

LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF TEXAS



STATE RULES

ADOPTED IN CONVENTION

Dallas

June 8, 2002

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I. STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, defend the rights of the individual, and challenge the myth that the state should be omnipotent.

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

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things. Where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely,

- 1) the right to life - accordingly we support prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others;
- 2) the right to liberty of speech and action - accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and
- 3) the right to property - accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

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

II. Name, Duration, Purposes and Membership

1. Name

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

2. Duration

The duration of this organization shall be perpetual.

3. Purposes

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

- a) Nominating and supporting candidates for the United States Congress and for state and local offices in Texas;
- b) Promoting, establishing, and coordinating campaigns and campaign headquarters wherever necessary throughout the state;
- c) Entering into political information activities; and
- d) Affiliating with the national Libertarian Party.

4. Membership

a) Definition

A member of the Party shall be defined as any qualified Texas voter who:

- 1) Generally supports the Party's Statement of Principles;
- 2) Has not, during the voting year, affiliated with any other party prior to affiliating with the Party; and
- 3) During the voting year:

- a. Serves on a County Executive Committee of the Party; or
 - b. Files for nomination for public office by the Party; or
 - c. Requests a Party ballot for mail-in or early voting; or
 - d. On or after the date of the precinct conventions signs an Oath of Affiliation of Political Party form attesting to non-participation with other parties during the current voting year.
- b) Nondiscrimination
No eligible person's rights of membership and participation shall be denied or restricted because of race, sex, creed, or national origin.
- c) Dues
The Party shall charge no dues to its affiliated members; however the Party may charge for subscriptions to Party newsletters.
- d) Honorary Membership
The Party may institute honorary degrees of memberships, admittance to which shall be further contingent upon payment of such contributions as the State Executive Committee shall deem proper; provided, however, that such honorary members shall not have any preference or privilege awarded to them in regard to the strength of their vote or the manner of voting, or in election or appointment to office.
- e) Expulsion
A member who affiliates with any other political party during a voting year is subject to the appropriate Party Executive Committee who may expel the member from the Party for the remainder of the year. The member is automatically expelled if the act of affiliation with the other political party occurred before the first act of affiliation with the Party.

III. Party Organization

1. State Executive Committee

- a) Composition:
The State Executive Committee of the Party shall be composed of:
- 1) A Chair
 - 2) A Vice Chair
 - 3) A Secretary
 - 4) A Treasurer
 - 5) Representatives from State Senatorial Districts.
 - 6) Members of the National Committee representing Texas ex officio with voice but no vote.
- b) Terms of Office
The term of office of all members of the Committee shall be from the final adjournment of the State Convention at which they are elected until the final adjournment of the next state Convention.
- c) Method of Selection
- 1) The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by majority vote of all the delegates at each State Convention.
 - 2) The delegates present at each State Convention from each State Senatorial District shall meet and elect in district caucuses up to two representatives from that State Senatorial District.
 - 3) If a district caucus fails to elect a District Representative to the Committee, or should

a State Senatorial District fail to be represented by delegates at the state convention, the office of District Representative for that district may be filled by the State Executive Committee.

d) Duties

1) The Chair shall be the principal and presiding officer of the Committee and the chief executive officer of the Party.

2) The Vice Chair shall be the Chief Operating Officer of the Party, shall perform the duties of Chair whenever the Chair is unable to do so, shall assist the Chair and shall chair the State Operating Committee.

3) The Secretary shall keep such minutes and records as are necessary; shall conduct mail balloting; shall give all notices required by these rules; shall maintain and certify the official copies of the Rules and Platform; shall maintain a roster of names, addresses and telephone numbers of members of the State Executive and State Operating Committees, of County Chairs and of candidates for the Party's nomination for public office; shall cause the minutes or transcripts of meetings of the State Executive Committee to be furnished to the members of the committee as specified in these rules; and perform such other duties as the Chair directs.

4) The Treasurer shall be the Chief Financial Officer of the Party, shall maintain Party bank accounts and other financial assets, shall ensure that the State Executive Committee is aware of the financial condition of the Party, shall issue financial statements to the State Executive Committee at least quarterly, shall ensure that Party funds are disbursed only according to these rules and state or federal law, and shall perform all other duties required of his or here office by applicable federal or state law, or by action of the Executive Committee or by these rules.

5) The District Representatives shall actively further the growth of the Party within their district and shall make all reasonable efforts to establish and promote local Party organizations therein.

