



# T LIBERTARIAN

## 2024 NATIONAL BYLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE DRAFT REPORT

*Prepared by Bylaws and Rules Committee Chair Caryn Ann Harlos*



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## **INTRODUCTION**

This report is the work of nearly 18 months of work by the Bylaws and Rules Committee meeting consistently every other Thursday. There were originally nearly forty proposals which were prioritized to the ones contained in this report with additional items placed on a lower tier (linked at end of the report) which will be presented if there is time remaining. All recommendations considered and passed by this Committee that are not heard during this convention will be passed along to the next Committee. Our Party Bylaws have gotten a bit long in the tooth in some areas, and it is our hope that our proposals will pass and that future committees and conventions will diligently continue this work.

**In Liberty,**

***Caryn Ann Harlos*, Registered Parliamentarian  
National Bylaws and Rules Committee Chair**

## **COMMITTEE COMPOSITION**

The LNC appointed the ten (10) members of the committee as follows:

- Sylvia Arrowwood, PRP
- Paul Bracco
- Nickolas Ciesielski
- Caryn Ann Harlos, RP
- Rob Latham, JD
- Frank Martin
- Ken Moellman\* resigned and Chuck Moulton elevated from alternate
- Tom Rowlette
- Mike Rufo
- Michael Seebeck

There are seven (7) ranked alternates in the following order:

- Dr. Chuck Moulton (elevated to representative due to resignation of Ken Moellman)
- Rich Tomasso
- David Roberson, JD
- Greg Deal
- Roger Roots, JD
- Data Logan
- Dean Rodgers

## MARK-UP LEGEND

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

**\*NOTE THAT THE COLORS ONLY APPEAR IN THE ELECTRONIC VERSION, AND THE PRINTED VERSION WILL BE IN BLACK AND WHITE.**

The final version of proposals require a  $\frac{2}{3}$  vote to pass.

## EXPLANATION OF STRUCTURE OF REPORT

This report will give a brief rationale at this time for a proposal; the bylaw or rule as it currently reads; a mark-up copy of the bylaw or rule in the proposal; and a final copy of how the bylaw or rule would read if the proposal passed as proposed. Each proposals stands on its own and reflects the language as it currently reads in the Bylaws and Convention Special Rules of Order.

## **PROPOSAL 1 - STANDARDIZE COMMITTEE RULES**

**Rationale:** There are two different standards for similar national convention-related committees which can be terribly confusing, and the differences are not particularly logical. This proposal would consolidate the two sections and have one procedure for the Platform Committee and the Bylaws and Rules Committee, resulting in simplification, consistency, and ease of understanding.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **RULE 4: DEBATING AND VOTING -- BYLAWS AND RULES**

The Chair of the Bylaws and Rules Committee shall report each recommendation of the committee to the convention separately and shall have two minutes to explain the intent or purpose of the proposed amendment(s). The Convention Chair shall open each recommendation to discussion without amendment from the floor. Each recommendation shall be considered and adopted separately, with a maximum of eight minutes discussion on any recommendation. After the discussion, the Convention Chair shall bring the recommendation to a vote. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall open the recommendation to amendment for an additional 10 minutes.

#### **RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING -- PLATFORM**

1. After the adoption of the convention agenda, the convention will vote whether to delete planks from the existing platform. This will be accomplished as follows:
  - a. The Credentials Committee shall issue five signature tokens to each delegate.
  - b. Tokens shall only be issued to delegates. Delegates are responsible for transferring possession of unused tokens to their alternates if necessary.
  - c. Each delegate may cast each token as a recommendation for deletion of one plank by noting on the token the plank to be deleted and signing the token.
  - d. A delegate may cumulate recommendations by casting any number of tokens for deletion of the same plank.
  - e. Delegates will be given until one hour prior to the scheduled start of the platform report to mark their tokens and deliver them to the Secretary.
  - f. Prior to the scheduled start of the platform report, the Secretary shall review the tokens received and tabulate and report the tokens submitted for deletion of each plank.
  - g. As its first item of platform business, the convention shall vote whether to delete each of those planks that received a number of tokens for deletion equal to 20% or more of the number of credentialed delegates. Such votes shall be cast without amendment or debate.
2. The Platform Committee shall meet before each regular convention and prepare a report containing its recommendations. At the convention, the Platform Committee's recommendations shall be reported to the floor and debated and



- voted upon separately. The Platform Committee shall set forth the order in which each recommendation shall be considered.
3. Recommendations for which there is no minority report shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:
    - a. The Platform Committee Chair, or some other person designated by him or her, shall read the proposed recommendation and shall have up to two minutes to explain the recommendation.
    - b. The Convention Chair shall then open the recommendation to debate without amendment for a period of up to 15 minutes before bringing the matter to a vote. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall inquire if any amendments are proposed from the floor. If there are such proposals, the Convention Chair shall request a vote on whether to consider amendments, and with majority approval may consider amendments for a period of up to 10 minutes.
  4. Recommendations for which there is a minority report shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:
    - a. Spokespersons for both the majority and minority positions shall each have two minutes to present their views.
    - b. The Chair shall then open consideration of both positions for five minutes during which time any delegates may express their views without offering amendments. After five minutes, there will be a vote on which of the two reports shall be considered for purposes of adopting a recommendation. The report receiving the greater number of votes shall then be discussed and voted upon in the manner described in Section 3b.
  5. After all committee recommendations have received initial consideration, any delegate may propose amendments to the platform. The delegate may take up to two minutes to state and explain the proposal, with debating and voting to proceed as described in Section 3b.
  6. Finally, if time permits, proposals which were considered by the Platform Committee but which received an unfavorable vote from a majority of the committee, may be considered, with a spokesperson for the minority position giving the reasons in favor and the Platform Committee Chair or other representative of the majority position giving the reasons why it was voted down, before the proposal is taken to the floor for debate.
  7. Challenges of adopted Party planks believed by 10% of the delegates to be in conflict with the Statement of Principles shall be referred in writing, during the convention, to the Judicial Committee by the delegates requesting action for consideration. The challenge shall specify in what manner the plank is believed to be in conflict. The Judicial Committee shall consider the challenge, decide whether the Statement of Principles is conformed to and report their findings and reasons to the convention. If the plank is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it will be declared null and void but can be reinstated by a 3/4 vote of the convention.
  8. Should changes to the bylaws or platform result in a grammatical error in accordance with the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, the National Committee presiding at the time of that discovery is authorized to make those

grammatical corrections provided it does not change the meaning or intent of the item edited.

## MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

### **~~RULE 4: DEBATING AND VOTING -- BYLAWS AND RULES~~**

~~The Chair of the Bylaws and Rules Committee shall report each recommendation of the committee to the convention separately and shall have two minutes to explain the intent or purpose of the proposed amendment(s). The Convention Chair shall open each recommendation to discussion without amendment from the floor. Each recommendation shall be considered and adopted separately, with a maximum of eight minutes discussion on any recommendation. After the discussion, the Convention Chair shall bring the recommendation to a vote. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall open the recommendation to amendment for an additional 10 minutes.~~

### **RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING – BYLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE AND PLATFORM COMMITTEE**

