

The Libertarian Party of Texas Rules

Apr 10, 2022

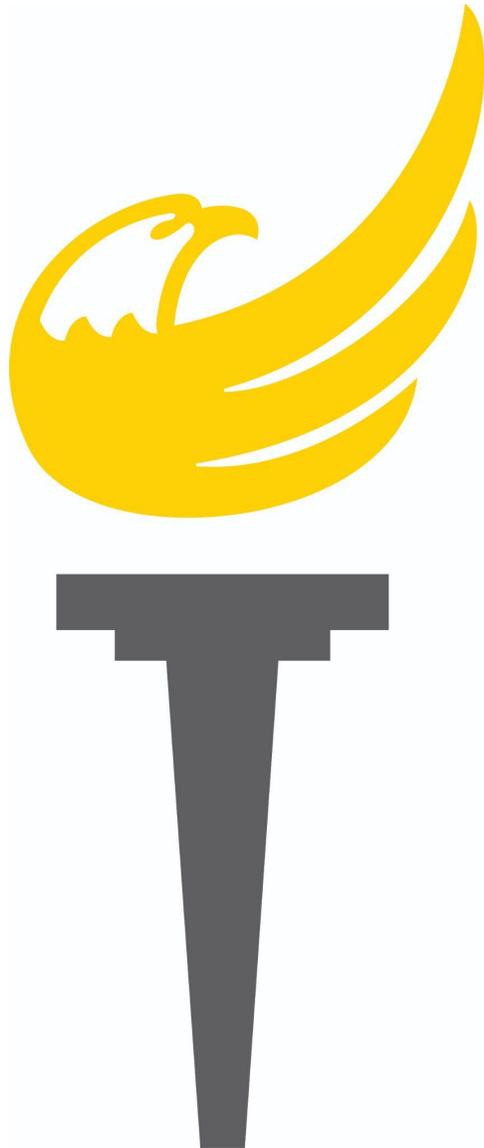


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Article I. Statement of Principles.	4
Article II. Definitions	4
Article III. Name, Duration, Purposes and Membership.	5
III.a. Name.	5
III.b. Bylaws.	5
III.c. Duration.	6
III.d. Purposes.	6
III.e. Membership.	6
III.e.1. Voting Membership Eligibility.	6
III.e.2. Voting Membership.	6
III.e.3. Termination of Voting Membership.	7
III.e.4. Lifetime Members	7
III.e.5. No dues for Voting Members.	7
III.e.6. Other Classes of Members.	7
III.e.7. Membership in General.	7
III.e.8. Nondiscrimination.	7
Article IV. Party Organization.	7
IV.a. State Executive Committee.	7
IV.a.1. Composition.	8
IV.a.2. Terms of Office.	8
IV.a.3. Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members.	8
IV.a.4. Swearing In and Agreements	8
IV.a.5. Method of Selection.	9
IV.a.6. Duties.	9
IV.a.7. Initial SLEC Meeting	10
IV.a.8. Removal of Committee Members	10
IV.a.8.i. Removal for Absences.	10
IV.a.8.ii. Removal by Recall.	10
IV.a.8.iii. Removal for Opposition	11
IV.a.8.iv. Removal for Cause.	11
IV.a.9. Filling Vacancies.	11
IV.b Judicial Committee	12
IV.b.1. Composition and Quorum	12
IV.b.2. Qualifications	12
IV.b.3. Vacancies	12
IV.b.4. Jurisdiction.	12
IV.b.5. Organization and Process	13