6) All members of the Committee shall further have all other authority and duties implied by their title and expressed or implied by these Rules, or assigned by the Chair or the Committee.

e) Vacancies and Removal from office for Absences

1) Vacancies

Should a vacancy occur in the office of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, or District Representative, the State Executive Committee shall elect a successor to fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

2) Removal from office for absences

a. If an officer or district representative is absent from two successive meetings of the Committee, at the call to order of the second meeting that position shall be declared to be vacant.

b. Whenever the State Executive Committee removes a member of the Committee, the Secretary shall officially notify that member of their removal.

f) Meetings

1) Notice of the time and place of all Committee meetings shall be given to all members not less than four (4) weeks prior to each meeting.

2) No meetings of the State Executive Committee shall be held outside the State of Texas.

g) Mail Voting

- 1) The State Executive Committee may, without meeting together, transact business by mail, by voting on questions submitted to them by or with the approval of the Chair or one-third or more of the Committee members.
 - 2) Fifteen days shall be allowed for the return of the ballots by mail to the Secretary. If at the end of fifteen days, a majority of the Committee have not returned their ballots, the measure shall be considered defeated; when a majority of the ballots are returned within fifteen days, a majority of the ballots returned shall be sufficient for passage unless a higher vote is required by these Rules.
 - 3) The Secretary must preserve all mail ballots received until their disposition is decided at the next meeting of the Committee.
 - 4) All mail votes by the State Executive Committee shall be confirmed at the next State Executive Committee meeting.
- h) Telephone Voting
- 1) The State Executive Committee may, without meeting together, transact business by telephone conference call, by voting on questions submitted to them by or with the approval of the Chair or one-third or more of the Committee members.
 - 2) Notice of the time of all conference calls shall be given to all members of the Committee not less than 72 hours prior to each call.
- i) Removal for cause
- 1) A member of the State Executive Committee may be removed for causes other than repeated absences from meetings by a three-fourths vote of the other members of the Committee.
 - 2) Procedures set forth in the Party's parliamentary authority for disciplinary action shall be adhered to in order to protect the rights of both the accused and of the organization, including:
 - a. the appointment of an investigating committee;
 - b. the adoption of a resolution preferring specific charges;
 - c. setting a special executive committee meeting for a trial; and
 - d. the holding of a trial of the accused.
2. County Executive Committees
- a) Designated by County Conventions
- 1) There shall be in each county a County Executive Committee composed of a County Chair and such other Party officials of that county as the Party membership of that county may designate.
 - 2) Such membership shall further designate the procedure to be followed in filling vacancies on the County Executive Committee.
 - 3) Members of the County Executive Committee shall be elected at the regular County Conventions in even-numbered years, and their terms of office shall be from the adjournment of the regular Convention at which they are elected until the adjournment of the regular Convention in the second year thereafter.
- b) Appointment of Temporary Chairs
- 1) The State Chair or his designates may appoint a Temporary County Chair for any county which is not yet organized. Such temporary Chairs shall serve only until their County Party formally elects its own Chair. The State Executive Committee may remove such Temporary Chairs from office for any reasons they deem proper.
 - 2) In counties without local rules specifying a procedure for selecting Precinct Chairs, the

- County Executive Committee shall select the Precinct Chairs.
- c) County Executive Committee members must be members of the Party.
3. District and Precinct Executive Committees
- a) District Executive Committees

Whenever these Rules or the actions of the State Executive Committee shall require action by a District Executive Committee, the membership of any such District Executive Committee shall be determined as follows:

 - 1) For districts composed of less than one whole county, the Precinct Chairs within that district shall constitute the Committee, and such Precinct Chairs shall elect one of their number to serve as Chair of the Committee.
 - 2) For districts composed entirely of one whole county, the County Executive Committee shall constitute the District Executive Committee and the County Chair shall be Chair of the District Executive Committee.
 - 3) For districts composed of more than one whole county, or parts of more than one county, the District Executive Committee's membership shall consist of the County Chair of each county wholly within that district, and one District Committeemember elected from among their number by each group of Precinct Chairs within that part of a county which is partially included in such district, and the District Executive Committee thus formed shall elect its own Chair.
 - 4) Within three days after any meeting at which District Executive Committee members are chosen as provided herein, the appropriate County Chair shall forward to the State Chair the names and addresses of the members of the District Executive Committee and within three days after the selection of the Chair of the District Executive Committee, the District Executive Committee shall forward to the State Chair the name and address of such Chair.
 - b) Precinct Executive Committees

