functions.~~
- (m) Each Director, except for the Officers, may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to assist with their duties.

PROVISO: If the prior proposal on Officers is not passed, subsection (m) will state "except for the Chair and Vice-Chair" instead of "except for the Officers."

## PROPOSAL SEVENTEEN: Add Misc. Additional Director

### Duties RATIONALE:

There is a balance between finding the need to put everything and the kitchen sink into the Bylaws and putting too little. Over the past terms, there were tasks that Directors should accomplish that are not delineated in the Bylaws but fall within the general scope of their duties. "It's not my job" should not be an excuse.

### MOTION 17:

*Amend Bylaws Article VI.3(l) as noted.*

### Article VI: State Party Directors

#### Section 3. Director-Specific Duties

- (l) Each Director shall be responsible for maintaining documentation within their area, and they shall provide a written report to be passed on to their successor and written monthly reports to the Board. They shall not incur expenses beyond budget without approval of the Board. The Chair may assign additional duties reasonably within the scope of any Director's area of responsibility.

## PROPOSAL EIGHTEEN: Add Clarifying Language for Board

### Turnover RATIONALE:

The circumstances surrounding the 2021 situation of LPNH and the LNC compelled a review of the Bylaws in areas that were at controversy at the national level, specifically regarding suspension of Directors and Chair succession. Some issues were discovered that need cleaning up.

### MOTION 18:

*Amend Bylaws Article VI.3(l) as noted.*

### Article VI: State Party Directors

#### Section 1. Composition of the Board of Directors

~~(e) Any Director may be suspended by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the current Board. Any Director absent from two (2) consecutive regular meetings of the Board may be suspended at adjournment of the second regular meeting. The Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current Directors, appoint or reinstate Directors if vacancies or suspensions occur. Reinstated or appointed Directors are to serve until the next Annual Convention.~~

~~(d)~~ (c) The Board shall have control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of the Party consistent with these Bylaws and shall meet in the manner specified in these Bylaws.

(d) Any Director absent without prior notice from two (2) consecutive regular Board meetings shall be considered to have resigned from the position. (e) All Director deaths or resignations shall cause their positions to be considered to be vacant. If the Chair resigns, dies, or is suspended, the Vice-Chair shall be acting Chair until a Chair is appointed, reinstated, or elected, as applicable.

(f) A Director may be suspended, only for cause, after an investigation by an independent committee, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current Board, excluding the Director subject to the vote, after a disciplinary hearing. If an appeal is made to the Judicial Committee and the Judicial Committee upholds the suspension, or if an appeal is not made to the Judicial Committee, the position shall be considered to be vacant. Members suspended from the Board and not reinstated are ineligible for appointment to the Board to fill a vacancy. Director positions under

suspension are not

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considered to be vacant. No Director shall be appointed to nor serve on the investigative committee.

- (g) The Board, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, may appoint Members to fill any Director vacancies. Those appointed Directors shall serve until the next Annual Convention, subject to the conditions of this Article.

## PROPOSAL NINETEEN: Refine Judicial Committee

### Language RATIONALE:

While the initial proposal for the LPCO Judicial Committee was a good start, an analysis of the Bylaw as compared to other state Judicial Committees and the national Judicial Committee reveals omissions that need addition.

### MOTION 19:

*Amend Bylaws Article VII as noted.*

### Article VII: Judicial Committee

#### Section 1. Composition, Election, and Term

- (a) The Judicial Committee shall consist of five (5) Party Members elected by the Delegates in attendance at every odd-year Annual Convention. In the case of vacancy, the existing members of the Judicial Committee may vote to fill the vacancy from qualified Party Members until the next election.
- (b) The term of each Judicial Committee member shall begin at the adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the odd-year Annual Convention and end at the adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the next odd-year Annual Convention.
- (c) If there are no existing members of the Judicial Committee to fill a vacancy, an intervening regular Convention may fill the vacancies, or if it will be more than six (6) months until the next regular Convention, the Board shall call a Special Convention to fill the vacancies.
- (d) Judicial Committee Members shall be elected by approval voting, with the top five (5) candidates receiving the most votes elected.

#### Section 2. Eligibility

- (a) Members of the ~~State~~ Board of Directors and Audit Committee shall be ineligible to serve on the Judicial Committee.
- (b) Judicial Committee members must have been Party Members for the past three (3) years, and shall have signed the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.

#### Section 4. Scope of Duties

- (a) The Judicial Committee shall be limited to hearing and deciding cases involving the following:

(1) challenges to membership status,

~~(1)~~(2) suspensions or other disciplinary actions by the Board,

~~(2)~~(3) disaffiliation of chartered affiliates by the Board,

~~(3)~~(4) appeals of Board decisions pertaining to items of business, and

~~(4)~~(5) challenges to resolutions or platform planks made at Convention by Delegates.

(b) The Judicial Committee shall have appellate jurisdiction only and no original jurisdiction.

(c) The Judicial Committee may hear appeals regarding affiliate actions provided such appeals are authorized in the affiliate's Bylaws. (d) The Judicial Committee may, in its proceedings, determine findings of both facts and procedure.

### **Section 5. Appeals**

(a) Only Party Members may present an appeal to the Judicial Committee. (b) Only suspended or disciplined Members may appeal their suspension or discipline.

(c) Only the former officers of a disaffiliated affiliate may appeal their affiliate's disaffiliation.

~~(b)~~ (d) All appeals must be in writing, submitted to the Chair of the Judicial Committee within thirty (30) days of the disputed decision.

### **Section 6. Adjudicating Cases**

(a) All appeals shall be resolved within sixty (60) days of the date of submission to the Chair of the Judicial Committee with the exception of disputes over membership status which will affect delegate voting status at any state convention which will be decided during the credentialing process. In the event the Judicial Committee cannot make a prompt decision regarding challenges to membership status, the question will be put to the delegates with a majority vote resolving membership status in favor of the disputed member.

(b) The Chair of the Judicial Committee must present all requests for appellate review to the Committee within five (5) days of receipt. The Committee shall then have five (5) days to decide whether or not to hear the appeal, with the agreement of two (2) or more Judicial Committee members being sufficient to hold a hearing. The Committee Chair shall then schedule this hearing to be held within thirty (30) days with at least ten (10) days' notice to the Party Membership and all involved parties.

(c) Hearings may be virtual or in-person. The Committee may require written briefs or arguments from the Appellants or Respondents, and may decide to hold additional hearings. Any Party Member may attend any hearing and submit written briefs or arguments to the Committee which may be considered at the Committee's discretion.

(d) The Committee shall set its own rules of procedure consistent with principles of impartiality, equity, and parliamentary law; however, in all cases, the burden of proof is presenting a preponderance of evidence and is upon the appellant.