IV.c. County Affiliates.	13
IV.c.1. County Governing Authority.	13
IV.c.2. Affiliation of Counties	13
IV.c.2.i. Establishment of Provisional Affiliate and Appointing a County Chair	13
IV.c.2.ii Transition from Provisional Affiliate	14
IV.c.3. Precinct Chairs.	14
IV.c.4. Automatic Disaffiliation for Failure to Hold a County Convention.	14
IV.c.5. County Disaffiliation.	14
IV.d. District and Precinct Executive Committees.	15
IV.d.1. District Executive Committees.	15
IV.d.2. Commissioner’s Precincts and Justice Precincts Executive Committees.	15
IV.e. General Rules for the State Executive Committee.	16
IV.e.1. Governing Authority.	16
IV.e.2. Powers of the State Executive Committee.	16
Article V. Party Conventions.	16
V.a. Precinct Conventions.	16
V.b. County Conventions.	17
V.b.1. County Conventions General	17
V.b.2. State Delegates and Alternates from a County Affiliate.	18
V.c. District Conventions.	18
V.d. State Conventions.	19
V.d.1. Composition and When Held.	19
V.d.2. Apportionment of Delegates and Alternates.	19
V.d.3. Seating of Delegates and Alternates.	19
V.d.4. Committees of the Convention.	20
V.d.4.i. Committees Described.	20
V.d.4.ii. Membership of Committees.	20
V.d.4.iii. Credentials Committee	20
V.d.4.iv. Committee Procedures in General.	20
V.d.4.v. Right to Submit Proposals to Committees.	21
V.d.4.vi. Convening of committees.	21
V.d.4.vii. Committee Reports.	21
V.d.4.viii. Procedures for Platform Committee Reports.	21
V.d.5. Order of Business.	22
V.d.6. Functionaries of the State Convention.	23
V.d.7. Voting in District Caucuses.	23
V.d.8. Resolutions, Statement of Principles and Platform Amendments.	23
V.d.9. Election of Presidential Electors.	24
V.d.10. Election of Delegates and Alternates to National Conventions.	24
V.d.10.i. National Delegate Eligibility	24
V.d.10.ii. Number of Delegates.	24

V.d.10.iii. National Alternates for National Delegates.	24
V.d.10.iii.A. National Alternates Election	24
V.d.10.iv. Selection by State Executive Committee.	24
V.d.10.v. Finality of Delegate Selection.	25
V.d.11. Opportunities for Expressing Disagreements with Platform.	25
V.e. General Rules Governing Party Conventions.	25
V.e.1. Governing Authority.	25
V.e.2. Eligibility to Vote at Conventions.	25
V.e.3. Quorum.	25
V.e.4. Voting Procedures.	26
V.e.5. Limits on Discussion.	26
V.e.6. Petition to Place Item on Agenda.	26
V.e.7. Nominations and Elections.	27
V.e.7.i. Filing Procedures.	27
V.e.7.ii. Nominating Procedures.	27
V.e.7.iii. Exclusions from Eligibility for Nomination to Public and Party Office.	27
V.e.7.iv. Declining to Nominate or Elect Candidate for Office.	27
V.e.7.v. Majority Required	27
V.e.7.vi. Right to Not Elect Candidates.	27
V.e.8. Balloting for Candidates for Public and Party Office.	28
V.e.8.i. Single Seat Balloting Procedures.	28
V.e.8.ii. Multiple Seat Balloting Procedures.	28
V.e.9. News Media Right to Attend.	29
Article VI. Adoption, Status, Amendment and Publication of Rules.	29
VI.a. Effective Date of Original Rules.	29
VI.b. Permanent Amendments.	29
VI.c. Temporary Amendments.	29
VI.d. Statement of Principles of the Party Bylaws Listing.	29
VI.e. Effective Date of Permanent Amendments.	30
VI.f. Permanence and Superiority of Rules.	30
VI.f.1. Superiority.	30
VI.f.2. Permanence.	30
VI.g. Publication of Rules and Amendments.	30
Certification.	30

Article I. Statement of Principles.

We, the Libertarian Party of Texas (LPTexas), seek the maximum protection for the rights of all people against any violation, be it by other people, other nations, or our own government. We oppose the initiation of force, threat of harm, coercion, or fraud as a means of achieving personal, political, or social goals.

Every human being is born sole owner of his or her body and mind, free to live and act as he or she sees fit. It is our principle that, so long as a person does not violate the rights of others, he or she should be left free and unrestrained.

LPTexas opposes coercion of peaceful individuals. Governments may only exist for the sole purpose of defending the freedoms of people. These freedoms include the right to life; the right to liberty of thought, speech and action; and the right to property.

Government is, essentially, raw concentrated force, and thus, prone to abuse. It is established and tolerated only as the agent and servant of the people-- not their master. The force of government must be used only in response to an attack, fraud, or other initiation of force against an individual, group or government by another individual, group or government.

Governments have no business interfering in voluntary and contractual relations amongst individuals. All people should be equal before the law, free to deal with one another in a free market, the only system compatible with the principle of individual rights.