The same general procedures as outlined in this section of this Article for District Executive Committees shall apply to Executive Committees for Commissioner's Precincts and Justice Precincts within a county.
4. General Rules for the State Executive Committee
- a) Governing Authority
 - 1) These rules shall govern the conduct of all meetings and proceedings of the State Executive Committee of the Party.
 - 2) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised are hereby adopted by reference to govern all meetings and proceedings of the State Executive Committee of the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with state law, these Rules, or any special rules of order the Committee may adopt.
 - 3) The State Executive Committee may make additional rules for its conduct so long as said additional rules do not conflict with these rules.
 - b) Powers of the State Executive Committee
 - 1) In compliance with these Rules and the directives of Conventions, the State Executive Committee of the Party shall carry on the activities of the Party at its level between Conventions, and shall have the control and management of all Party affairs, properties, and funds at its level.
 - 2) The Chair of the State Executive Committee, subject to the approval of that

Committee, or the State Executive Committee itself, may appoint, elect or employ any such officers and assistants as may be deemed necessary to assist the Committee in its function and in making arrangements for Conventions at that level.

- 3) The State Executive Committee shall decide whether to hold a Primary Election, and make appropriate notification thereof.
- c) Qualifications of State Executive Committee members
 - 1) All Party officers and all members of the State Executive Committee must be affiliated members of the Party.
 - 2) All Party officers and all members of the State Executive Committee must be residents of the region or political subdivision they represent, and the moving of his or her residence by a Party official out of such region or political subdivision shall mean an automatic vacancy of his or her office.
 - 3) No person shall hold more than one membership on the State Executive Committee at the same time.
- d) Meetings of the State Executive Committee
 - 1) The State Executive Committee of the Party shall meet at such times and places and in the manner required by:
 - a. these rules;
 - b. the action of the Committee itself;
 - c. the call of its Chair; or
 - d. the action of the Convention which elected it.
 - 2) The State Executive Committee shall be required to meet upon the written request of one-third or more of its members.
 - 3) Minutes or a transcript shall be taken at all meetings of the State Executive Committee, and a written copy shall be furnished to each member of the Committee within thirty days after the meeting.
 - 4) All meetings of the State Executive Committee of the Party, except for executive sessions solely for the holding of a trial and possible removal of a member of or alternate to the State Executive Committee, shall be open to attendance by the public and the press.
- e) Quorum

Except as specifically provided otherwise in these Rules, a majority of the membership, excluding vacancies, shall be the quorum at all meetings of the State Executive Committee.
- f) Approval of Expenditures
 - 1) Expenditures from current revenues of the Party may be authorized and made to fund the ongoing activities of the Party and to meet its outstanding obligations by a favorable vote of the majority of the State Executive Committee, excluding vacancies.
 - 2) Approval of the expenditure of funds by the State Executive Committee shall require a favorable vote of a majority of the membership of that Committee, excluding vacancies.
 - 3) No other funds shall be expended without the advance approval of the State Executive Committee except as otherwise provided for in these rules.
 - 4) The State Executive Committee may not incur debt, and it may not oblige the Party to pay any account payable or fulfill any contractual obligation that cannot be repaid from current revenue.
- g) Voting in Meetings
 - 1) Unless otherwise specified in these Rules, the method of voting in all meetings of the State Executive Committee may be:

- a. voice vote;
 - b. show of hands;
 - c. standing division of the house;
 - d. written secret ballot; or
 - e. roll call vote.
- 2) The method used shall be left to the discretion of the Chair unless the Committee shall vote otherwise.
 - 3) A division vote must be taken on the request of any member of the Committee, said member not needing to have the floor to make such request.
 - 4) One fifth of the membership of the Committee shall be sufficient to order a roll call vote.
 - 5) All votes taken shall be counted by the Chair and Secretary of each Committee.
 - 6) The use of proxies and proxy voting is prohibited at all meetings of all Executive Committees at any level.
- h) Committees of the Executive Committee
 - 1) The State Executive Committee may establish such committees as it deems appropriate to assist it in carrying out its non-statutory duties, and may appoint to such committees persons who are not members of the State Executive Committee.
 - 2) No action of a subcommittee of or of any standing committee created by the State Executive Committee shall replace or supersede the actions or authority of the State Executive Committee at its subsequent meetings.

IV. Party Conventions

1. Precinct Conventions

- a) A Precinct Convention will be held in even numbered years in accordance with these Rules.
- b) Each Precinct Convention shall automatically elect all participants thereof to be delegates to the County convention and shall elect no alternates.
 - 1) The qualifications for delegates shall be the same as those for participation in the Precinct Convention
 - 2) A person otherwise qualified need not be present at the Precinct Convention to be elected a delegate to the County Convention.