1. After the adoption of the convention agenda, the convention will vote whether to delete planks from the existing platform. This will be accomplished as follows:
  - a. The Credentials Committee shall issue five signature tokens to each delegate.
  - b. Tokens shall only be issued to delegates. Delegates are responsible for transferring possession of unused tokens to their alternates if necessary.
  - c. Each delegate may cast each token as a recommendation for deletion of one plank by noting on the token the plank to be deleted and signing the token.
  - d. A delegate may cumulate recommendations by casting any number of tokens for deletion of the same plank.
  - e. Delegates will be given until one hour prior to the scheduled start of the platform report to mark their tokens and deliver them to the Secretary.
  - f. Prior to the scheduled start of the platform report, the Secretary shall review the tokens received and tabulate and report the tokens submitted for deletion of each plank.
  - g. As its first item of platform business, the convention shall vote whether to delete each of those planks that received a number of tokens for deletion equal to 20% or more of the number of credentialed delegates. Such votes shall be cast without amendment or debate.
2. The Bylaws and Rules Committee and Platform Committee shall meet before each regular convention and prepare ~~a~~ reports containing ~~its~~ their recommendations. At the convention, ~~the Platform Committee's~~ these recommendations shall be reported to the floor and debated and voted upon separately. The ~~Platform~~ Committee's shall set forth the order in which each recommendation shall be considered.
3. Recommendations for which there is no minority report shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:

- a. The **Platform** Committee Chair, or ~~some other person designated by him or her~~ **their designee**, shall read the proposed recommendation and shall have up to two minutes to explain the recommendation.
  - b. The Convention Chair shall then open the recommendation to debate without amendment for a period of up to ~~15~~ **10** minutes before bringing the matter to a vote. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall inquire if any amendments are proposed from the floor. If there are such proposals, the Convention Chair shall request a vote on whether to consider amendments, and with majority approval may consider amendments for a period of up to 10 minutes.
4. Recommendations for which there is a minority report shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:
  - a. Spokespersons for both the majority and minority positions shall **each** have two minutes **each** to present their views.
  - b. The Chair shall then open consideration of both positions for five minutes during which time any delegates may express their views without offering amendments. After five minutes, there will be a vote on which of the two reports shall be considered for purposes of adopting a recommendation. The report receiving the greater number of votes shall then be discussed and voted upon in the manner described in Section 3b.
5. After all committee recommendations have received initial consideration, any delegate may propose amendments to the **bylaws and rules or the** platform. The delegate may take up to two minutes to state and explain the proposal, with debating and voting to proceed as described in Section 3b.
- ~~6. Finally, if time permits, proposals which were considered by the Platform Committee but which received an unfavorable vote from a majority of the committee, may be considered, with a spokesperson for the minority position giving the reasons in favor and the Platform Committee Chair or other representative of the majority position giving the reasons why it was voted down, before the proposal is taken to the floor for debate.~~
7. Challenges of adopted Party planks believed by 10% of the delegates to be in conflict with the Statement of Principles shall be referred in writing, during the convention, to the Judicial Committee by the delegates requesting action for consideration. The challenge shall specify in what manner the plank is believed to be in conflict. The Judicial Committee shall consider the challenge, decide whether the Statement of Principles is conformed to and report their findings and reasons to the convention. If the plank is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it will be declared null and void but can be reinstated by a 3/4 vote of the convention.
8. Should changes to the bylaws or platform result in a grammatical error in accordance with the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, the National Committee presiding at the time of that discovery is authorized to make those grammatical corrections provided it does not change the meaning or intent of the item edited.

## **WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED**

### **RULE 4: DEBATING AND VOTING – BYLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE AND PLATFORM COMMITTEE**

1. After the adoption of the convention agenda, the convention will vote whether to delete planks from the existing platform. This will be accomplished as follows:
  - a. The Credentials Committee shall issue five signature tokens to each delegate.
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  - e. Delegates will be given until one hour prior to the scheduled start of the platform report to mark their tokens and deliver them to the Secretary.
  - f. Prior to the scheduled start of the platform report, the Secretary shall review the tokens received and tabulate and report the tokens submitted for deletion of each plank.
  - g. As its first item of platform business, the convention shall vote whether to delete each of those planks that received a number of tokens for deletion equal to 20% or more of the number of credentialed delegates. Such votes shall be cast without amendment or debate.
2. The Bylaws and Rules Committee and Platform Committee shall meet before each regular convention and prepare reports containing their recommendations. At the convention, these recommendations shall be reported to the floor and debated and voted upon separately. The Committees shall set forth the order in which each recommendation shall be considered.
3. Recommendations for which there is no minority report shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:
  - a. The Committee Chair, or their designee, shall read the proposed recommendation and shall have up to two minutes to explain the recommendation.
  - b. The Convention Chair shall then open the recommendation to debate without amendment for a period of up to 10 minutes before bringing the matter to a vote. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall inquire if any amendments are proposed from the floor. If there are such proposals, the Convention Chair shall request a vote on whether to consider amendments, and with majority approval may consider amendments for a period of up to 10 minutes.
4. Recommendations for which there is a minority report shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:
  - a. Spokespersons for both the majority and minority positions shall have two minutes each to present their views.

- b. The Chair shall then open consideration of both positions for five minutes during which time any delegates may express their views without offering amendments. After five minutes, there will be a vote on which of the two reports shall be considered for purposes of adopting a recommendation. The report receiving the greater number of votes shall then be discussed and voted upon in the manner described in Section 3b.
5. After all committee recommendations have received initial consideration, any delegate may propose amendments to the bylaws and rules or the platform. The delegate may take up to two minutes to state and explain the proposal, with debating and voting to proceed as described in Section 3b.
6. Challenges of adopted Party planks believed by 10% of the delegates to be in conflict with the Statement of Principles shall be referred in writing, during the convention, to the Judicial Committee by the delegates requesting action for consideration. The challenge shall specify in what manner the plank is believed to be in conflict. The Judicial Committee shall consider the challenge, decide whether the Statement of Principles is conformed to and report their findings and reasons to the convention. If the plank is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it will be declared null and void but can be reinstated by a 3/4 vote of the convention.
7. Should changes to the bylaws or platform result in a grammatical error in accordance with the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, the National Committee presiding at the time of that discovery is authorized to make those grammatical corrections provided it does not change the meaning or intent of the item edited.

## **PROPOSAL 2 - RISING SECONDS**

**Rationale:** In large bodies, like conventions, it takes only two delegates (a mover and a seconder) to propose items that have no realistic chance of passing. This could be dilatory, but is more often inadvertent, as it may be hard to read the room. This proposal would require a higher threshold of agreement that a motion should be heard (a standing second of enough people to indicate a sufficient level of support), which will result in less wasted time and frustration.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **RULE 2: VOTING PROCEDURE AND MOTIONS**

1. On all matters, except the retention of platform planks, the election of Judicial Committee members, Party officers and at-large members of the National Committee, and the nomination of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, voting will be by either voice vote or rising vote. If any delegate objects to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a voice vote, a rising vote shall be conducted. If 20 or more delegates object to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a rising vote, a counted vote will be held.
2. The Chair may require any motion offered from the convention floor to be in writing, signed by the mover and submitted to the Secretary.

### **MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL**

#### **RULE 2: VOTING PROCEDURE AND MOTIONS**

1. On all matters, except the retention of platform planks, the election of Judicial Committee members, Party officers and at-large members of the National Committee, and the nomination of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, voting will be by either voice vote or rising vote. If any delegate objects to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a voice vote, a rising vote shall be conducted. If 20 or more delegates object to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a rising vote, a counted vote will be held.
2. The Chair may require any motion offered from the convention floor to be in writing, signed by the mover and submitted to the Secretary.
3. All main motions and adhering subsidiary motions, as well as all motions to suspend the rules and adopt a certain proposition or take a particular action, originating from the floor require 20 delegates to second.

### **WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED**

#### **RULE 2: VOTING PROCEDURE AND MOTIONS**

1. On all matters, except the retention of platform planks, the election of Judicial Committee members, Party officers and at-large members of the National

Committee, and the nomination of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates, voting will be by either voice vote or rising vote. If any delegate objects to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a voice vote, a rising vote shall be conducted. If 20 or more delegates object to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of a rising vote, a counted vote will be held.

2. The Chair may require any motion offered from the convention floor to be in writing, signed by the mover and submitted to the Secretary.
3. All main motions and adhering subsidiary motions, as well as all motions to suspend the rules and adopt a certain proposition or take a particular action, originating from the floor require 20 delegates to second.