Government should reflect the consent of the governed and not subject individuals to tyranny of the majority. Where it exists, government must be kept to the minimum necessary to protect the rights of individuals. LPTexas holds that all human interaction should be voluntary and consensual, in accordance with the Non-Aggression Principle.

Article II. Definitions

The following definitions will apply throughout all Party governing documents.

“Affiliation certificate” means a document that may be requested by a person affiliating with LPTexas which adheres to Sec. 162.009 of Texas Election Code.

“County convention” means the convention in a county described by Texas Election Code Sec. 181.061 (c).

“Declaration of vacancy” means a document describing the current circumstances and history that led to an office being declared vacant

“Delegation leader” means a member of a delegation whom a delegation has selected to represent them.

“District convention” means the convention in a government defined political district required to be held by Texas Election Code Sec. 181.061 (b).

“District representative” means a SLEC member that represents a Texas senatorial district.

“General election” means an election, other than a primary election, that regularly recurs on fixed dates at which offices of the federal, state, and county governments are elected.

“Gubernatorial election” means the general election to elect a governor for a full term.

“LPTexas” and “Party” mean the Libertarian Party of Texas

“Party office” means any specified position to which a person can be elected to within the Party.

“Party officer” means a statewide official of LPTexas listed as Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

“Plank” means an issue statement listed on the Party platform that is contained under its own unique heading identifier.

“Precinct convention” means a convention of a voting precinct in the county as described by Texas Election Code Sec. 181.061 (c)

“Public office” means office elected by the public or appointed by the state or county.

“Qualified Participant” means a delegate or alternate currently able to vote and conduct business at a convention of the Party.

“Regional caucus” means a meeting of a group of qualified participants that are registered to vote within a given region.

“State Convention” means the convention of LPTexas described by Texas Election Code Sec. 181.061 (a).

“Unaffiliated county” means a county that is not recognized by LPTexas as being affiliated.

“Voter registration certificate”, also known as “voter registration”, “voter registration card”, or “voter ID” means the documentation of voter registration issued by the state of Texas.

“Voting Member” means a class of membership as defined in II.e.2. Voting Membership.

Article III. Name, Duration, Purposes and Membership.

III.a. Name.

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

III.b. Bylaws.

These bylaws shall be considered the Rules of the Party for the purposes of Texas Election Code (Title 10, Subtitle A, Chapter 163).

III.c. Duration.

The duration of this organization shall be perpetual.

III.d. 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:

1. Nominating and supporting Libertarian candidates for public offices;
2. Entering into political information activities;
3. Engaging the Texas Legislature to move state law in alignment with the Party's Statement of Principles and platform;
4. Establishing and supporting county Libertarian county affiliates across the state;
5. Building Party infrastructure, staff, and support systems as needed to fulfill these purposes; and
6. Affiliating with the national Libertarian Party.

III.e. Membership.

III.e.1. Voting Membership Eligibility.

A person is eligible to become a Voting Member of the Party if the person:

- i. is a qualified Texas voter;
- ii. signs a statement of general agreement with the Party's Statement of Principles;
- iii. signs the Libertarian Pledge: "I certify that I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."; and
- iv. is not:
 - A. affiliated with any other political party;
 - B. seeking nomination for public or party office in or by any other political party, or;
 - C. a candidate for election to public office by any other political party.

III.e.2. Voting Membership.

- i. At any time an eligible person may become a Voting Member by affiliating with the Party and meeting the III.e.1 Voting Membership Eligibility requirements..
- ii. On request of a person desiring to affiliate with the Party, a member of a County Executive committee for the county in which the person resides shall administer the oath of party affiliation. In unaffiliated counties a member of the SLEC, a person specially designated by the SLEC, the State Chair, or person otherwise allowed by Texas law shall affiliate the person making the request by administering the oath of party affiliation.
- iii. After administering the oath, the person shall stamp the Party's name on the person's voter registration certificate or issue the person an affiliation certificate containing:
 - A. the name of the person to whom the certificate is issued;
 - B. the name of the Party ("Libertarian Party of Texas");
 - C. the name and official position of the issuer;
 - D. the function at which the affiliation occurred, if applicable; and
 - E. the date of affiliation.

III.e.3. Termination of Voting Membership.