### **Section 7. Rulings Limited**

All rulings of the Judicial Committee must be in accordance with these Bylaws.

### **Section 8. ~~Meetings~~ Verdicts**

(a) A verdict must be reached within five (5) days of the adjournment of the hearing. (b) A report of the case and its verdict must be uploaded to the Party website within two (2) business days.

### **Section 9. Final Appeal**

(a) Any verdict may be appealed to the Delegates at the next regular Convention or Special Convention. Such an appeal must be presented by not less than twenty (20) Members. The burden of proof of presenting a preponderance of evidence is upon the Members who makes the appeal to the Delegates. Prior notice is required. Delegates may overturn a verdict on appeal by a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote.

(b) If the Delegates by a majority vote refuse to hear the appeal, then the verdict of the Judicial Committee is final.

## PROPOSAL TWENTY: Change Time Calculations from Months to Days

### RATIONALE:

In the Bylaws, a deadline that refers to a “month” is ambiguous in terms of time in that the months are not the same length. To avoid confusion, it is better to have these deadlines referred to in terms of days as those are consistent. This removes ambiguity and improves planning.

### MOTION 20:

*Amend Bylaws Articles IX.1(a) [or IX.2(a) if prior amendment passed] and X.1(a)(1) as noted.*

### Article IX: Conventions

#### Section 42. Annual Conventions

- (a) The Party shall hold an Annual Convention of Party Delegates (“Convention”) each calendar year, scheduled so that it convenes at least ~~six (6) months~~ one hundred eighty (180) days after the previous Annual Convention and adjourns no later than seventy-three (73) days before the day of the Colorado primary election, or whatever state law requires. No later than forty-five (45) days prior to the Annual Convention, the Chair shall call the Annual Convention by notifying Sustaining Members. Said notice shall include all particulars for participation and the expected items of business, though any business allowed under these Bylaws at a regular convention may be raised.

### Article X: Committees

#### Section 1. State Committees

- (a) The Bylaws Committee and the Platform Committee shall each consist of five (5) at-large Party Members selected by the Board and an additional Member selected by each chartered affiliate.
- (1) The Board shall solicit applications for the members of the Bylaws Committee as well as the Platform Committee and set the appointment date for these positions by announcement to all Party Members at least ~~six (6) months~~ one hundred eighty (180) days prior to the Annual Convention at which amendments to the Platform and Bylaws are considered. The Board shall appoint five (5) at-large Party Members at a Board meeting held at least ~~one~~



~~(1) month~~ thirty (30) days after the final solicitation, but no later than ~~four~~  
~~(4)~~

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~~months~~ one hundred twenty (120) days prior to the ~~Annual~~ Convention at which amendments to the Platform and Bylaws are considered. If any subsequent vacancies occur in the initially-appointed, at-large positions, the Board may select ~~Party~~ Members to fill the vacancies. The Board shall select the committee Chairs from the members of each committee.

## PROPOSAL TWENTY-ONE: Change Threshold for Deletion of Platform Planks

### RATIONALE:

Deletion is amendment, but a more extreme form. If it took 2/3 of the delegates to pass a plank, it should take the same number to delete it. This protects the continuity of the prior decisions of conventions and ensures a stronger level of support, just as is required for amendments.

### MOTION 21:

*Amend Bylaws Article XIII(b) as noted.*

### **Article XIII: Amendments**

- (b) During odd-numbered years, the Party may adopt or amend, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the Delegates to the Annual 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) Sustaining Members is provided to the Board at least thirty (30) days prior to the Annual Convention. 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.~~

## PROPOSAL TWENTY-TWO: Allow Board to Delegate

### **Authority RATIONALE:**

This mirrors the national Party Bylaws which gives the LNC (and thus in this proposal the LPCO Board) the authority to do things such as hire an Executive Director if and when funds are available.

### **MOTION 22:**

*Amend Bylaws Article VI.1(c) [or Article Vi.1(d) if prior proposal does not pass] as noted.*

### **Article VI: State Party Directors**

#### **Section 1. Composition of the Board of Directors**

- (c) The Board shall have control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of the Party consistent with these Bylaws and shall meet in the manner specified in these Bylaws and may delegate its authority in any manner it deems necessary.

## **PROPOSAL TWENTY-THREE: Compiler's**

### **Resolution RATIONALE:**

When researching or discussing bylaws contents, the section or paragraph's context is dependent on its location within the document. In other words, one has to scroll up in order to identify and convey the precise location of the material in question. This proposal would expand the document numbering to include the complete "path."

### **MOTION 23:**

*Direct the Party Secretary or their designee to include the complete path of each Bylaws provision when preparing the 2023 document containing the items amended in this convention.*

As an example:

### **Article X: Sample Bylaw Article**

#### **Section X.1: Sample Bylaws Section**

X.1(a): Sample bylaws subsection.

## **PROPOSAL TWENTY-FOUR: Resolution for Next Bylaws Committee to Look at Board Structure**

### **RATIONALE:**

Some members of the current Board had suggested that this Bylaws Committee study and consider whether or not moving away from the Director model into an Officer/At Large model (or some other different structure or combination of different structures).

### **MOTION 24:**

Resolved: That the 2025 Bylaws Committee study the current Board structure with input from current and past Board members and consider potential proposals for improvement.

## **APPENDIX A: Current Copy of Bylaws**

### **LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF COLORADO BYLAWS**

*Adopted in convention 2021 with subsequent style changes*

#### **Article I: Name**

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

#### **Article II: Purposes**

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 Party candidates for political office; and
- (g) promoting Libertarian legislation throughout Colorado.

#### **Article III: Principles**

The Party shall take no position inconsistent with the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party.

#### **Article IV: Members**

- (a) 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 personal letter conforming to statute (collectively, “Application”), where “Libertarian,” or a reasonable abbreviation thereof, has been indicated as the party affiliation, and the Application is subsequently accepted by the Voter’s county Clerk and Recorder’s office. Membership in the Party ends on the date the Voter either signs 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’s office; or the Voter registers in another state or country; or the Voter is removed from the voter rolls.
- (b) 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 of 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

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Secretary or the Credentials Committee through confirmation with the Secretary of State's office or the applicable county Clerk and Recorder's office.

- (c) 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 Members who are in good standing.
- (d) Any current Member in good standing may challenge the validity of the proof of membership. The burden of proof of invalidation shall be upon the challenging Member.
- (e) No membership in any other organizations shall be required of any applicant for consideration for Party membership.
- (f) All Directors, delegations, candidacies, and other roles within the Party and its affiliates shall be occupied and exercised only by Party Members.