## **PROPOSAL 3 - CHANGE TIMING OF COMMITTEE APPTS**

**Rationale:** Committees cannot elect a chair and get to work until the committee composition is known. This means the committee must wait until the last eligible affiliate makes its appointment, which is invariably around the deadline itself. For both the Credentials Committee and the Platform Committee, this means that in practice they only have three months and six months, respectively, to carry out their duties. In past terms members of both committees have expressed frustration with the working timeline of their committee being too short.

This proposal seeks to double these committees' working timelines by moving the appointment dates to six months for the Credentials Committee and twelve months for the Platform Committee. Additionally, the twelve-month appointment requirement for the Platform Committee would align their working timeline to that of the Bylaws and Rules Committee.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **ARTICLE 11: OTHER COMMITTEES**

[...]

3. The Platform Committee shall consist of 20 members selected as follows:
  - a. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the greatest per capita sustaining membership as determined for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention.
  - b. One member by each of the 10 affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships, excluding those affiliates from (a), as determined for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention.
  - c. Five members selected by the National Committee.
  - d. These members shall be selected no later than the last day of the fifth month prior to the regular convention.
4. The Credentials Committee, composed of 10 members, shall be selected as follows.
  - a. Five members chosen by the National Committee no later than six months before a regular convention.
  - b. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships as determined for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention. These shall be selected by each of the affiliate parties no later than three months prior to the regular convention.

[...]

### **MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL**



## ARTICLE 11: OTHER COMMITTEES

[...]

3. The Platform Committee shall consist of 20 members selected as follows:
  - a. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the greatest per capita sustaining membership as determined for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention.
  - b. One member by each of the 10 affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships, excluding those affiliates from (a), as determined for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention.
  - c. Five members selected by the National Committee.
  - d. These members shall be selected no later than ~~the last day of the fifth month prior to the regular convention~~ twelve months before a regular convention.
4. The Credentials Committee, composed of 10 members, shall be selected as follows.
  - a. Five members chosen by the National Committee no later than six months before a regular convention.
  - b. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships as determined for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention. These shall be selected by each of the affiliate parties no later than ~~three~~ six months prior to the regular convention.

[...]

### **WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED**

## ARTICLE 11: OTHER COMMITTEES

[...]

3. The Platform Committee shall consist of 20 members selected as follows:
  - a. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the greatest per capita sustaining membership as determined for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention.
  - b. One member by each of the 10 affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships, excluding those affiliates from (a), as determined for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention.
  - c. Five members selected by the National Committee.
  - d. These members shall be selected no later than twelve months before a regular convention.

4. The Credentials Committee, composed of 10 members, shall be selected as follows.
  - a. Five members chosen by the National Committee no later than six months before a regular convention.
  - b. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships as determined for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention. These shall be selected by each of the affiliate parties no later than six months prior to the regular convention.

[...]

## **PROPOSAL 4 – REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

*\*Previously labeled Proposal NN*

**Rationale:** Whether the due process provisions of our parliamentary authority apply to removal of officers and by extension, at-large members, is ambiguous. It is incumbent upon us to resolve that ambiguity. This proposal extends more due process to the accused. This procedure would not allow the LNC to remove a minority member just because they find them “difficult,” which can be inherent in a vocal minority member that the delegates chose. This is a balance between honoring the will of the delegates and protecting the Party.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **ARTICLE 6: OFFICERS**

[...]

7. The National Committee may, for cause, suspend any officer by a vote of 2/3 of the entire National Committee, excepting the officer that is the subject of the vote who may not participate in that vote. The suspended officer may challenge the suspension by an appeal in writing to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of suspension. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the suspension and bar any later challenge or appeal. The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons, which persons shall have the right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's suspension of the officer or order the officer's reinstatement within 30 days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee to rule within 30 days shall constitute an affirmation of the National Committee's suspension of the officer. At such time as the suspension is final, the office in question shall be deemed vacant.

[...]

#### **ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

[...]

5. The National Committee may, for cause, suspend any member-at-large by a vote of 2/3 of the entire National Committee, excepting the member that is the subject of the vote who may not participate in that vote. The suspended member-at-large may challenge the suspension by an appeal in writing to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of suspension. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the suspension and bar any later challenge or appeal. The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons, which persons shall have the

right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's suspension of the member-at-large or order reinstatement of the member-at-large within 30 days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee to rule within 30 days shall constitute an affirmation of the National Committee's suspension of the member-at-large. At such times as the suspension is final, the office in question shall be deemed vacant.

[...]

## **MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL**

### **ARTICLE 6: OFFICERS**

[...]

~~7. The National Committee may, for cause, suspend any officer by a vote of 2/3 of the entire National Committee, excepting the officer that is the subject of the vote who may not participate in that vote. The suspended officer may challenge the suspension by an appeal in writing to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of suspension. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the suspension and bar any later challenge or appeal. The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons, which persons shall have the right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's suspension of the officer or order the officer's reinstatement within 30 days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee to rule within 30 days shall constitute an affirmation of the National Committee's suspension of the officer. At such time as the suspension is final, the office in question shall be deemed vacant.~~

[...]

### **ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

[...]

~~5. The National Committee may, for cause, suspend any member-at-large by a vote of 2/3 of the entire National Committee, excepting the member that is the subject of the vote who may not participate in that vote. The suspended member-at-large may challenge the suspension by an appeal in writing to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of suspension. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the suspension and bar any later challenge or appeal. The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing~~

~~the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal and shall notify all interested persons, which persons shall have the right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's suspension of the member-at-large or order reinstatement of the member-at-large within 30 days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee to rule within 30 days shall constitute an affirmation of the National Committee's suspension of the member-at-large. At such times as the suspension is final, the office in question shall be deemed vacant.~~

[...]

#### ARTICLE 8: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE

No officer or member-at-large shall be subject to removal from office except for failure to perform the duties of office or gross malfeasance. The process for removing officers and members-at-large shall be the trial procedure as outlined in the Party's parliamentary authority, with removal requiring a vote of 2/3 of the entire National Committee, excepting the member that is the subject of the vote who may not participate in that vote. The membership rights of the officer or member-at-large can be suspended by a 2/3 vote for up to sixty days while the matter is being investigated. The subject officer or member-at-large may appeal their removal in writing to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of removal. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the removal and bar any later challenge or appeal. The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal. The Judicial Committee shall notify the petitioner and identified prospective respondents of their right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's removal of the officer or member-at-large or order reinstatement of the officer or member-at-large within 30 days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee to make a final decision on the appeal within 30 days shall constitute an overturning of the National Committee's removal of the subject officer or member-at-large and restoration of that individual to office. At such time as the removal is final, the office in question shall be deemed vacant.

*[Re-Number Subsequent Articles Accordingly]*

#### **WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED**

#### **ARTICLE 8: REMOVAL FROM OFFICE**

No officer or member-at-large shall be subject to removal from office except for failure to perform the duties of office or gross malfeasance. The process for removing officers and members-at-large shall be the trial procedure as outlined in the Party's

parliamentary authority, with removal requiring a vote of 2/3 of the entire National Committee, excepting the member that is the subject of the vote who may not participate in that vote. The membership rights of the officer or member-at-large can be suspended by a 2/3 vote for up to sixty days while the matter is being investigated. The subject officer or member-at-large may appeal their removal in writing to the Judicial Committee within seven days of receipt of notice of removal. Failure to appeal within seven days shall confirm the removal and bar any later challenge or appeal. The Judicial Committee shall set a date for hearing the appeal between 20 and 40 days of receipt of the appeal. The Judicial Committee shall notify the petitioner and identified prospective respondents of their right to appear and present evidence and argument. At the hearing the burden of persuasion shall rest upon the appellant. The Judicial Committee shall either affirm the National Committee's removal of the officer or member-at-large or order reinstatement of the officer or member-at-large within 30 days of the hearing. Failure of the Judicial Committee to make a final decision on the appeal within 30 days shall constitute an overturning of the National Committee's removal of the subject officer or member-at-large and restoration of that individual to office. At such time as the removal is final, the office in question shall be deemed vacant.