A person's Voting Membership shall terminate if the person:

- i. submits written declaration terminating his/her Voting Membership to any Party official;
- ii. ceases to be eligible to affiliate with the Libertarian Party of Texas;

- iii. ceases to be eligible for Voting Membership under III.e.1 Voting Membership Eligibility;
or
- iv. fails to affiliate with the Party on the date of the next Precinct Conventions.

III.e.4. Lifetime Members

The SLEC shall manage policies pertaining to Lifetime Memberships that will exist for as long as a person is alive. The donation amount required to become a Lifetime Member shall be managed by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the SLEC but not fall below \$1836.

Such Lifetime Members shall be recognized as such, and shall be granted any benefits, perquisites, or entitlements as may be established by LPTexas from time to time for as long as they live. Further, each such Lifetime Member shall receive a document signed by all then-current officers of LPTexas certifying their Lifetime Member status.

This section of the bylaws or any bylaws alteration pertaining to the removal of the Lifetime Member class must be approved by a state convention with three-fourths (3/4) vote.

III.e.5. No dues for Voting Members.

No dues shall be required for a person to become a Voting Member.

III.e.6. Other Classes of Members.

The SLEC may create, eliminate or modify other classes of Membership. Such classes may or may not require Voting Membership, and may or may not require payment of such contributions or dues as the SLEC shall deem proper. Such classes shall not grant any preference or privilege regarding the strength of votes or the manner of voting, or in election or appointment to office.

III.e.7. Membership in General.

All Voting Members, and all Members of other classes created by the SLEC, shall be considered Members of the Party.

III.e.8. Nondiscrimination.

No eligible person shall be denied or restricted his or her rights of Membership and participation.

Article IV. Party Organization.

IV.a. State Executive Committee.

The state Executive Committee hereinafter shall be referred to as "SLEC" which stands for "State Libertarian Executive Committee".

IV.a.1. Composition.

The SLEC of the Party shall be composed of:

- i. A Chair;
- ii. A Vice Chair;

- iii. A Secretary;
- iv. A Treasurer;
- v. District Representatives from State Senatorial Districts;
- vi. Member(s) of the National Committee representing Texas *ex officio* with voice but no vote.

IV.a.2. Terms of Office.

The term of office of all members of the SLEC shall be from the final adjournment of the State Convention at which they are elected until the final adjournment of the next state Convention.

IV.a.3. Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members.

- i. All Party officers and all members of the SLEC must be Voting Members of the Party.
- ii. All Party officers and all members of the SLEC 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.
- iii. No person shall hold more than one membership on the SLEC at the same time.
- iv. No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without having submitted an application to the Party Secretary that indicates interest in filling the position, and verifies Voting Member status. SLEC shall maintain a policy concerning the distribution of applicant information to election participants.
- v. No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without first signing the most recent Party Platform, noting any disagreements with planks, and then submitting it to the state Party Secretary. This document shall be made available to all participants voting on the election.
- vi. No person shall be elected to the State Executive Committee without first signing agreement to the Libertarian pledge, "I certify that I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."

IV.a.4. Swearing In and Agreements

The following items shall be completed within twenty (20) days of taking office or the member shall be removed and their seat be declared vacant:

- i. Each member shall take and sign the following oath, to be submitted to the Secretary, before serving on the SLEC: "I swear (or affirm) to uphold the bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Texas, to fulfill my duties in accordance with the party bylaws, and to represent the Statement of Principles and policies to the best of my ability when acting in my duties as a representative of the Party."
- ii. Each member shall be required to sign and submit to the Secretary the following statement before serving on the SLEC: "I have reviewed the party bylaws, SLEC bylaws, and party policy documents. I acknowledge my responsibility to understand, follow, and maintain such documents in accordance with the LPTexas bylaws and policies."
- iii. Each member shall be required to sign a confidentiality agreement, as maintained by the SLEC, before serving on the SLEC. Any existing confidentiality agreements or related policies may be amended at a state convention.

IV.a.5. Method of Selection.

- i The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer shall be elected by majority vote of all the qualified participants at each State Convention.
- ii The qualified participants 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.

IV.a.6. Duties.