2. County Conventions

- a) A County Convention will be held in even numbered years in accordance with the Texas Election Code.
- b) All candidates for the Party's nomination for public office and for Party leadership shall be given an opportunity and encouraged to declare, prior to the voting on the office he or she is seeking, what if any disagreements he or she may have with the state and national platforms.
- c) The County Convention shall be composed of all delegates thereto who were duly elected by their Precinct Conventions that year.
- d) The County Convention shall elect delegates and no alternates to the State Convention and to any appropriate District Conventions.
 - 1) The qualifications for delegates shall be the same as those for participation in the Precinct Convention.
 - 2) A person otherwise qualified need not be present at the County Convention to be elected a delegate to the State or District Conventions.
- e) Unless specifically addressed by the County Bylaws, all delegates may vote for nomination of candidates for districts that are entirely contained within the county.

3. District Conventions

- a) A District Convention will be held in even numbered years for each district which is made up of more than one county or parts of more than one county and for which district at least one person has filed with the State Chair an application as a candidate for nomination for public office.
- b) All candidates for the Party's nomination for public office and for Party leadership shall be given an opportunity and encouraged to declare, prior to the voting on the office he or she is seeking, what if any disagreements he or she may have with the state and national platforms.
- c) The District Convention shall be composed of all delegates thereto who were duly elected by their County Conventions of that year.
- d) Between 10 days and 20 days following the deadline for making applications for the nomination of the Party in a general election, the Secretary shall send each elected and temporary county chair a letter informing the chair that they are to constitute a District Executive Committee (as specified in these rules) for each district for which one or more candidates have filed application for nomination. The letter shall contain the following:
 - 1) A list of the districts which are contained in whole or in part in her or his county for which one or more applications for nomination have been received;
 - 2) The names, addresses, and phone numbers of the Chairs of the other counties in each such district;
 - 3) A list of candidates who have filed for the Party's nomination for each district.
- e) The District Executive Committee shall determine the time and location of the District Convention for that district. Care shall be given to minimize scheduling conflicts between overlapping districts.

4. State Conventions

- a) Composition and when held
 - 1) A State Convention will be held in even numbered years in accordance with these Rules.
 - 2) The State Convention shall be composed of all delegates thereto who were duly elected by their County Conventions of that year.
- b) Apportionment of Delegates
 - 1) At the same meeting of the State Executive Committee at which the time and place of the next State Convention are decided, the Committee may establish a ratio which shall be used by County Conventions in determining the number of delegates they shall elect to the State Convention.
 - 2) Such a ratio, if established, shall be in the form of one delegate per a specified number of qualified voters within each county who affiliate with the Party before the election of delegates to the state convention by the county conventions.
- c) Committees of the Convention
 - 1) Committees described
 - a. A Platform Committee, which shall consider and report to the Convention on recommendations for amendments to the permanent Statement of Principles and Platform of the Party;
 - b. A Rules Committee, which shall consider and report to the Convention on recommendations for amendments to the permanent Rules of the Party;
 - c. A Credentials Committee, which shall consider and report to the Convention on recommendations for resolution of any challenges to the credentials of delegates to the

- convention;
- d. Any other committees which the State Executive Committee may deem it proper to establish.
- 2) Membership of Committees
- a. The members of all committees at State Conventions shall be appointed by the State Executive Committee no later than four months prior to the Convention.
- b. Those persons chosen to be members of committees must be notified of their selection within thirty days after the Executive Committee meeting at which they are selected.
- d) Order of Business
- At all State Conventions the order of business shall be as follows:
- 1) Call to order by the State Chair;
 - 2) State Executive Committee report on the temporary roll;
 - 3) State Chair introduces temporary officers of the Convention and turns over gavel to Temporary Chair if he or she has appointed someone other than himself or herself to act as Temporary Chair;
 - 4) Opening ceremonies, if any;
 - 5) Report of the Credentials Committee and action on its report to establish the permanent roll;
 - 6) Nomination and election of permanent officers of the Convention;
 - 7) Permanent Chair takes the chair;
 - 8) Report of the Rules Committee and action on its report;
 - 9) Report of the Platform Committee and action on its report;
 - 10) Nomination of candidates for public office;
 - 11) Nomination and election of State Party officers;
 - 12) Permanent Chair announces clearly to the delegates the place of each regional caucus, then declares a brief recess for such caucuses;
 - 13) Regional caucuses meet and elect District Representatives;
 - 14) Permanent Chair calls Convention back to order;
 - 15) Regional caucuses report on election of District Representatives;
 - 16) Nomination and election (if any) of delegates and alternates to the national convention;
 - 17) Nomination and election (if any) of Presidential Elector candidates;
 - 18) Other business;
 - 19) Acceptance speeches (if any) by certain nominees for public office;
 - 20) Adjournment.
- e) Functionaries of the State Convention
- 1) The State Chair may designate such temporary officers and assistants as he or she deems necessary to plan, arrange, and conduct the necessary work of the Convention until it elects its own permanent officers. Such temporary officers and assistants shall have those duties which are assigned to them.
 - 2) The permanent officers of the Convention shall be a Chair, Secretary, and any additional officers who may be elected.
 - 3) The Parliamentarian shall be chosen before the Convention by the State Executive Committee.
 - 4) The permanent officers shall be elected separately and not as a slate.
- f) Voting in District Caucuses