## **PROPOSAL 5 – RE-STRUCTURE LNC**

**Rationale:** This proposal would add more at-large members to replace all regional representatives and shrink the overall size of the LNC. The voting system would be changed to cumulative voting, which better facilitates minority representation. The existing regional system puts undue power in the hands of either state chairs or state executive committees when forming regions; the delegates have no direct say in what region their affiliate joins. It also creates a potential conflict of interest, as regional representatives are serving two masters: their regions and the Party. If a regional representative breaches a fiduciary duty, only the region itself can remove them; the LNC has no true disciplinary power.

Delegates do not necessarily have geography as their primary focus. Someone may care more about ballot access or ideology or fundraising or any of a number of things than where a candidate for regional representative or alternate happens to reside. Talent may not be equally distributed geographically. Some states and regions have many active, competent, enthusiastic activists with the financial means to travel around the country to meetings while other affiliates have few.

Many with experience serving on the LNC or other boards believe our national committee is too large to be effective. If you have 18 people who want to be heard on every issue, then discussion and voting take a lot longer than if there were fewer — and the decisions made by larger boards are not better. Shrinking the LNC does not necessarily mean shrinking participation in national matters. The LNC can and should have many committees with non-LNC members to which it delegates responsibility or from which it gets specialized advice.

With cumulative voting—**which is an integral part of this proposal**—the board will be more representative of the body as a whole. Cumulative voting allows a minority voting bloc to strategically band together and ensure they get representation on the board, unlike approval voting (our current system) where a majority bloc can run the table and get all the seats.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

[...]

2. The National Committee shall be composed of the following members:
  - a. the officers of the Party;
  - b. five members elected at large by the delegates at a regular convention; and
  - c. any additional members as specified below:

Any affiliate party with 10% or more of the total national party sustaining membership within affiliate parties (as determined for delegate allocation) shall be entitled to one National Committee representative and one alternate for each

10% of national sustaining membership. Affiliate parties may, by mutual consent, band together to form "representative regions," and each such "region" with an aggregate national party sustaining membership of 10% or more shall be entitled to one National Committee representative and one alternate for each 10% of national party sustaining membership. "Representative regions" may be formed or dissolved once every two years during a period beginning 90 days before the beginning of and ending on the second day of the national convention, and notice of new formations or dissolutions must be given in writing to the national Secretary prior to the close of the convention at which they take place.

[...]

8. A National Committee Regional Representative or Alternate may be removed and replaced only by the act of the affiliate parties that constitute the subject region. The voting procedure for the removal and replacement of regional representatives or alternates shall be determined by the regions. In the absence of any such procedures, a majority vote of the state chairs comprising the region shall prevail.

[...]

## **ARTICLE 15: ALTERNATIVE VOTING PROCEDURES**

[...]

1. The convention special rules of order may authorize specified forms of preferential voting.

[...]

## **RULE 8: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

[...]

2. Nominations for the at-large members of the National Committee shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted in the following manner:
  - a. Each delegate may cast a ballot with a vote for either none-of-the-above or one vote per candidate for any number of candidates. Every ballot with a vote for none-of-the-above or one or more candidates is counted as one ballot cast. A vote for none-of-the-above shall be ignored if the ballot also includes a vote for any other candidate.
  - b. Each delegation shall tabulate its total vote, and the delegation chair shall deliver a written total to the Secretary, along with the ballots cast.
  - c. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Chair shall declare the voting closed. The top five candidates receiving a majority vote of the ballots cast shall be elected. Tie votes affecting the outcome shall be decided by lot.



[...]

4. In the event a region has not otherwise provided for the election of its National Committee representation then the delegates from the region shall elect its regional representative and alternate, provided there are at least five delegates present. Each Region's delegates may elect their representative and alternate in whatever manner they choose, provided all delegates present from that region are given equal voice in the selection.

## MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

### ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL COMMITTEE

[...]

2. The National Committee shall be composed of the following members:
  - a. the officers of the Party;
  - b. ~~five~~ seven members elected at large by the delegates at a regular convention;
  - c. ~~any additional members as specified below:~~  
~~Any affiliate party with 10% or more of the total national party sustaining membership within affiliate parties (as determined for delegate allocation) shall be entitled to one National Committee representative and one alternate for each 10% of national sustaining membership. Affiliate parties may, by mutual consent, band together to form "representative regions," and each such "region" with an aggregate national party sustaining membership of 10% or more shall be entitled to one National Committee representative and one alternate for each 10% of national party sustaining membership. "Representative regions" may be formed or dissolved once every two years during a period beginning 90 days before the beginning of and ending on the second day of the national convention, and notice of new formations or dissolutions must be given in writing to the national Secretary prior to the close of the convention at which they take place.~~

[...]

- ~~8. A National Committee Regional Representative or Alternate may be removed and replaced only by the act of the affiliate parties that constitute the subject region. The voting procedure for the removal and replacement of regional representatives or alternates shall be determined by the regions. In the absence of any such procedures, a majority vote of the state chairs comprising the region shall prevail.~~

[...]

### ARTICLE 15: ALTERNATIVE VOTING PROCEDURES

[...]

1. The convention special rules of order may authorize specified forms of preferential voting or cumulative voting.

[...]

## **RULE 8: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

[...]

2. Nominations for the at-large members of the National Committee shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted in the following manner:
  - a. The election shall take place using cumulative voting, which means that e  
~~Each~~ delegate may cast a ballot with a vote for either none-of-the-above or one vote per elect~~ed position~~ ~~candidate for any number of candidates~~. Every ballot with a vote for none-of-the-above or one or more candidates is counted as one ballot cast. A vote for none-of-the-above shall be ignored if the ballot also includes a vote for any other candidate.
  - b. Each delegation shall tabulate its total vote, and the delegation chair shall deliver a written total to the Secretary, along with the ballots cast.
  - c. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Chair shall declare the voting closed. The candidates receiving the largest vote total, provided that vote total is greater than or equal to the majority of ballots cast, shall be elected. ~~The top five candidates receiving a majority vote of the ballots cast shall be elected~~. Tie votes affecting the outcome shall be decided by lot.

[...]

- ~~4. In the event a region has not otherwise provided for the election of its National Committee representation then the delegates from the region shall elect its regional representative and alternate, provided there are at least five delegates present. Each Region's delegates may elect their representative and alternate in whatever manner they choose, provided all delegates present from that region are given equal voice in the selection.~~

### **WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED**

## **ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

[...]

2. The National Committee shall be composed of the following members:
  - a. the officers of the Party;
  - b. seven members elected at large by the delegates at a regular convention.

[...]

## **ARTICLE 15: ALTERNATIVE VOTING PROCEDURES**

[...]

1. The convention special rules of order may authorize specified forms of preferential voting or cumulative voting.

[...]

## **RULE 8: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

[...]

2. Nominations for the at-large members of the National Committee shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted in the following manner:
  - a. The election shall take place using cumulative voting, which means that each delegate may cast a ballot with a vote for either none-of-the-above or one vote per elected position. Every ballot with a vote for none-of-the-above or one or more candidates is counted as one ballot cast. A vote for none-of-the-above shall be ignored if the ballot also includes a vote for any other candidate.
  - b. Each delegation shall tabulate its total vote, and the delegation chair shall deliver a written total to the Secretary, along with the ballots cast.
  - c. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Chair shall declare the voting closed. The candidates receiving the largest vote total, provided that vote total is greater than or equal to the majority of ballots cast, shall be elected. Tie votes affecting the outcome shall be decided by lot.