- i. The Chair shall be the principal and presiding officer of the SLEC and the Party, and may perform the duties of any other Party officer whenever such an officer is unable to do so.
- ii. The Vice Chair shall perform the duties of Chair whenever the Chair is unable to do so, and shall assist the Chair.
- iii. The Secretary shall:
 - A. keep such minutes and records as are necessary for the operations of the Party;
 - B. manage the balloting process of the SLEC;
 - C. give all notices required by these bylaws;
 - D. maintain and certify the official copies of the bylaws and Platform;
 - E. maintain a roster of names, addresses, emails, other electronic communication identifiers, and telephone numbers of members of:
 1. the SLEC;
 2. County Chairs of Affiliated Counties;
 3. candidates for the Party's nomination for public office;
 - F. furnish the minutes and/or transcripts of the Party to all members of the SLEC upon request;
 - G. maintain a record of a sunset date for each platform plank;
- iv. The Treasurer shall:
 - A. maintain the Party bank accounts and other financial assets;
 - B. ensure that the SLEC is aware of the financial condition of the Party;
 - C. issue financial statements to the SLEC at least quarterly; and
 - D. ensure that party funds are disbursed only according to these bylaws, state, and federal law.
- v. The District Representatives shall actively work to further the growth of the Party. This includes, but is not limited to, communicating current organizational status within their districts to the Party, communicating Party information to their districts, assisting with candidate recruitment efforts, developing county affiliates, oversight of Party administration, and assisting to ensure proper function of official Party events.
- vi. All members of the SLEC shall further have all other authority and duties implied by their title and expressed or implied by these bylaws, or assigned by the Chair or the SLEC, and shall perform all other duties required of his or her office by applicable federal and state law, or by action of the SLEC or by these rules. All members shall maintain a working knowledge of the parties governing documents.

IV.a.7. Initial SLEC Meeting

Within the same day of the final adjournment of the State Convention the SLEC shall convene a business meeting; for the purposes of III.A.6.ii (B), this section shall constitute proper notice.

The SLEC in the Bylaws of SLEC shall maintain a bylaw governing the agenda of the first meeting, and shall not adjourn *sine die* without completing all items outlined in that agenda.

IV.a.8. Removal of Committee Members

IV.a.8.i. Removal for Absences.

- A. If a Party officer or district representative is absent from two successive meetings of the SLEC, at the call to order of the second meeting that position shall be declared to be vacant.
- B. An absence shall be counted against any meeting for the purpose of business of the SLEC that requires a quorum and for which two (2) weeks notice was given.
- C. Whenever the SLEC removes a member of the Committee, the Secretary shall officially notify that member of his or her removal.

IV.a.8.ii. Removal by Recall.

A “Recall Petition” is a document containing a set of valid signatures that shall be clearly marked as a “recall”, and state that “By affixing your signature and information to this Recall Petition, you call for the SLEC Officer or District Representative indicated on this form be removed from the SLEC immediately.” Each signer shall print their name as it appears on their voter registration, signature, county, date of birth, and voter identification number. The signer must also include a phone number or email address to aid in verification questions.

The Officers shall designate a person or persons to collect the Recall Petition and verify that it adheres to the signature requirement. Upon verification the document shall be made available to the SLEC, and the listed SLEC member shall be immediately removed from their position.

To remove any SLEC member, including any Officer, one of the following processes shall be used to obtain a set of valid signatures for the Recall Petition:

- A. Obtaining a Recall Petition that contains the signatures of a majority of Voting Members that were registered as attending at the election of an officer or SLEC member according to the roll recorded in the relevant minutes, or
- B. Obtaining a formal Recall Petition that contains the signatures of a majority of Voting Members within the Party in the case of an officer, or the district in the case of a SLEC member. The full roster of Voting Members in each county involved in the recall must be made available to the state Party for verification or the signatures from that county shall be invalid.

IV.a.8.iii. Removal for Opposition

No member of the SLEC may use any resources associated with or carrying the name of the Libertarian Party to promote or endorse any candidate from another political party. Such members in violation of this bylaw may be removed at the discretion of the SLEC by a simple majority vote of the entire SLEC.

IV.a.8.iv. Removal for Cause.

- A. A member of the SLEC may be removed for causes other than repeated absences from meetings by a three-fourths vote of the other members of the Committee.
- B. 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:
 - 1. the appointment of an investigating committee;
 - 2. the adoption of a resolution preferring specific charges;
 - 3. setting a special executive committee meeting for a trial; and
 - 4. the holding of a trial of the accused.