District caucuses at State Conventions may elect their District Representatives in whatever manner they choose as long as all delegates present from that region are given an equal voice in the election.

g) Voting on contested positions

- 1) In voting on delegates to a national convention, or Presidential Elector candidates in all cases in which there are more candidates than there are positions to be filled a ballot shall be taken on which each delegate to the State Convention shall vote for as many candidates as the number of positions to be filled, but no person may cast more than one vote for any single candidate.
- 2) That number of candidates equal to the number of positions to be filled who receive the highest vote totals shall be elected, providing each received votes from a majority of those present and voting.
- 3) If all the positions are not filled on the first ballot, then as many subsequent ballots shall be taken under the same procedure as are necessary to fill all the remaining positions.

h) Election of Presidential Electors

- 1) The State Conventions in Presidential election years shall elect a number of Presidential Elector candidates equal to the total number of United States Senators and Representatives to which the state is at that time entitled under law.
- 2) Any Party member who does not hold any office of profit or trust under the United States shall be eligible to be a Presidential Elector candidate.
- 3) Following the State Convention at which they are elected, each Presidential Elector candidate shall file with the State Chair a written affidavit attesting to his or her intention to support the Party's Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees. Should any Presidential Elector candidate fail to file such affidavit within a reasonable time, he or she shall be subject to removal and replacement by the State Executive Committee.

i) Election of delegates to National Conventions

1) Number of delegates

The total number of delegates to the national convention shall be that number assigned by the National Executive Committee in their call to the Convention.

2) Voting for alternates for delegates

- a. In voting on alternates for delegates to the national convention, a single ballot shall be taken on which each voting delegate to the State Convention may vote for as many persons as there are alternate positions to be filled, but not casting more than one vote for any single candidate.
- b. Those persons receiving the highest number of votes in the order of precedence of the higher number of votes shall be declared elected.
- c. At the national convention such alternates shall serve in the same order of precedence in the absence of delegates, except as may be provided otherwise by the rules of the national Party.

3) Selection by State Executive Committee

- a. If national Party rules should require election of delegates to a national convention at a time when it would not be possible for a State Convention to do so, such delegates shall be chosen by an open meeting of the State Executive Committee.
- b. At least 60 days prior public notice of this meeting shall be given including publication in a state Party newsletter or other form of written notice.
- c. Any Party member may appear before the State Executive Committee at this

meeting for a reasonable time to present arguments for the election of himself or herself or any other Party member to be a delegate.

j) Opportunities for expressing disagreements with platform

All candidates for the Party's nomination for public office and for Party leadership shall be given an opportunity and encouraged to declare, prior to the voting on the office he or she is seeking, what if any disagreements he or she may have with the state and national platforms.

5. General Rules Governing Party Conventions

a) Governing Authority

1) These Rules shall govern all proceedings and the conduct of all meetings of all Conventions and caucuses and committees at Conventions at all levels.

2) The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised are hereby adopted by reference to govern all proceedings and the conduct of all meetings of all Conventions and Caucuses and committees at Convention of the Party at all levels in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not in conflict with state law, these Rules, or any special rules of order which may be adopted.

3) Any Convention may make any additional rules for its conduct and proceedings which do not conflict with state law or these Rules.

4) It shall be the duty of the presiding officer at the opening of each Convention to provide a summary explanation of the special rules which will govern that convention and the ways in which the action of that Convention may influence important Party actions and decisions at subsequent levels of the Convention process.

b) Location of Conventions

1) All Party Conventions shall be held at places which shall be of easy public access to all participants who have expressed their intention to participate to the appropriate County, District or State Executive Committee at least 75 days before the scheduled date of the convention.

2) All Party Conventions shall be held in a place that is large enough to accommodate the greater of:

a. The number of participants who participated in the same convention two years prior; or

b. The number who have expressed their intention to participate to the appropriate County, District or State Executive Committee at least 75 days before the scheduled date of the convention.