## PROPOSAL 6 – LIMIT COMMITTEE ALTERNATES

**Rationale:** Under our current Bylaws, affiliates or the LNC can appoint an unlimited number of alternates to committees. Because committee alternates have customarily debated and commented freely, the inclusion of excessive alternates on committees may negatively impact a committee’s effectiveness. Appointing bodies can always fill vacancies for primary and alternate committee members.

### CURRENT WORDING

#### ARTICLE 11: OTHER COMMITTEES

[...]

5. Ranked alternates may be named by the appointing bodies to fill any vacancies or absences in the convention committees.

[...]

### MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

#### ARTICLE 11: OTHER COMMITTEES

[...]

- ~~5. Ranked alternates may be named by the appointing bodies to fill any vacancies or absences in the convention committees.~~ Each appointing body may appoint ranked alternates up to the number of its primary appointments.

[...]

### WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED

#### ARTICLE 11: OTHER COMMITTEES

[...]

5. Each appointing body may appoint ranked alternates up to the number of its primary appointments.

[...]

## **PROPOSAL 7 - RAISE MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**Rationale:** Party sustaining membership dues have not permanently increased since December 11, 1993 (more than 30 years ago). (Note: In 2005 dues were increased to \$50, then brought down to zero, then brought back to \$25 at the 2006 national convention.) There has been significant inflation since 1993, meaning that the LNC now receives less resources in real terms from membership dues. Costs of servicing each member have gone up significantly, such as costs of printing and postage. This proposal would better align membership dues in real terms to the last time they were updated.

See: [https://lpedia.org/wiki/Document:LNC\\_Minutes\\_11-12\\_December\\_1993](https://lpedia.org/wiki/Document:LNC_Minutes_11-12_December_1993)

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP**

1. Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.
2. The National Committee may offer life memberships and must honor all prior and future life memberships.
3. The National Committee may create other levels of membership and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.
4. "Sustaining members" are members of the Party who:
  - a. During the prior 12 months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$25; or
  - b. Are Life members.

### **MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL**

#### **ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP**

1. Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.
2. The National Committee may offer life memberships and must honor all prior and future life memberships.
3. The National Committee may create other levels of membership and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.
4. "Sustaining members" are members of the Party who:
  - a. During the prior 12 months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least **\$2550**; or
  - b. Are Life members.

**Proviso:** *For current sustaining members only, this shall go into effect when current memberships lapse or renew, with the lapse date fixed as the last lapse date which exists at adjournment sine die of this convention.*

### **WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED**

**2024 Bylaws and Rules Committee Draft Report V5**

## **ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP**

1. Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.
2. The National Committee may offer life memberships and must honor all prior and future life memberships.
3. The National Committee may create other levels of membership and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.
4. "Sustaining members" are members of the Party who:
  - a. During the prior 12 months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$50; or
  - b. Are Life members.

## PROPOSAL 8 – REFINE DUES DEFINITION

**Rationale:** Staff has told the LNC that there is a difficulty with the CRM (“customer relationship management” system) in the way we calculate dues and the way that our Bylaws describe them which can include more than just designated dues payments but other “donations.” The proposal would clarify that restricted donations (such as for ballot access) or payments for goods or services (such as t-shirts or convention packages) should not count towards dues. Additionally, it can be burdensome to keep track of a string of payments (a dollar here, \$3 there, fifty cents next month) which aggregate to the dues threshold. This proposal presumes the dues increase in Proposal 7 passes; if not, the amount will be \$25.

### CURRENT WORDING

#### ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

1. Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.
2. The National Committee may offer life memberships and must honor all prior and future life memberships.
3. The National Committee may create other levels of membership and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.
4. "Sustaining members" are members of the Party who:
  - a. During the prior 12 months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$25; or

[...]

**Proviso:** For current sustaining members only, this shall go into effect when current memberships lapse or renew, with the lapse date fixed as the last lapse date which exists at adjournment sine die of this convention.

### MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

#### ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP

1. Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.
2. The National Committee may offer life memberships and must honor all prior and future life memberships.
3. The National Committee may create other levels of membership and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.
4. "Sustaining members" are members of the Party who:
  - a. ~~During the prior 12 months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$25~~ Have paid, or have paid on their behalf, dues of \$25 in a single payment within the past 365 days; or

[...]

**WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED**

**ARTICLE 4: MEMBERSHIP**

1. Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.
2. The National Committee may offer life memberships and must honor all prior and future life memberships.
3. The National Committee may create other levels of membership and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.
4. "Sustaining members" are members of the Party who:
  - a. Have paid, or have paid on their behalf, dues of \$25 in a single payment within the past 365 days; or

[...]



## **PROPOSAL 9 – ADD NOTICE REQUIREMENTS**

**Rationale:** Best practice for stability and avoiding ambush in changes to bylaws is to require notice, and it is highly unusual for an organization of our size and place in the political landscape to have no notice requirements. However, we also need to balance the protection of notice requirements with the desire to avoid “proposal committees” effectively turning into gatekeepers. This proposal balances these interests by allowing notice for member-submitted proposals and still allowing proposals from the floor with a higher passage threshold.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **ARTICLE 3: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND PLATFORM**

[...]

3. The current platform shall serve as the basis of all future platforms. The existing platform may be amended only at regular conventions. A platform plank may be deleted by majority vote. New planks or amendments to existing planks require a 2/3 vote.

#### **ARTICLE 17: AMENDMENT**

1. These bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at any regular convention.

[...]

#### **RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The standing order of business for a regular convention shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Credentials Committee report
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Treasurer's report
5. Audit Committee report
6. Bylaws and Rules Committee report
7. Election of Judicial Committee (in appropriate years)
8. Election of Party officers and at-large members of the National Committee
9. Platform Committee report
10. Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)
11. Resolutions
12. Other business

#### **RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING—PLATFORM**

[...]

5. After all committee recommendations have received initial consideration, any delegate may propose amendments to the bylaws and rules or the platform. The delegate may take up to two minutes to state and explain the proposal, with debating and voting to proceed as described in Section 3b.

[...]

## MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

### ARTICLE 3: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND PLATFORM

[...]

3. The current platform shall serve as the basis of all future platforms. The existing platform may be amended only at regular conventions. ~~A platform plank may be deleted by majority vote. New planks or amendments to existing planks require a 2/3 vote.~~

### ARTICLE 17: AMENDMENT AND NOTICE

THE FORM OF THIS AMENDMENT IS ALSO IMPROPER-JUST FORMATTING WISE, NEED TO DISCUSS AND REVISE. DUE TO THE EXTENSIVE REVISIONS, WE NEED TO SHOW THE CURRENT AMENDMENT LANGUAGE IN FULL AND SHOW IT AS A FULL STRIKE OUT AND THIS AS A FULL REPLACEMENT.

#### 1. Notice of Proposed Amendments

a. The Platform Committee and the Bylaws and Rules Committee must provide reports of their recommendations along with minority reports to the Party Secretary at least thirty-five days prior to the regular convention which shall then be published on the Party website within five days of receipt.

b. Any sustaining member may submit to the Party Secretary proposals to amend either the Platform or these bylaws, provided they are signed by fifty sustaining members at the time of proposal submission and provided to the Party Secretary no later than sixty days prior to the regular convention. These proposals shall be forwarded to the respective committee chairs and published on the Party website within five days of receipt. The committees may include recommendations on these proposals in their reports.

2. The Party platform and tThese bylaws may be amended by ~~a 2/3 vote of~~ the delegates at any regular convention:±

a. By a 2/3 vote with prior notice.

b. By a 3/4 vote without prior notice.