## **Article V: Affiliates and Development Groups**

### **Section 1. Affiliates**

- (a) The Board 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.
- (b) Organizations applying for charter as affiliates shall make such applications on a standard petition form as adopted by the Board. 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) Members.
- (c) Every organization so chartered shall ratify the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party. They shall also submit contact information for their officers/directors, who shall include at least a Chair and a Treasurer, 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.
- (d) Each affiliate so chartered shall declare, for the purposes of liaison between the Party and the chartered affiliate, an Affiliate Representative.
- (e) Affiliates shall make known to the Board the Affiliate Representative to whom all Party business shall be directed. The Affiliate Representative shall be a Member.
- (f) 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.
- (g) 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

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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 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.

- (h) The Board 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 organization: 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 Practices Act filings. Thirty (30) days' notice by certified mail shall be given to the Affiliate Representative of the affected affiliate.

## **Section 2. Development Groups**

- (a) 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 agendas, and set times and places of meeting.
- (b) 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, or gaining or releasing one or more precincts, and shall notify the Board within three (3) business days of any such changes made.
- (c) A development group may have, as members, any residents within its geographical boundary, as well as any residents not living within any other current development group boundary.
- (d) Development group leadership shall be limited to Party Members and shall submit a report of activities to the Affiliate Development Director at least once per quarter or upon request.
- (e) 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.
- (f) A development group shall follow applicable law with respect to collecting and recording donations by political parties. A development group shall also submit



all money collected and records of the donors to the Treasurer within three (3) business days of receipt.

(g) A development group shall not nominate or endorse candidates for office; shall

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not interact with the media except by the approval and instruction of the Chair; and shall not spend money except as authorized by the Board.

(h) The Board may revoke the charter of any development group at any time and without cause.

(i) Upon the formation of an affiliate within a county, all development groups therein shall become constituents of and wholly subject to that affiliate.

## **Article VI: State Party Directors**

### **Section 1. Composition of the Board of Directors**

(a) The Board of Directors ("Board") shall consist of the Party Directors. The Board shall be the Party's State Central Committee.

(b) There shall be eleven (11) Party Directors ("Directors"), as follows: Chair, Vice Chair, Affiliate Development Director, Campaigns Director, Membership Director, Communications Director, Outreach Director, Secretary, Legislative Director, Treasurer, and Fundraising Director.

(c) Any Director may be suspended by vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the current Board. Any Director absent from two (2) consecutive regular meetings of the Board may be suspended at adjournment of the second regular meeting. The Board may, by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the current Directors, appoint or reinstate Directors if vacancies or suspensions occur. Reinstated or appointed Directors are to serve until the next Convention.

(d) The Board shall have control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of the Party consistent with these Bylaws and shall meet in the manner specified in these Bylaws.

### **Section 2. Director Elections**

(a) Only Convention Delegates eligible to vote may run for a Party Director position, and only if they promise to fulfill the requirements of this Article.

(b) Except in the case of an appointed Director, the following Directors shall be elected in odd-numbered years, in this order: Chair, Vice Chair, Affiliate Development Director, Campaigns Director, Membership Director, and Communications Director; and the following Directors shall be elected in even numbered years, in this order: Outreach Director, Secretary, Legislative Director, Treasurer, and Fundraising Director. The election of each Director shall be conducted independently of the others. Such elections shall be conducted by the Delegates to the Convention as provided in these Bylaws, and shall not take effect until adjournment *sine die* of Business Session of the Convention and the

Director-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 Director shall be two (2) years or until a successor is elected or appointed.

- (c) An appointed Director's term ends at the adjournment *sine die* of the Business

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Session 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 above.

- (d) Director elections shall exclude any Director eliminated upon adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the Convention and shall include any Director created upon adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the Convention, regardless of the year designated for it above, with the term of each Director adjusted to end at the adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the Convention of the designated year.

### **Section 3. Director-Specific Duties**

- (a) The 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, as well as overseeing leadership training and succession planning at all levels within the Party. Unless otherwise specified in the Party's Bylaws, Special Rules of Order, or resolutions of the Board, the Chair is responsible for appointing the chairs of all committees. The Chair shall call the Convention as specified in these Bylaws. The Chair, or their designee, including other Directors 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 Chair shall file any amendments to these Bylaws with the Secretary of State within fifteen (15) days after such amendments are adopted.
- (b) The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of executive duties, act as Chair in the temporary absence of the Chair, and ensure affiliate compliance with requirements enumerated in these Bylaws. The Vice Chair shall also review and test the procedures in each Director's continuity binder in accordance with the Policy Manual and report the results to the Chair. In coordination with the Affiliate Development Director, when the number of chartered affiliates justifies additional structure, the Vice Chair shall be responsible for organizing the affiliates into representative regions and shall be responsible for representing the 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,

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#### Jefferson

(10) Northeast: Larimer, Logan, Morgan, Phillips, Sedgwick, Washington, Weld

(11) Plains: Cheyenne, Elbert, Kiowa, Kit Carson, Lincoln, Yuma (c) The Affiliate Development Director shall develop and support affiliates and development groups, and guide development groups towards official affiliate status. The Affiliate Development Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to perform these functions.

(d) The Campaigns Director shall identify political races and recruit candidates. The Campaigns Director shall also coordinate candidates and campaigns, and assist candidates in navigating compliance with campaign legal requirements and in obtaining campaign volunteers. The Campaigns Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to perform these and other campaign functions.

(e) The Membership Director shall be responsible for developing membership education programs, recruiting and training activists, and publishing a regular internal newsletter. The Membership Director shall also be responsible for managing and accessing membership records for internal party use and coordinating membership data with the national Libertarian Party. The Membership Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to accomplish these and other membership functions.

(f) The Communications Director shall be responsible for all outward-facing communications, websites, multimedia, social media, press releases, media appearances, and media inquiries. The Communications Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to accomplish these and other communications functions.

(g) The Outreach Director shall be responsible for booking and running outreach booths and community events, and for maintaining outreach materials. The Outreach Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to perform these and other outreach functions.

(h) The Secretary shall be responsible for maintaining official Party records and shall act as recording secretary for all legal purposes. The Secretary shall maintain a Party calendar of all deadlines required by these Bylaws and the Secretary of State, and shall post these dates within sixty (60) days of their deadlines in accordance with the Party's Standing Rules and Special Rules of Order. The

Secretary shall compile, maintain, and make available to the Board a publication listing all Standing Rules and Special Rules of Order adopted by the Board.

- (i) The Legislative Director shall be responsible for monitoring activity in the State Legislature, communicating with that body, developing legislation or issue oriented committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs), and working with other organizations on areas of mutual concern.