3) The State Executive Committee is directed by these rules to issue an order that the places for precinct and other Party conventions are not required to meet the same requirements as a polling place under Section 43.034(a) of the Texas Election Code. The order must be entered in the minutes of the State Executive Committee no later than the 30th day before the date precinct conventions are to be held and shall be valid at least until the end of the next State Convention.

c) Eligibility to vote at Conventions

1) All delegates at any convention shall be eligible to vote on all matters before the floor of that Convention, except for district caucuses at County Conventions and regional caucuses at State Conventions.

2) In order to vote on any given matter, a delegate must be present on the floor at the time the vote is taken.

3) Each delegate present shall have one vote.

- 4) A person must be a qualified Party member in order to participate in procedures at a Convention or serve as a delegate.
- d) Quorum

The quorum at any Convention shall be a majority of the delegates or qualified participants registered as attending.
- e) Voting procedures
 - 1) Unless otherwise provided elsewhere in these Rules, the method of voting at all Conventions, and caucuses and committees at Conventions of the Party may be:
 - a. Voice vote;
 - b. Show of hands;
 - c. Standing division of the house;
 - d. Written secret ballot; or
 - e. Roll call vote.
 - 2) Unless otherwise specified in these Rules, the method used shall be left to the discretion of the presiding officer, provided, however, that:
 - a. A division vote must be taken on the request of any qualified participant. Said participant need not have the floor to call for a division vote.
 - b. A roll call vote must be taken when requested by one-fifth of the participants.
 - 3) All votes taken shall be counted by the presiding officer and secretary.
 - 4) Elections must be held by secret ballot when there is a contested race for any Party office or offices (including delegate and alternate) or for the Party nomination for any public office (including Presidential Elector candidates).
 - 5) If a roll call vote is taken, polling shall be by alphabetical call of all delegates registered as attending.
 - 6) Proxy voting or voting by proxies is prohibited in all conventions and caucuses and committees at Conventions of the Party.
 - 7) The use of the unit rule or the practice of instructing delegates shall not be permitted at any level of the Convention process.
- f) Limits on discussion
 - 1) No delegate shall speak for more than five minutes on any one motion at any Convention; provided, however, that the delegates making the majority and minority reports of any committees may speak on such reports for not exceeding ten minutes each and then may answer legitimate questions relating to such reports from any delegate.
 - 2) The discussion on any motion shall not exceed a total of twenty minutes time.
- g) Petition to place item on agenda

A petition signed by ten percent of the delegates attending any Convention shall be sufficient to automatically place any legitimate item of business on the agenda of that Convention for its consideration.
- h) Committees and Committee Reports
 - 1) Committee procedures in general
 - a. The Chair of each committee at a Convention shall be the presiding officer of that committee.
 - b. The vote of a majority of those committee members present shall be necessary to recommend to the floor the passage of any proposal.
 - c. A committee member must be present in order to vote.
 - d. A majority of the voting membership of each committee excluding vacancies shall

- constitute a quorum for that committee.
- 2) Right of delegates to appear before committees
 - a. Any delegate to a Convention shall have the right to appear before any committee of that Convention and make recommendations for the committee's consideration.
 - b. A committee may make reasonable rules governing the time and manner of such presentations, which may include a requirement for submission of the proposal in writing to the Chair of the committee.
 1. Such submission in writing may not be required to be more than three days prior to the first official convening of the committee.
 2. No requirement may be adopted after it is too late to meet the requirement.
 - 3) Convening of committees

All committees, except the Platform Committee, shall first convene officially no later than the first day immediately preceding the Convention to which they shall report, but such committees may meet informally at any time at their discretion.
 - 4) Committee Reports
 - a. The chair of each committee shall report the committee's recommendations to the floor of the Convention, and the presiding officer thereof shall then open the floor for discussion of the report and shall preside over any discussion of and any votes upon the report.
 - b. Any committee may also issue a minority report or reports which shall have priority of consideration as proposed amendments to the majority report of the committee.
 - c. After minority reports have been dealt with, any delegate receiving a second may propose an amendment to the report, providing that the substance of such proposal shall have been considered by the committee or shall have been presented to the committee for its consideration.
 - d. Each proposed amendment to the report shall be debated and voted upon separately.
 - e. When all proposed amendments to the report have been considered, the delegates shall then vote on the committee's report as amended as a whole.
 - 5) Procedures for Platform Committee reports
 - a. The Platform Committee must vote on each specific proposed plank or amendment separately.
 - b. In the case of the Platform Committee, the committee Chair shall report the committee's recommendations to the floor on a plank by plank basis, and each shall be debated and voted upon separately in the following order:
 1. Those recommendations receiving a unanimous favorable vote in committee.
 2. Those recommendations receiving a unanimous favorable vote, less abstentions, in committee.
 3. Those recommendations receiving a favorable vote in committee, regarding which there is not a minority report.
 4. Those recommendations receiving a favorable vote in committee, regarding which there is a minority report.
 - c. Each Platform Committee recommendation shall be considered in the following manner:
 1. The Platform Committee Chair, or some other person, shall have up to two minutes to give the committee's thinking in making the recommendation;