- c. By a majority vote with prior notice when deleting platform planks only. The Convention Rules may provide for a token process to delete platform planks without notice requirements.
- d. By a 2/3 vote without prior notice when deleting platform planks only.

[...]

## **RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The standing order of business for a regular convention shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Credentials Committee report
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Treasurer's report
5. Audit Committee report
6. Bylaws and Rules Committee report
7. Other bylaws and rules amendments with notice
8. ~~7.~~ Election of Judicial Committee (in appropriate years)
9. ~~8.~~ Election of Party officers and at-large members of the National Committee
10. ~~9.~~ Platform Committee report
11. Other platform amendments with notice
12. ~~10.~~ Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)
13. ~~11.~~ Resolutions
14. ~~12.~~ Other business

## **RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING—PLATFORM**

[...]

~~5. After all committee recommendations have received initial consideration, any delegate may propose amendments to the bylaws and rules or the platform. The delegate may take up to two minutes to state and explain the proposal, with debating and voting to proceed as described in Section 3b.~~

[...]

## **RULE 6: DEBATING AND VOTING – MEMBER-SUBMITTED AMENDMENT PROPOSALS WITH NOTICE – BYLAWS AND RULES, PLATFORM**

1. Member-submitted proposals shall be heard beginning with the proposal with the greatest number of sustaining member signatures and continuing in descending order.
  - a. Sustaining members may sign on to member proposals after they have been submitted, provided that no signatures shall be accepted after the convention has been called to order.
2. The member who submitted the proposal, or their designee, may take up to two minutes to state and explain the proposal.

3. The Convention Chair shall then open the proposal to debate without amendment for a period of up to ten minutes before bringing the matter to a vote.
  - a. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall inquire if any amendments are proposed from the floor.
  - b. If there are such proposals, the Convention Chair shall request a vote on whether to consider amendments, and with majority approval may consider amendments for a period of up to ten minutes.

## **WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED**

### **ARTICLE 3: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND PLATFORM**

[...]

3. The current platform shall serve as the basis of all future platforms. The existing platform may be amended only at regular conventions.

### **ARTICLE 17: AMENDMENT AND NOTICE**

1. Notice of Proposed Amendments
  - a. The Platform Committee and the Bylaws and Rules Committee must provide reports of their recommendations along with minority reports to the Party Secretary at least thirty-five days prior to the regular convention which shall then be published on the Party website within five days of receipt.
  - b. Any sustaining member may submit to the Party Secretary proposals to amend either the Platform or these bylaws, provided they are signed by fifty sustaining members at the time of proposal submission and provided to the Party Secretary no later than sixty days prior to the regular convention. These proposals shall be forwarded to the respective committee chairs and published on the Party website within five days of receipt. The committees may include recommendations on these proposals in their reports.
2. The Party platform and these bylaws may be amended by the delegates at any regular convention:
  - a. By a 2/3 vote with prior notice with the exception of the deletion of any platform plank which requires a majority vote with prior notice.
  - b. By a 3/4 vote without prior notice.
  - c. The Convention Rules may provide for a token process to delete platform planks without notice requirements.

[...]

### **RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The standing order of business for a regular convention shall be as follows:

**2024 Bylaws and Rules Committee Draft Report V5**

1. Call to order
2. Credentials Committee report
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Treasurer's report
5. Audit Committee report
6. Bylaws and Rules Committee report
7. Other bylaws and rules amendments with notice
8. Election of Judicial Committee (in appropriate years)
9. Election of Party officers and at-large members of the National Committee
10. Platform Committee report
11. Other platform amendments with notice
12. Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)
13. Resolutions
14. Other business

#### **RULE 6: DEBATING AND VOTING – MEMBER-SUBMITTED AMENDMENT PROPOSALS WITH NOTICE – BYLAWS AND RULES, PLATFORM**

1. Member-submitted proposals shall be heard beginning with the proposal with the greatest number of sustaining member signatures and continuing in descending order.
  - a. Sustaining members may sign on to member proposals after they have been submitted, provided that no signatures shall be accepted after the convention has been called to order.
2. The member who submitted the proposal, or their designee, may take up to two minutes to state and explain the proposal.
3. The Convention Chair shall then open the proposal to debate without amendment for a period of up to ten minutes before bringing the matter to a vote.
  - a. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall inquire if any amendments are proposed from the floor.
  - b. If there are such proposals, the Convention Chair shall request a vote on whether to consider amendments, and with majority approval may consider amendments for a period of up to ten minutes.

***Proviso: Any changes to amendment thresholds, token processes, or notice, shall take effect upon the adjournment sine die of the convention at which they are adopted.***

## PROPOSAL 10 - AMEND VOTING PROCEDURES

**Rationale:** The way they are now worded, the convention rules arguably authorize dropping a defeated candidate in the first round only. This proposal would eliminate the current ambiguity by explicitly authorizing a candidate to be dropped in each round. Further, eliminating write-ins after the first round preserves the right to elect a write-in in first round, but preserves teller time in processing numerous write-ins on every round, including previously eliminated candidates. Lastly, this is a step towards preparing us for pure electronic voting.

### CURRENT WORDING

#### ARTICLE 15: ALTERNATIVE VOTING PROCEDURES

[...]

2. The convention special rules of order may provide a mechanism under which, when no candidate initially receives a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes is removed from consideration.

### MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

#### ARTICLE 15: ~~ALTERNATIVE~~ VOTING PROCEDURES

[...]

~~2. The convention special rules of order may provide a mechanism under which, when no candidate initially receives a majority, the candidate receiving the fewest votes is removed from consideration.~~

2. The convention special rules of order may provide a mechanisms for eliminating candidates on subsequent rounds of voting for the same office. Should they exist, these rules can only be suspended for one round at a time. Any candidate so eliminated will be ineligible for further consideration for that race. No write-in votes are permitted and any such votes will not be credited to any candidate nor counted as a ballot cast.

### WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED

#### ARTICLE 15: VOTING PROCEDURES

[...]

2. The convention special rules of order may provide a mechanisms for eliminating candidates on subsequent rounds of voting for the same office. Should they exist, these rules can only be suspended for one round at a time. Any candidate

so eliminated will be ineligible for further consideration for that race. No write-in votes are permitted and any such votes will not be credited to any candidate nor counted as a ballot cast.

## PROPOSAL 11 – ADD RCV VOTING FOR OFFICERS

**Rationale:** The Party’s existing method to elect Party officers of the National Committee is outdated and inefficient. The Libertarian Party platform “support[s] ... election systems that are more representative of the electorate....”

Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) is a balloting method that eliminates multiple rounds of voting, facilitates greater voter expression than a single choice ballot, and mitigates the “wasted vote” problem. Using RCV also helps our Party practice what we preach by implementing more competitive and representative electoral methods, familiarizes Party members with the use of such methods, and models the use of such methods to external audiences.

Adding RCV for officers only would allow the Party to get used to this method with an eye to add it to other offices, including also the potential for STV (proportional representation) for multi-winner races. Additionally, RCV would free up convention time which could be used for other business because

### CURRENT WORDING

#### RULE 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE

1. Nominations for Party officers shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted in the following manner:
  - a. For each office, a majority vote will be necessary for election.
  - b. Each delegation shall tabulate its total vote, and the delegation chair shall deliver a written total to the Secretary. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Secretary shall declare the voting closed.
  - c. In cases where no candidate receives a majority, runoff votes will be held, dropping the candidate with the fewest votes after each ballot.

[...]

### MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

#### RULE 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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  - ~~c. In cases where no candidate receives a majority, runoff votes will be held, dropping the candidate with the fewest votes after each ballot.~~



- a. Officer elections shall be conducted using Ranked Choice Voting. For each office, a majority vote of all the ballots cast in that round shall be necessary and sufficient for election.
- b. Ballots shall allow delegates to rank their choices of candidates in order of preference.
- c. In cases in which no candidate receives a majority of First Choice votes, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and the ballots of voters indicating that eliminated candidate as their First Choice shall be redistributed to the remaining candidates according to the next choice indicated on those ballots. The Secretary and tellers approved by the Secretary shall then recount the ballots.
- d. If no candidate has a majority of votes cast, the process of eliminating the candidate with the fewest votes, redistributing according to the next choice on those ballots, and then recounting shall be repeated until one candidate has a majority.
- e. In the event of a tie in any round which makes a difference in which candidate advances, ties shall be broken by retaining the candidate that had the most First Choice votes, and if still a tie, then the most Second Choice votes, etc. If this method results in a tie up through the current round, the tie shall be broken randomly.
- f. The Secretary shall retain the record of all voting rounds and make it available to delegates upon request.
- g. The Chair shall announce the winner of the election after votes have been fully tabulated. The Chair's announcement of the election outcome shall include results from each voting round.

*Proviso: This amendment shall not go into effect until the adjournment sine die of the convention at which it is adopted.*

## **WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED**

### **RULE 8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

1. Nominations for Party officers shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted in the following manner:
  - a. Officer elections shall be conducted using Ranked Choice Voting. For each office, a majority vote of all the ballots cast in that round shall be necessary and sufficient for election.
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- d. If no candidate has a majority of votes cast, the process of eliminating the candidate with the fewest votes, redistributing according to the next choice on those ballots, and then recounting shall be repeated until one candidate has a majority.
- e. In the event of a tie in any round which makes a difference in which candidate advances, ties shall be broken by retaining the candidate that had the most First Choice votes, and if still a tie, then the most Second Choice votes, etc. If this method results in a tie up through the current round, the tie shall be broken randomly.
- f. The Secretary shall retain the record of all voting rounds and make it available to delegates upon request.
- g. The Chair shall announce the winner of the election after votes have been fully tabulated. The Chair's announcement of the election outcome shall include results from each voting round.

## **PROPOSAL 12 – ADD ELECTRONIC BALLOTING**

**Rationale:** Authorizing the use of electronic balloting makes it easier to implement more competitive and representative electoral methods and get fast results. Further, it would familiarize Party members with the use of such methods (which would likely be too labor- intensive and/or slow to be practical within the time constraints if conducted manually) and model the use of such methods to external audiences. Further, after future convention delegates approve of and implement an electronic balloting method, convention time spent on elections should be significantly reduced.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The standing order of business for a regular convention shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Credentials Committee report
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Treasurer's report
5. Audit Committee report
6. Bylaws and Rules Committee report
7. Election of Judicial Committee (in appropriate years)
8. Election of Party officers and at-large members of the National Committee
9. Platform Committee report
10. Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)
11. Resolutions
12. Other business

#### **RULE 3: ELECTION BALLOTING PROCEDURES**

[...]

2. Each delegation shall conduct its vote by written ballot delivered to the delegation chair who shall tabulate the votes on a delegation tally sheet provided for this purpose. The delegation chair then submits their tally sheet with a sealed envelope containing each of the delegate ballots to the tellers. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Convention Chair shall declare the voting closed. After each delegation has tabulated its own vote totals, before submitting the totals to the Secretary, the tellers shall review the ballot tabulation for accuracy and cosign the delegation totals. After the Secretary or the tellers have recorded all delegation submissions, the state-by-state delegation totals for each candidate or choice shall be displayed on a projection screen for each delegation to review for accuracy. During the period of time allotted for such votes, the business of the convention shall continue without interruption.

[...]

6. In cases where computer readable ballots are used, each delegate must sign the ballot and submit it to the delegation chair. After verifying that the number of votes cast does not exceed the number the state is entitled to, the chair of each delegation shall submit the ballots to the Secretary.

## **MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL**

### **RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The standing order of business for a regular convention shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Credentials Committee report
- 3.** [Vote to authorize electronic balloting](#)
- ~~3.4.~~ Adoption of agenda
- ~~4.5.~~ Treasurer's report
- ~~5.6.~~ Audit Committee report
- ~~6.7.~~ Bylaws and Rules Committee report
- ~~7.8.~~ Election of Judicial Committee (in appropriate years)
- ~~8.9.~~ Election of Party officers and at-large members of the National Committee
- ~~9.10.~~ Platform Committee report
- ~~10.11.~~ Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)
- ~~11.12.~~ Resolutions
- ~~12.13.~~ Other business

### **RULE 3: ELECTION BALLOTING PROCEDURES**

[...]

2. Each delegation shall conduct its vote [electronically or](#) by written ballot delivered to the delegation chair who shall tabulate the votes on a delegation tally sheet provided for this purpose. [If by written ballot,](#) ~~the~~ delegation chair then submits the ~~if~~ [delegation's](#) tally sheet ~~with in~~ a sealed envelope containing each of the delegate ballots to the tellers. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Convention Chair shall declare the voting closed. After each delegation [voting by written ballot](#) has tabulated its own vote totals, before submitting the totals to the Secretary, the tellers shall review the ballot tabulation for accuracy and cosign the delegation totals. After the Secretary or the tellers have recorded all delegation submissions, the state-by-state delegation totals for each candidate or choice shall be displayed on a projection screen for each delegation to review for accuracy. During the period of time allotted for such votes, the business of the convention shall continue without interruption.

[...]

- ~~6. In cases where computer readable ballots are used, each delegate must sign the ballot and submit it to the delegation chair. After verifying that the number of votes cast does not exceed the number the state is entitled to, the chair of each delegation shall submit the ballots to the Secretary.~~
6. If approved by the convention, electronic balloting may be used instead of manual tabulation by affiliate delegation provided that written notice of the electronic balloting system to be used is published on the Party website at least 90 days prior to the regular convention. A delegate must be physically present to cast an electronic ballot. The electronic balloting system must provide for the following:
- a. Each delegate has the ability to cast an electronic ballot that produces a conforming physical ballot; or a vote by an electronic ballot accompanied by the delegate's contemporaneous completion of a conforming physical ballot.
  - b. Delegates must deliver their physical ballot to their delegation chair, who then places them into a sealed envelope and delivers that envelope to the tellers.
  - c. The system generates a report of votes by affiliate delegation for display to the convention.
  - d. The system allows delegates to cast write-in votes.
  - e. If a recount is successfully ordered, the recount must be done using the physical ballots collected by the Delegation Chairs.

**Proviso:** This amendment shall not go into effect until the adjournment sine die of the convention at which it is adopted.

## **WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED**

### **RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS**

The standing order of business for a regular convention shall be as follows:

1. Call to order
2. Credentials Committee report
3. Vote to authorize electronic balloting
4. Adoption of agenda
5. Treasurer's report
6. Audit Committee report
7. Bylaws and Rules Committee report
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9. Election of Party officers and at-large members of the National Committee
10. Platform Committee report
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### **RULE 3: ELECTION BALLOTING PROCEDURES**

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2. Each delegation shall conduct its vote electronically or by written ballot delivered to the delegation chair who shall tabulate the votes on a delegation tally sheet provided for this purpose. If by written ballot, the delegation chair then submits the delegation's tally sheet in a sealed envelope containing each of the delegate ballots to the tellers. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Convention Chair shall declare the voting closed. After each delegation voting by written ballot has tabulated its own vote totals, before submitting the totals to the Secretary, the tellers shall review the ballot tabulation for accuracy and cosign the delegation totals. After the Secretary or the tellers have recorded all delegation submissions, the state-by-state delegation totals for each candidate or choice shall be displayed on a projection screen for each delegation to review for accuracy. During the period of time allotted for such votes, the business of the convention shall continue without interruption.