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- (j) 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 at each 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 may also prepare budgets for the other Directors or assist them in preparing their own budgets. The Treasurer shall maintain an efficient double-entry system of accounts.
- (k) The Fundraising Director shall be responsible for establishing and operating fundraising activities including, but not limited to, the annual Convention, a monthly pledge program, fundraising from Members, coordinating speakers and events for the purpose of Party fundraising, and reporting all income and expenses related to fundraising at each regular Board meeting. The Fundraising Director may establish and manage committees (including the appointment of any committee chairs) to accomplish these and other fundraising functions.
- (l) Each Director shall be responsible for maintaining documentation within their area, and they shall provide a written report to be passed on to their successor. They shall not incur expenses beyond budget without approval of the Board.
- (m) Each Director shall be an ex officio member of each Party affiliate's Board of Directors for the purposes of: upholding the spirit and letter of the Statement of Principles of the National Party; enforcing these Bylaws, and the Rules and Resolutions adopted by the Convention or the State Board; and providing relief in times of distress. Directors shall not be counted in determining the number required for a quorum at an affiliate's Annual or Board Meetings but may be counted in determining that a quorum is present. Each Director shall actively participate in a meeting of at least one (1) Party affiliate or development group each calendar year.

## **Article VII: Judicial Committee**

### **Section 1. Composition, Election, and Term**

- (a) The Judicial Committee shall consist of five (5) Party Members elected by the Delegates in attendance at every odd-year Convention. In the case of vacancy, the existing members of the Judicial Committee may vote to fill the vacancy until the next election.
- (b) The term of each Judicial Committee member shall begin at the adjournment

*sine die* of the Business Session of the odd-year Convention and end at the adjournment *sine die* of the Business Session of the next odd-year Convention.

## **Section 2. Eligibility**

- (a) Members of the State Board shall be ineligible to serve on the Judicial Committee.
- (b) Judicial Committee members must have been Members for the past three (3) years, and shall have signed the Statement of Principles of the national

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Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.

## **Section 3. Committee Chair**

The Chair of the Judicial Committee shall be elected by the members of the Committee.

## **Section 4. Scope of Duties**

The Judicial Committee shall be limited to hearing and deciding cases involving the following:

- (1) suspensions or other disciplinary actions,
- (2) disaffiliation of chartered affiliates,
- (3) appeals of Board decisions, and
- (4) challenges to resolutions or platform planks.

## **Section 5. Appeals**

(a) Only Party Members may present an appeal to the Judicial Committee. (b) All appeals must be in writing, submitted to the Chair of the Judicial Committee within thirty (30) days of the disputed decision.

## **Section 6. Adjudicating Cases**

- (a) All appeals shall be resolved within sixty (60) days of the date of submission to the Chair of the Judicial Committee.
- (b) The Chair of the Judicial Committee must present all requests for appellate review to the Committee within five (5) days of receipt. The Committee shall then have five (5) days to decide whether or not to hear the appeal, with the agreement of two (2) or more Judicial Committee members being sufficient to hold a hearing. The Committee Chair shall then schedule this hearing to be held within thirty (30) days with at least ten (10) days' notice to the Membership and all involved parties.
- (c) Hearings may be virtual or in-person. The Committee may require written briefs or arguments from the Appellants or Respondents, and may decide to hold additional hearings. Any Member may attend any hearing and submit

written briefs or arguments to the Committee which may be considered at the Committee's discretion.

### **Section 7. Rulings Limited**

All rulings of the Judicial Committee must be in accordance with these Bylaws.

### **Section 8. Verdicts**

(a) A verdict must be reached within five (5) days of the adjournment of the hearing. (b) A report of the case and its verdict must be uploaded to the Party website within two (2) business days.

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## **Article VIII: Meetings**

- (a) Any meeting to elect Party Directors or National Convention Delegates, or any assembly to nominate candidates, shall be held at a public place at the time specified by the Chair. The time and place of such meeting shall be published once in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein Members reside, no later than fifteen (15) days before such meeting.
- (b) The Board shall convene open meetings at such times and places as may be determined by action of the Board, by call of the Chair, or by written request of one-third (1/3) or more of the current Board. Notice must be sent to the official email address of each Director at least forty-eight (48) hours prior to such meeting. Such meetings shall be called at least once per calendar month.
- (c) A majority of the current membership of the Board shall constitute a quorum at all meetings for the transaction of business, except where a larger vote is required by these Bylaws. Any Director 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.
- (d) The Board and its appointed or Party-mandated committees may transact business by electronic communications, as specified by Special Rules of Order. (e) Any active Member of the Party may attend the Board Meetings as a "Proxy" at the request of that Director who temporarily cannot attend. No Proxy may represent more than one (1) Director at any board meeting. The Director who is being represented by a Proxy must notify at least two (2) other Directors of the substitution.

## **Article IX: Conventions**

### **Section 1. Annual Conventions**

- (a) The Party shall hold a Convention of Party Delegates ("Convention") each calendar year, scheduled so that it convenes at least six (6) months after the previous Convention and adjourns no later than seventy-three (73) days before

- the day of the Colorado primary election, or whatever state law requires.
- (b) The Board may arrange for Members to participate in the Convention from remote locations. No later than forty-five (45) days prior to Convention, in accordance with state law, the Chair 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 no later than fifteen (15) days prior to such Convention in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein the Members reside.
  - (c) No fee may be required of any Party Member to participate in the Business

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Session of any Convention; however, fees may be required for participation in other Convention events.

- (d) A Member, having been so for at least the ninety (90) days immediately prior to the Business Session of the Convention may attend and vote at the Business Session as a "Delegate." 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.

## **Section 2. Special Conventions**

- (a) In the event that there is an urgent situation in which items of business normally reserved for the annual Convention must be done in between annual Conventions, the Board by a two-thirds (2/3) vote shall call a Special Convention which shall be limited to only those items of business specified by the Board as required to bring or keep the Party in compliance with state or federal law, or other urgent matters, including amendments to these Bylaws, regardless of year.
- (b) Such call to Special Convention shall include its purposes, shall be announced no later than fifteen (15) days in advance to the Members, and shall include the time and place of the Special Convention and remote locations. The time and place and purposes and remote locations of any Special Convention shall be published fifteen (15) days prior to such Special Convention in a newspaper of general circulation in each county wherein the Members of the Party reside. Arrangements may be made by the Board to provide for Members to participate in a Special Convention from remote locations.
- (c) Any required changes to the Party Bylaws that are made at a Special Convention must be ratified by the next annual Convention, regardless of the year of the Convention, using the same voting threshold required to change the document as provided for in these Bylaws, or else they will be rendered null and void.
- (d) All current Members that were eligible to vote at the previous annual

Convention shall be eligible to vote at a Special Convention.

### **Section 3. Nomination of Candidates**

(a) The United States Supreme Court has recognized that the nomination of candidates—under political party rules—falls under the First Amendment's Freedom of Association protections and therefore overrides state laws when such rules so state. As such, all rules for nominating candidates are limited to only these 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.