2. The Chair of the Convention shall then open the floor to discussion of the recommendations for up to fifteen minutes;
 3. During this time amendments may be proposed from the floor, one at a time, and the proposed amendments shall be voted on before voting on the recommendation, as amended.
 4. In the case of a Platform Committee recommendation for which there is a minority report, after the majority position has been presented the minority report shall have priority of consideration as a proposed amendment to the majority report and a spokesperson for the minority shall have up to two minutes to present his or her position before the fifteen minute discussion period begins.
- i) Statement of Principles and Platform Amendments
 - 1) The Statement of Principles and Platform adopted by the Party at the first State Convention in July, 1972, as amended in accordance with the Rules, shall remain the permanent Statement of Principles and Platform of the Party.
 - 2) Proposed amendments to the Statement of Principles and Platform must be voted upon separately on a plank by plank basis.
 - 3) Each proposed plank or amendment must receive the votes of two-thirds of the voting delegates for inclusion in the Platform.
 - 4) A simple majority of the delegates at a State Convention shall be sufficient to delete an existing plank.
 - 5) Proposed resolutions must receive the votes of two-thirds of the voting delegates for adoption by the Convention.
 - j) Nominations for public and Party office
 - 1) Filing procedures
 - a. No person may be the nominee of the Party for any public office who has not filed an application with the Party to be nominated for that office, in accordance with these Rules.
 - b. If a candidate who has made an application to be nominated withdraws, dies, or is declared ineligible, the filing deadline for applications for nomination for that office is reopened and extended until 11:59 PM of the day before the date of the Convention at which the nominee for that office is chosen.
 - 2) Nominating procedures
 - a. All nominations for Party office or for the Party nomination for public office shall be made from the floor and no nominations by committee shall be permitted.
 - b. All nominations for Party office or for the Party nomination for public office shall be made separately and not as a slate.
 - c. The motion to close nominations shall require a two-thirds vote, and such motion shall not be in order until a reasonable time has passed.
 - 3) Exclusions from eligibility for nomination to public and Party office
 - a. No Convention or Executive Committee of the Party may nominate or endorse any candidate for public office who shall appear on the general election ballot either as an independent or as the nominee of another party.
 - b. No person may be the nominee of the Party for any public or Party office who:
 1. is ineligible to serve in that office;
 2. has not expressed a willingness to accept the nomination of the Party; or
 - 4) Balloting for candidates for public office

- a. Time of nominations

Nominations of candidates for public office at the State level may be made only at the State Convention held in the year of the election for which the nominations are made.
- b. Balloting procedures
 - 1. The Party's nominees for public office shall be chosen by vote of a majority of the delegates present and voting at the time of balloting at the appropriate Convention.
 - 2. If after two ballots no candidate has attained a majority vote, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes on the second ballot shall be dropped from all succeeding ballots, and this process shall be repeated for as many ballots as necessary for some candidates to be nominated, or until the Convention votes not to nominate any candidate.
 - 3. After each ballot from which no candidate receives a majority vote the presiding officer shall announce the total vote received by each candidate, including those candidates to be stricken from subsequent ballots.
 - 4. In voting on the nomination of candidates for public office, the offices shall be considered in the reverse of the order in which they appear on the general election ballot.
- 5) Acceptance speeches
 - a. Such candidates for public office nominated by a Convention as the relevant Executive Committee shall deem appropriate may give acceptance speeches to the Convention.
 - b. Such speeches shall be heard in the same order as the office for which the candidates were nominated were considered for the purpose of nominating the candidates.
- 6) Declining to nominate candidate for public office

A Convention may decline to nominate any candidate for public office, even if there are persons seeking the Party's nomination for that office.
- 7) Procedures for election to Party office
 - a. Majority required

The vote of a majority of the qualified participants voting at the relevant Convention or caucus shall be necessary and sufficient for election to Party office, except for the position of alternate to a national convention, which shall be as provided elsewhere in these rules.
 - b. Multiple ballot procedure
 - 1. Except as provided elsewhere in these Rules, in cases where no candidate receives a majority on the first ballot, the candidate receiving the lowest number of votes on that ballot shall be stricken from all subsequent ballots and this process shall be repeated for as many ballots as necessary for some candidate to secure election.
 - 2. After each ballot from which no candidate receives a majority, the Chair shall announce the total vote received by each candidate, including those to be stricken from subsequent ballots.
 - c. None of the Above
 - 1. Votes cast for None of the Above in voting for a Party office shall be

considered valid and properly recorded.