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  - b. Delegates must deliver their physical ballot to their delegation chair, who then places them into a sealed envelope and delivers that envelope to the tellers.
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  - d. The system allows delegates to cast write-in votes.
  - e. If a recount is successfully ordered, the recount must be done using the physical ballots collected by the Delegation Chairs.

## PROPOSAL 13 – AFFILIATE ENDORSEMENTS

**Rationale:** There is ongoing debate about whether affiliates should be permitted to nominate fusion candidates (candidates running with both a Libertarian Party ballot line and a Republican or Democrat or Green, etc. ballot line). Our current bylaws restrict endorsement based on membership in other parties. However, this restriction is confusing because many other political parties do not have membership in the way Libertarians do. Voter registration is often a better indicator of partisan identity, but many states do not have partisan registration. This proposal would explicitly allow fusion candidates if their primary identity (party registration, when available) is Libertarian.

### CURRENT WORDING

#### ARTICLE 5: AFFILIATE PARTIES

[...]

4. No affiliate party shall endorse any candidate for public office in any partisan election who is a member of another party for public office in any partisan election. No affiliate party shall take any action inconsistent with the Statement of Principles or these bylaws.

[...]

### MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

#### ARTICLE 5: AFFILIATE PARTIES

[...]

4. No affiliate party shall endorse any candidate for public office in any partisan election unless the candidate: a) is not listed under any other partisan ballot line unless the candidate is also listed under the affiliate party's ballot line; and b) is registered to vote under the partisan designation of the affiliate party, if available. ~~who is a member of another party for public office in any partisan election.~~ No affiliate party shall take any action inconsistent with the Statement of Principles or these bylaws.

[...]

### WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED

#### ARTICLE 5: AFFILIATE PARTIES

[...]

4. No affiliate party shall endorse any candidate for public office in any partisan election unless the candidate: a) is not listed under any other partisan ballot line unless the candidate is also listed under the affiliate party's ballot line; and b) is registered to vote under the partisan designation of the affiliate party, if available. No affiliate party shall take any action inconsistent with the Statement of Principles or these bylaws.

[...]



## PROPOSAL 14 - CHANGE DELEGATE ALLOCATION FORMULA

**Rationale:** The current delegate allocation is based in part on each state's share of presidential vote totals, meaning that an affiliate party could be allocated less delegates if they were to fail to qualify for the ballot due to onerous ballot access laws in their state. This proposal will separate delegate allocation from presidential vote totals, while maintaining a similar total number of delegates. It will also encourage affiliate parties wishing to increase their delegate allocation to seek out more members for the national LP, which will help with the LNC's bottom line.

### CURRENT WORDING

#### ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

[...]

##### 3. Affiliate Party Delegate Entitlements:

Each affiliate party shall be entitled to send delegates to each regular convention on the following basis:

- a. One delegate for each 0.14 percent, or fraction thereof, of the total Party sustaining membership in that affiliate; provided that at least one such delegate must be a resident of that State or District.
- b. One delegate for each 0.35 percent, or fraction thereof, of the votes cast nationwide for the Libertarian Party candidate in the most recent presidential election, cast in that affiliate's state. If a state conducts its presidential election via Ranked-Choice or Instant Runoff Voting, the ballots for the Libertarian candidate as tabulated in the first round of ballot counting will be used for this purpose.

[...]

### MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

#### ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

[...]

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- ~~b. One delegate for each 0.35 percent, or fraction thereof, of the votes cast nationwide for the Libertarian Party candidate in the most recent~~

~~presidential election, cast in that affiliate's state. If a state conducts its presidential election via Ranked-Choice or Instant Runoff Voting, the ballots for the Libertarian candidate as tabulated in the first round of ballot counting will be used for this purpose.~~

Each affiliate party shall be entitled to send delegates to each regular convention, provided that at least one such delegate must be a resident of that State or District. The number of delegates allocated to each affiliate shall be one delegate for each 0.1 percent, or fraction thereof, of the total Party sustaining membership in that affiliate.

[...]

**Proviso:** This amendment shall not go into effect until the adjournment sine die of the convention at which it is adopted.

## **WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED**

### **ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS**

[...]

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[...]

## **PROPOSAL 15 – CLARIFY QUORUM ISSUES**

**Rationale:** There has been a long-standing debate about whether our bylaws allow “check-out.” The ambiguity should be cleared up. With a check-out procedure, the Credentials Committee would need to staff a desk with significant volunteer time. This proposal eliminates the ambiguity by explicitly stating that checkouts do not affect quorum requirements.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS**

[...]

8. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 40% of the total number of delegates registered in attendance at the Convention.

[...]

### **MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL**

#### **ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS**

[...]

8. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 40% of the total number of delegates registered in attendance at the Convention, irrespective of whether some may have departed.

[...]

### **WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED**

#### **ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS**

[...]

8. Quorum

A quorum shall consist of 40% of the total number of delegates registered in attendance at the Convention, irrespective of whether some may have departed.

[...]

## **PROPOSAL 16 – JUDICIAL COMMITTEE AND APPEAL OF LNC**

**Rationale:** Currently, members can only appeal a “decision” of the LNC which is defined by RONR as an action approved by at least the majority of the subject body. Under these strictures, the LNC or Party Chair (or presumably any LNC member but more likely to be an Officer) could blatantly violate the bylaws, and it would be unappealable if there never was a vote of the LNC; they just turned a blind eye.

### **CURRENT WORDING**

#### **ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

[...]

12. Upon appeal by ten percent of delegates credentialed at the most recent regular convention or one percent of the Party sustaining members the Judicial Committee shall consider the question of whether or not a decision or of the National Committee contravenes specified sections of the bylaws. If the decision is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it shall be declared null and void.

[...]

#### **ARTICLE 12: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE**

[...]

2. The subject matter jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee is limited to consideration of only those matters expressly identified as follows:
  - a. suspension of affiliate parties (Article 5, Section 6),
  - b. suspension of officers (Article 6, Section 7),
  - c. suspension of National Committee members-at-large (Article 7, Section 5),
  - d. voiding of National Committee decisions (Article 7, Section 12),
  - e. challenges to platform planks (Rule 5, Section 7),
  - f. challenges to resolutions (Rule 6, Section 2), and
  - g. suspension of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates (Article 14, Section 5).

[...]

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12. An appeal may be made of any action or inaction by the National Committee in the present term by written petition of one percent of the Party sustaining members at the time the petition was submitted. The Judicial Committee shall consider the question of whether or not the National Committee action or inaction contravenes specified sections of the bylaws or those documents to which the bylaws refers. If an action is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it shall be declared null and void. If an inaction is determined to be in violation, the National Committee shall be ordered to remediate either by the remedy sought by the appellant or another conforming remedy.

[...]

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  - d. voiding of National Committee ~~decisions~~ actions or inactions (Article 7, Section 12),
  - e. challenges to platform planks (Rule 5, Section 7),
  - f. challenges to resolutions (Rule 6, Section 2), and
  - g. suspension of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates (Article 14, Section 5).

[...]

## WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED

## ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL COMMITTEE

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members at the time the petition was submitted. The Judicial Committee shall consider the question of whether or not the National Committee action or inaction contravenes specified sections of the bylaws or those documents to which the bylaws refers. If an action is vetoed by the Judicial Committee, it shall be declared null and void. If an inaction is determined to be in violation, the National Committee shall be ordered to remediate either by the remedy sought by the appellant or another conforming remedy.

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  - e. challenges to platform planks (Rule 5, Section 7),
  - f. challenges to resolutions (Rule 6, Section 2), and
  - g. suspension of Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates (Article 14, Section 5).

[...]

## **POTENTIAL ADDITIONAL PROPOSALS**

If there is time remaining, the second tier of proposals passed by the Committee. These proposal can be viewed in the Committee's "yellow-lined" proposal report here: **INSERT LINK**