(b) Members who wish to be a candidate for partisan office in Colorado other than President or Vice President may submit an application to the Board or its

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designated committee no later than forty-five (45) days before the Convention. Members shall be notified that the application process is open no later than ninety (90) days before the Convention. A web page for the candidates shall be posted on the Party website at least thirty (30) days before the Convention.

(c) The application shall consist of: 1) a photograph of the candidate; 2) the application form provided by the Board; 3) a biography and a minimum of three (3) issue positions for the web page; 4) filling out any electronic forms required by the Party or the national Libertarian Party; and 5) signing a statement to the effect that they support the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.

(d) Each candidate must have been a Member during the entire period from January 1st of the Convention year until the nominating Convention.

(e) Candidates may be nominated by Delegates to the Convention. (1) For any partisan offices, Convention Delegates shall vote by approval voting to nominate candidates for those offices.

(2) Candidates nominated from the floor shall sign a statement that they support the Statement of Principles of the National Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the use of force to achieve political or social goals.

(f) Candidates may be nominated by a Vacancy Committee designated by the Delegates.

(1) The Board or its designees shall serve as the Vacancy Committee unless the Delegates to the Convention direct otherwise.

(2) The Vacancy Committee shall operate between Conventions and shall vet candidates as needed.

(3) Candidates nominated by the Vacancy Committee shall sign a statement that they support the Statement of Principles of the National Libertarian Party and a statement disavowing the use of force to achieve political or social goals.

(g) In addition to candidates, "None of the Above" (NOTA) shall be a choice on



- every nomination ballot cast. At no time shall NOTA be removed from the nomination ballot, even under suspension of the Convention Rules. Should NOTA win the nomination for a partisan office, nominations may be reopened for one additional round of voting. Only new candidates are eligible to run on the additional ballot. If NOTA wins on the second ballot, there will be no candidate for that race.
- (h) Any Party nominee in a partisan contest where party identification on the ballot is permitted shall use the designation "Libertarian." Only candidates nominated by the process set forth in this Article may use this designation. A Party nominee qualifies for campaign assistance from the Party.
  - (i) The Party, its affiliates, and its elected Directors in their official capacities, either individually or as a group, shall endorse only Libertarian Party nominees for election to partisan public office.
  - (j) At any time that any of the Party's candidates participate in a primary election, the Party shall opt-out of allowing Unaffiliated or other persons who are not Party

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Members from participation and provide appropriate notice to the Secretary of State's as provided by law.

#### **Section 4. National Convention Delegates and Alternates**

- (a) All National Convention Delegates must have been Members or have been pre registered to become Members for at least ninety (90) days immediately prior to the first day of the Convention 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.
- (b) The Board shall solicit applications from qualified Members for election as National Convention Delegates and Alternates at least sixty (60) days prior to the Convention and shall publish the completed applications (with addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses redacted) to the Party website at least thirty (30) days prior to the Convention. An application is not required for nomination.
- (c) The Party Chair shall announce the number of National Convention Delegates to be elected by the state Convention Delegates.
- (d) Nominations for National Convention Delegates shall be received from the floor with no seconding required. Members may nominate themselves. Each state Convention Delegate in attendance at the state Convention shall cast a single vote for each National Convention Delegate candidate of their choice by submitting a signed ballot prepared by the Board for this purpose. The total votes cast by each state Convention Delegate shall not exceed the number of National Convention Delegates to be elected. National Convention Delegates shall be elected by a majority of the state Convention Delegates voting. Subsequent ballots shall be taken as necessary to fill any remaining National Convention Delegate slots. In the event that there are more candidates receiving a majority vote than there are National Convention Delegate slots to be filled,

those candidates receiving the highest vote totals shall be elected. No elections by slate shall be permitted.

- (e) After the National Convention Delegates are elected, National Convention Alternates shall be elected using the same procedure as used for electing National Convention Delegates.
- (f) The Chair shall serve as Delegation Chair or may request that the National Convention Delegates select a Delegation Chair. Substitutions shall only be made from the list of National Convention Alternates selected by the state Convention Delegates or afterwards added by a majority vote of the present Board (provided said National Convention Alternates did not receive a less than majority vote by the last state Convention). Substitutions and selection of additional National Convention Delegates may be made at the National Convention by a majority of the attending National Convention Delegates, provided that such substitutes or additions would have been qualified to be elected at the state Convention, did not receive less than a majority vote at the last state Convention, and have signed a statement to the effect that they support

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the Statement of Principles of the Libertarian Party.

- (g) For each vote, all National Convention Delegates will sign their physical ballot or submit to the Delegation Chair an accurate list of their electronic ballots. These results will be compiled by the Delegation Chair in a post-National Convention report. Upon request, within thirty (30) days of the National Convention, National Convention Delegates as they are able shall also report how they voted on particular Bylaws, Convention Rules, and Platform changes.

## **Article X: Committees**

### **Section 1. State Committees**

- (a) The Bylaws Committee and the Platform Committee shall each consist of five
  - (5) at-large Members selected by the Board and an additional Member selected by each chartered affiliate.
  - (1) The Board shall solicit applications for the members of the Bylaws Committee as well as the Platform Committee and set the appointment date for these positions by announcement to all Members at least six (6) months prior to the Convention at which amendments to the Platform and Bylaws are considered. The Board shall appoint five (5) at-large Members at a Board meeting held at least one (1) month after the final solicitation, but no later than four (4) months prior to the Convention at which amendments to the Platform and Bylaws are considered. If any subsequent vacancies occur in the initially-appointed, at large positions, the Board may select Members to fill the vacancies. The Board shall select the committee Chairs from the members of each committee.

- (2) Each chartered affiliate may appoint one (1) Member to each committee. Should an affiliate not appoint a committee member, the Board may appoint an additional at-large Member at the time of committee formation. The Board shall solicit one (1) committee member from each chartered affiliate on the same schedule implemented by the Board pursuant to subsection 1 above, and at its meeting for appointment of the members of the committees it shall confirm such committee members as have been certified by the Affiliate Representatives. If a committee member appointed by an affiliate resigns from a committee or fails to attend two (2) consecutive committee votes, the affiliate may appoint a replacement.
- (3) Committees shall submit their final reports to the Board for publication to the membership no later than six (6) weeks before the Convention. These reports shall be available in their complete form to any Party Member upon request. The Party Chair shall ensure that the committees' reports, and any reports of committee members submitted separately, are presented at the Convention.
- (4) The Chair of each committee shall certify and cause to be published at Party expense a report representing each document in its entirety to the

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Platform Committee Report:



## **Report of the Platform Committee to the Delegates of the Libertarian Party of Colorado 2023 State Convention**

**Eliseo Gonzalez, Chair**  
**~~Kyle Furrey~~**  
**Caryn Ann Harlos**  
**Murl Hendrickson IV**  
**Sean Vadney**  
**~~Josh Whalen~~**  
**Michael Seebeck, Recording Secretary**

Report prepared by Recording Secretary, for the Committee  
Chair Approved by the Platform Committee

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**Introduction to Recommendations**

The Colorado Platform is very stable; however, some areas need to be further addressed.