2. Should a majority of the votes be cast for “None of the Above” in an election for a Party office, then that office shall be declared vacant and shall be filled as provided elsewhere in these Rules, but none of the persons who sought that office in that election shall be eligible to hold that office for that term.

k) News media right to attend

Representatives of the news media shall have the right to attend all Conventions for the purpose of reporting the proceedings.

6. Combined Conventions

Each County Executive Committee may choose, with the consent of the State Executive Committee, to combine the Precinct and County Conventions into a single event. This combined convention shall be held at the time normally prescribed for the Precinct Convention. Precinct Chairs would then be elected by Precinct Caucuses.

V. Adoption, Status, Amendment and Publicization of Rules

1. Effective date of original rules

These Rules shall be finally effective upon the final adjournment of the State Convention at which they are adopted.

2. Permanent amendments

These Rules may be permanently amended, altered or repealed only by a two-thirds vote of a State Convention.

3. Temporary amendments

a) Between State Conventions these rules may be temporarily amended for good cause by a vote of four-fifths of the entire membership of the State Executive Committee, provided:

- 1) each member of the Committee shall receive written notice including the full text of any proposed amendment at least two weeks prior to any meeting held to consider temporary amendments to the Rules; or
- 2) if the vote on the proposal is by mail ballot then the ballot shall contain the full text of any proposed amendment.

b) All such temporary amendments shall remain in effect only until the final adjournment of the next State Convention after their adoption, and they must be presented to that Convention for approval in the form of proposed amendments to the Rules.

c) If any temporary amendment is rejected by a State Convention following its temporary adoption neither that amendment nor any other having substantially the same effect may be considered again until the next State Convention thereafter.

4. Amendments to Statement of Principles of the Party

Whenever the party by two-thirds vote at the State Convention amends the permanent Statement of Principles of the Party, such vote shall also constitute automatic amendment to the Preamble to these Rules to comply with the amended Statement of Principles.

5. Effective date of permanent amendments

Permanent amendments to these Rules shall become effective upon the final adjournment of the State Convention at which they are adopted except that rules pertaining to the handling or selection of candidates and nominees for public office do not take effect until the end of the current election cycle.

6. Permanence and Superiority of Rules

a) Superiority

1) These Rules, as permanently amended by State Conventions, shall constitute the

permanent and continuing Rules of the Libertarian Party of Texas, wholly superseding, amending, nullifying and rescinding all previous rules, Constitutions, By-Laws, resolutions, regulations and customs of whatever type or kind.

2) On subjects no covered by these Rules, the State Chair may specify a temporary rule to take effect at the adjournment of the next meeting of the State Executive Committee if the rule is approved by that body by a four-fifths (4/5) vote. This temporary rule, once approved, is treated as a temporary amendment as described herein.

b) Permanence

These Rules shall continue in force until rescinded or permanently changed by action of a State Convention or as temporarily amended by the State Executive Committee as provided herein.

7. Publicization of Rules and Amendments

a) County Chairs shall be notified of amendments to these rules (whether permanent or temporary) within thirty days following the adoption of such amendments.

b) The State Executive Committee shall have copies of these Rules made and shall furnish such copies to any person on request, provided, however, that persons to whom copies of the Rules are furnished may be required to pay the expenses incurred in making and mailing their copies.

c) The State Chair shall ensure that updated rules are sent to the Texas Secretary of State for review within thirty (30) days following the adoption of any temporary or permanent amendments.

CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the rules of the Libertarian Party of Texas currently in effect as adopted in State Convention in Houston, Texas, November 16, 1974 and amended in State Convention in Dallas, Texas, June 12, 1976; in Fort Worth, Texas, June 10, 1978; in San Antonio, Texas, June 14, 1980; in Houston, Texas, June 12, 1982; in Arlington, Texas, June 9, 1984; in San Antonio, Texas, June 14, 1986; in Austin, Texas, June 12, 1988; in San Antonio, Texas, June 9, 1990; in Arlington, Texas, June 13, 1992; in San Antonio, Texas, June 11, 1994; in Lubbock, Texas June 8, 1996; in Nacogdoches, June 13, 1998; in Corpus Christi, June 10, 2000, and in Dallas, June 8, 2002.