This Committee was honored to serve and thanks the delegates of the 2023 Libertarian Party Convention for their consideration of its proposals. The Chair thanks the Committee members for their diligence, patience, good humor, and deliberations.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eliseo Gonzalez  
2023 Platform Committee Chair

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 3

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 4

### **Platform Proposal #0: The Colonization of Uranus**

*Submitted by Caryn Ann Harlos and Michael Seebeck, recommended without objection—but with a lot of groans, chuckles, chortles, and laughter.*

**Rationale:** The Committee felt it was necessary for everyone to get in a good laugh after a long day before of slogging through Bylaws.

PROPOSED REVISION:

**MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to laugh hysterically and groan at “The Colonization of Uranus”.

**The Colonization of Uranus**

Probes have indicated that Uranus is a gas giant which has untapped resources. Those resources, combined with the will and work of human beings, should be free from government control. This implies that no government has the right to dictate what one can do with Uranus so that it can be used in pursuit of pleasure and happiness. Further, exports of gas products from Uranus should be unregulated. In addition, imports should be free of regulation which are not limited to size, shape, weight, and color.

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 5

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 6

### **Platform Proposal #1a: Strengthen Support of Free Expression**

**Rationale:** While we strongly advocate for free speech and expression, the current wording can be wrongly interpreted to refer only to private clubs and doesn't correctly capture the intent of the plank, which is that free speech should be advocated everywhere. The proposed wording would better set the line between public and private entities while still holding to advocacy for free speech in both.

PROPOSED REVISION:

**Freedom of Expression**



We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, control of technology, or collusion with communications media. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. While private and non-governmental entities have the right to exclude speech, we believe that the practice of government supported or initiated “de-platforming” harms the free and open exchange of ideas, and freedom of speech is valuable in its own right and should be strongly advocated ~~in both public and private spheres~~. 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 either aid or attack any religion.

**MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend the Freedom of Expression plank by:

- In the third sentence, add “and non-governmental” between “private” and “entities”, and •

At the end of the third sentence, delete “in both and public and private spheres” which would then read as follows:

**Freedom of Expression**

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, control of technology, or collusion with communications media. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. While private and non-governmental entities have the right to exclude speech, we believe that the practice of government supported or initiated “de-platforming” harms the free and open exchange of ideas, and freedom of speech is valuable in its own right and should be strongly advocated. 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 either aid or attack any religion.

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 7

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 8

**Platform Proposal #1b: Make Language of Freedom of Association Plank**

## **to Conform to Freedom of Expression Plank**

**Rationale:** If Proposal #1 passes, the language between the Freedom of Expression plank and the Freedom of Association plank would become inconsistent; so make them match up.

*NOTE: If Proposal #1a fails, Proposal #1b will not be presented.*

### **PROPOSED REVISION:**

#### **Freedom of Association**

Libertarians embrace the concept that all individuals are born with certain inherent rights and reject the idea that those rights can impose an obligation upon any other individual or non-governmental ~~organization~~ entities to fulfill any 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.

### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend the Freedom of Association plank by:

- In the first sentence, change “non-government” to “non-governmental”, and •

In the first sentence, strike “organization” and add “entities”  
which would then read as follows:

#### **Freedom of Association**

Libertarians embrace the concept that all individuals are born with certain inherent rights and reject the idea that those rights can impose an obligation upon any other individual or non-government entities to fulfill any 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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 9

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 10

### **Platform Proposal #2a: Delete Sexual and Gender Self-Determination Plank**

**Rationale:** The language of the Sexual and Gender Self-Determination plank has been seen as an attempt to backdoor support for abortion into the Platform. With the national platform being officially silent on that issue, the state Platform should be similar. Plus, the language is already close to being repetitive of the language in the Personal Relationships plank.

#### **PROPOSED REVISION:**

##### **~~Sexual and Gender Self-Determination~~**

~~We believe that government should be kept out of the matter of sexual and gender self determination and control, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.~~

#### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to strike the Sexual and Gender Self-Determination plank.

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 11

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 12

### **Platform Proposal #2b: Append Sexual and Gender Self-Determination Plank to Personal Relationships Plank**

**Rationale:** The Delegates have decided that the language of the Sexual and Gender Self Determination Plank should stay in the Platform. The Committee feels that it best fits as part of the Personal Relationships plank instead of a stand-alone plank.

*NOTE: If Proposal #2a passes, Proposal #2b will not be presented.*

## PROPOSED REVISION:

### 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, regardless of the number of participants. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

### ~~Sexual and Gender Self-Determination~~

We believe that government should be kept out of the matter of sexual and gender self determination and control, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.

## MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:

*(not divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend the Personal Relationships plank by:

- Strike the Sexual and Gender Self-Determination as a separate plank and append the language from the plank to the Personal Relationships plank, which would then read as follows:

### 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, regardless of the number of participants. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships. We believe that the government should be kept out of the matter of sexual and gender self-determination and control, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires <sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub> vote. 13

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 14

### **Platform Proposal #3: All Words Are NOT Aggression or Violence**

*Submitted by Caryn Ann Harlos and Michael Seebeck, recommended without objection*

**Rationale:** There is nothing in the Platform to properly indicate the role of speech regarding aggression or violence. In the past couple of years, some have claimed and caused people to be removed from positions in various organizations, including the Libertarian Party and multiple academic, political, and business organizations, by claiming words are violence and in the case of the LP, a violation of the NAP. This proposal would add language that states that speech that is not a threat of aggression or violence is not in itself aggression or violence. It also confirms that the right to speak includes the right to not to be compelled to speak. These changes plug two gaps in the plank.

#### **PROPOSED REVISION:**

##### **Freedom of Expression**

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, control of technology, or collusion with communications media. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. Speech that is not a threat of aggression or violence is not in itself aggression or violence. The right to speak includes the right not to speak. While private entities have the right to exclude speech, we believe that the practice of government supported or initiated “de platforming” harms the free and open exchange of ideas, and freedom of speech is valuable in its own right and should be strongly advocated in both public and private spheres.

#### **MOTION TO AMEND SOMETHING PREVIOUSLY ADOPTED:**

*(divisible, 2/3 to amend or adopt, majority to delete)*

Move to amend the Freedom of Expression plank as follows:

- Add two new sentences between the second and third sentences “Speech that is not a threat of aggression or violence is not in itself aggression or violence. The right to speak includes the right not to speak.”

Such that the plank would read as follows:

##### **Freedom of Expression**

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation,

control of technology, or collusion with communications media. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. Speech that is not a threat of aggression or violence is not in itself aggression or violence. The right to speak includes the right not to speak. While private entities have the right to exclude speech, we believe that the practice of government supported or initiated “de-platforming” harms the free and open exchange of ideas, and freedom of speech is valuable in its own right and should be strongly advocated in both public and private spheres.

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 15

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 16

## **Appendix A: Current Platform**

### **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 we 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, including their labor and the fruits thereof. As such, we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property by anyone. These principles guide Libertarian policy positions in every area.

Our goal is nothing 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, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and 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

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Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 17

(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, and does not increase, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual, as put forth in our Preamble and the 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 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 must be free to make choices for themselves and accept 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 must 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 for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the manufacture, sale, possession, and use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes; prostitution; and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged "crimes."

## Freedom of Expression

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, control of technology, or collusion with communications media. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. While private entities have the right to exclude speech, we believe that the practice of government supported

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 18

or initiated "de-platforming" harms the free and open exchange of ideas, and freedom of speech is valuable in its own right and should be strongly advocated in both public and private spheres. 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 either 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 individuals without probable cause and due process. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, property,

communications, and other effects, including data 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 any 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, regardless of the number of participants. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

### **Sexual and Gender Self-Determination**

We believe that government should be kept out of the matter of sexual and gender self determination and control, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.

### **Right to Self-Defense**

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted. Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 19

The only legitimate use of force is in the 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 self-defense, along with any related accessories, parts, or supplies. Further, we oppose all laws that de facto restrict arms ownership by adding additional burdens such as mandatory storage and insurance requirements.

## **The Market**

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. Private entities 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, if any, 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, regulate, or impede 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. We oppose the use of taxation as a punitive measure against certain goods or services, such as “vice” taxes.

## **Healthcare**

We support a free-market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and health care. 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. We oppose any government mandating or denying treatments or vaccines. Individuals have a presumption of health and should not have to prove they are healthy to avoid forced quarantine, isolation, or other restrictions of their rights and freedoms.

## **Money**

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 20

Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use any mutually agreeable commodity or item as currency. 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 that right. 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, including real property, are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights. The owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, rent, collateralize, or enjoy their property in any manner, without interference, unless the exercise of their control infringes upon 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, because taxation makes the government the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the government.

## **Intellectual Monopolies**

As we oppose all government intervention in the marketplace, we favor the repeal of intellectual property laws. Disputes between inventors, creators, authors, artists, businesses, and other such entities should be resolved without government intervention.

## **Labor Markets**

The contract between a private employer and employee is a voluntary relationship which both sides choose to enter into, and whose terms can only be fairly negotiated without interference

by government. We support the right of private 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” but merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment. We oppose all public employee unions.

## **Free Enterprise**

We defend the rights of individuals to form any type of business entity based on voluntary association and investment. We oppose all forms of government subsidies, bailouts, or any

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 21

other preferential or punitive treatment to businesses, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise. We reject government charter of corporations. Corporations are not individuals. We call for a separation of business and state.

## **Agorism**

We affirm the right of individuals and businesses to subvert state regulation, taxation, and restrictions enacted by executive order, through black and grey market activity, so long as such activity does not violate the individual rights and liberties of customers or community members through theft, fraud, or violence.

## **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 allocates 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 state, 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 schools) 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 should regulate pollution, not government agencies nor arbitrary government standards.

## **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 assistance for others is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

## **Utilities**

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. [22](#)

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 government.

## **The Government**

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and individuals. 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. Individual liberties must never be suspended or curtailed, whether based on circumstances of war, contagion, natural disaster, or any other pretense.

## **Equal Treatment**

Government should not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits and preferences, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Any laws which currently do so should be repealed rather than extended to all groups. However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements.

## 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 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

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 23

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 state with this kind of power, we reject all state-sanctioned death penalty laws.

## Elections

We support transparent and more representative election systems at all levels, including ranked-choice voting, approval voting, and proportional representation. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination

procedures, primaries, caucuses, 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 "None of the Above" as an option on all ballots. If "None of the Above" wins, the elective office for that term would remain unfilled and unfunded. We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national popular vote.

### **Colorado Legislation**

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. Laws and regulations should not be written in a language that citizens cannot understand and that authorities can misinterpret. Whenever these happen, the government is enabled to abuse its authority and trample over the rights of the individual.

### **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 explicitly forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of state legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds. We support full enforcement of all anti commandeering laws.

### **Localization of Powers**

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted. Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 24

We support the untangling of the layers of government from each other, such that federal, state, county, municipal, and district governments are separate and independent from each other, in both function and funding, in order to facilitate their reduction or repeal.



## 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.

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 25

**Legend for Proposals:** Platform text is in this font, ~~text to be deleted~~, text to be inserted.

Deletions precede insertions when possible. Other text is in this font.

Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 26

## **Appendix B: Proposed Platform with All Proposals, Mark-up**

**Copy** (NOTE: This Appendix presumes passage of Proposals 1a, 1b, 2a, and 3.)

### **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 we 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, including their labor and the fruits thereof. As such, we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property by anyone. These principles guide Libertarian policy positions in every area.

Our goal is nothing 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, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and 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

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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, and does not increase, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual, as put forth in our Preamble and the 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 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 must be free to make choices for themselves and accept

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 must 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 for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the manufacture, sale, possession, and use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes; prostitution; and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged "crimes."

## **Freedom of Expression**

We support full freedom of expression and oppose government censorship, regulation, control of technology, or collusion with communications media. Language that is perceived to be offensive to certain groups or individuals is not a cause for any legal action. [Speech that is not](#)

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[a threat of aggression or violence is not in itself aggression or violence. The right to speak includes the right not to speak.](#) While private [and non-governmental](#) entities have the right to exclude speech, we believe that the practice of government supported or initiated "deplatforming" harms the free and open exchange of ideas, and freedom of speech is valuable in its own right and should be strongly advocated ~~in both public and private spheres~~. 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 either 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 individuals without probable cause and due process. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, property, communications, and other effects, including data 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 governmental ~~organization~~ entities to fulfill any 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, regardless of the number of participants. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

## **Sexual and Gender Self-Determination**

~~We believe that government should be kept out of the matter of sexual and gender self determination and control, leaving the question to each person for their conscientious consideration.~~

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## **Right to Self-Defense**

The only legitimate use of force is in the 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 self-defense, along with any related accessories, parts, or supplies. Further, we oppose all laws that de facto restrict arms ownership by adding additional burdens such as mandatory storage and insurance

requirements.

## **The Market**

We believe that each person has the right to offer goods and services to others on the free market. Private entities 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, if any, 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, regulate, or impede 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. We oppose the use of taxation as a punitive measure against certain goods or services, such as “vice” taxes.

## **Healthcare**

We support a free-market health care system and oppose government mandates in insurance and health care. 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. We oppose any government mandating or denying treatments or vaccines. Individuals have a presumption of health and should not have to prove they are healthy to avoid forced quarantine, isolation, or other restrictions of their rights and freedoms.

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## **Money**

Individuals engaged in voluntary exchange should be free to use any mutually agreeable commodity or item as currency. 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 that right. 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, including real property, are individual rights and, as such, are entitled to the same protections as all other individual rights. The owners of property have the full right to acquire, trade, control, use, dispose of, rent, collateralize, or enjoy their property in any manner, without interference, unless the exercise of their control infringes upon 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, because taxation makes the government the de facto owner of all lands and forces individuals to rent their homes and places of business from the government.

## **Intellectual Monopolies**

As we oppose all government intervention in the marketplace, we favor the repeal of intellectual property laws. Disputes between inventors, creators, authors, artists, businesses, and other such entities should be resolved without government intervention.

## **Labor Markets**

The contract between a private employer and employee is a voluntary relationship which both sides choose to enter into, and whose terms can only be fairly negotiated without interference by government. We support the right of private 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” but merely the freedom for all to negotiate conditions of employment. We oppose all public employee unions.

## Free Enterprise

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We defend the rights of individuals to form any type of business entity based on voluntary association and investment. We oppose all forms of government subsidies, bailouts, or any other preferential or punitive treatment to businesses, labor, or any other special interest. Government should not compete with private enterprise. We reject government charter of corporations. Corporations are not individuals. We call for a separation of business and state.

## Agorism

We affirm the right of individuals and businesses to subvert state regulation, taxation, and restrictions enacted by executive order, through black and grey market activity, so long as such activity does not violate the individual rights and liberties of customers or community members through theft, fraud, or violence.

## 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 allocates 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 state, 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 schools) 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 should regulate pollution, not government agencies nor arbitrary government standards.

## **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 assistance for others is the voluntary efforts of private groups and individuals.

## **Utilities**

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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 government.

## **The Government**

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and individuals. 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. Individual liberties must never be suspended or curtailed, whether based on circumstances of war, contagion, natural disaster, or any other pretense.

## **Equal Treatment**

Government should not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits and preferences, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Any laws which currently do so should be repealed rather than extended to all groups. However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements.

## **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 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**

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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 state with this kind of power, we reject all state-sanctioned death penalty laws.

## **Elections**

We support transparent and more representative election systems at all levels, including ranked-choice voting, approval voting, and proportional representation. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, caucuses, 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 "None of the Above" as an option on all ballots. If "None of the Above" wins, the elective office for that term would remain unfilled and unfunded. We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national

popular vote.

## **Colorado Legislation**

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. Laws and regulations should not be written in a language that citizens cannot understand and that authorities can misinterpret. Whenever these happen, the government is enabled to abuse its authority and trample over the rights of the individual.

## **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 explicitly forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of state legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds. We support full enforcement of all anti commandeering laws.

## **Localization of Powers**

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We support the untangling of the layers of government from each other, such that federal, state, county, municipal, and district governments are separate and independent from each other, in both function and funding, in order to facilitate their reduction or repeal.

## **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.

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### **Appendix C: Proposed Platform with All Proposals, Clean**

**Copy** (NOTE: This Appendix presumes passage of Proposals 1a, 1b, 2a, and

### **3.) 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 we 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, including their labor and the fruits thereof. As such, we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force and fraud against other people and their property by anyone. These principles guide Libertarian policy positions in every area.

Our goal is nothing 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, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and 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

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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, and does not increase, illegitimate governmental action or violations of the rights of the individual, as put forth in our Preamble and the 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 as quickly as possible.

## **The Individual**

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## **Victimless Crimes**

Criminal and civil laws must 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 for voluntary and consensual activities such as, but not limited to, the manufacture, sale, possession, and use of drugs for medicinal or recreational purposes; prostitution; and gambling. We also reject government placing itself as a proxy victim of alleged “crimes.”

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## **Protection of Privacy**

Libertarians advocate individual privacy and call for government transparency. We condemn government’s practice of spying on individuals without probable cause and due process. We support the rights recognized by the Fourth Amendment to be secure in our persons, property, communications, and other effects, including data held by third parties, such as, but not limited to, email, library, medical, and phone records.

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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, regardless of the number of participants. We favor the complete extrication of government from private consensual relationships.

## **Right to Self-Defense**

The only legitimate use of force is in the 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

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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 self-defense, along with any related accessories, parts, or supplies. Further, we oppose all laws that de facto restrict arms ownership by adding additional burdens such as mandatory storage and insurance requirements.

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## 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. We oppose the use of taxation as a punitive measure against certain goods or services, such as “vice” taxes.

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## Licensing

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### **Agorism**

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restrictions enacted by executive order, through black and grey market activity, so long as such activity does not violate the individual rights and liberties of customers or community members through theft, fraud, or violence.

## **The Community**

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## **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 state, 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 schools) 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 should regulate pollution, not government agencies nor arbitrary government standards.

## **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 assistance for others is the 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 government.

## **The Government**

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 42

The principle of non-initiation of force should guide governments and individuals. 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. Individual liberties must never be suspended or curtailed, whether based on circumstances of war, contagion, natural disaster, or any other pretense.

## **Equal Treatment**

Government should not deny, abridge, or enhance any individual's human right based upon sex, wealth, ethnicity, creed, age, national origin, personal habits and preferences, political affiliation, gender, gender identity, or sexual orientation. Any laws which currently do so should be repealed rather than extended to all groups. However, freedom of association and contracts should not be denied or restricted in private consensual arrangements or agreements.

## **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 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 state with this kind of power, we reject all state-sanctioned death penalty laws.

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. 43

## Elections

We support transparent and more representative election systems at all levels, including ranked-choice voting, approval voting, and proportional representation. As private voluntary groups, political parties should be allowed to establish their own rules for nomination procedures, primaries, caucuses, 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 "None of the Above" as an option on all ballots. If "None of the Above" wins, the elective office for that term would remain unfilled and unfunded. We oppose all attempts to bind Colorado's Presidential Electors to the national popular vote.

## Colorado Legislation

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. Laws and regulations should not be written in a language that citizens cannot understand and that authorities can misinterpret. Whenever these happen, the government is enabled to abuse its authority and trample over the rights of the individual.

## 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 explicitly forbids any others. We oppose unfunded Federal mandates and coercion of state legislatures by threats to withhold Federal funds. We support full enforcement of all anti commandeering laws.

## Localization of Powers

We support the untangling of the layers of government from each other, such that federal, state, county, municipal, and district governments are separate and independent from each other, in both function and funding, in order to facilitate their reduction or repeal.

## Omissions

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. [44](#)

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.

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Threshold Vote for Passage: Repeal requires majority vote. Adopt or amend requires  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote. [45](#)