IV.a.9. Filling Vacancies.

Should a vacancy exist in the office of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer, the SLEC may fill the vacancy for the remainder of the term.

Should a vacancy exist in a District Representative seat the seat may be filled. The following procedure shall be used when filling a vacancy.

- i. For the purposes of this section, an "Eligible County" is an affiliated county that is wholly or partially within the senate district.
- ii. Voting Members shall be eligible to be nominated only after they have met all requirements set forth in IV.a.3 (Qualifications of State Executive Committee Members).
- iii. A majority of CEC members in an Eligible County may nominate one Voting Member from their own county for each available position in that district and send nominations to the state chair.
- iv. The State Chair shall notify and communicate relevant qualification documentation to all Eligible Counties and to the SLEC for the nominations.
- v. Following the initial nomination notification from the State Chair, all Eligible Counties have thirty (30) days to submit additional nominations which shall be shared with all Eligible Counties and the SLEC as in subsection (iv).
- vi. Each eligible county may cast a ballot indicating a for or against vote for each of the nominated candidates starting thirty (30) days after the initial nomination notification from the State Chair and continuing to forty five (45) days after the initial nomination notification from the State Chair. Any votes not received after that time will be considered as against the candidate(s).
- vii. The procedure for determining how each Eligible County's ballot is cast shall be in accordance with that county's bylaws that are on file with the Party.
- viii. Each cast ballot shall be submitted to the State Secretary, or their designees.
- ix. Any position is considered filled when a nominee has received votes in favor from a majority of all eligible counties. The nominee receiving the highest number of votes shall fill the first position available, and any additional positions shall be filled according to the next highest majority number of votes received.

IV.b Judicial Committee

IV.b.1. Composition and Quorum

The Judicial Committee shall be composed of seven (7) Party members elected at each regular state convention occurring in a non-gubernatorial election year. The members of the Judicial Committee shall select the chair of the Judicial Committee from among themselves. Any five (5) members of the committee shall constitute a quorum. The members of the Judicial Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the convention, or immediately upon appointment if appointed outside of a convention.

IV.b.2. Qualifications

In order to qualify to be a member of the Judicial Committee, a person must meet the following:

- i. Is currently not nor have been a member of the SLEC (regardless of voting status) for the previous one (1) year.
- ii. Is not currently a member of any committee of the SLEC.
- iii. Is not currently a member of any committee of the convention of LPTexas.
- iv. Is not currently serving as volunteer staff of LPTexas.
- v. Have been a Voting Member for at least four (4) consecutive years at the time of their election or appointment.

IV.b.3. Vacancies

The SLEC and Judicial Committee members shall vote to appoint new members if vacancies occur, and such appointees may serve until the final adjournment of the next regular non-gubernatorial convention. Such appointments must obtain two-thirds (2/3) of all those eligible to vote

IV.b.4. Jurisdiction.

The Judicial Committee review of a Party action shall be limited to the consistency of that action against the Bylaws and other governing documents of the Party.

The subject matter jurisdiction of the Judicial Committee is limited to consideration of only those matters expressly identified as follows:

- i. Censuring a Voting Member
- ii. Removal of a member of the SLEC
- iii. Qualification of State Executive Committee Members (III.a.3.)
- iv. Failure to hold a convention (III.b.4.)
- v. County governance (III.b.1.)

IV.b.5. Organization and Process

The Judicial Committee shall elect a Chair, who shall receive all appeals and petitions and schedule hearings so as to obtain a quorum of the Judicial Committee. When a hearing is requested, the Chair shall decide to accept or reject the appeal or petition. If the Chair accepts the appeal or petition, the Chair shall set a hearing date within ten (10) days of receiving the request. If the appeal or petition is rejected, the Chair shall notify the requestor and the SLEC within ten (10) days of receiving the request. If the Chair has not accepted or rejected the appeal or petition within ten (10) days of receiving the appeal, the Judicial Committee shall be considered to have taken no action on the matter at hand.

The Judicial Committee shall provide at least ten (10) days notice to each of the parties to a hearing, unless an earlier date is agreed to by the Judicial Committee and the participants. The Judicial Committee shall hold a hearing within thirty (30) days of receiving a request, unless otherwise specified. All parties to a hearing shall have the right to present their case before the Committee.

The Judicial Committee shall provide a written ruling within seven (7) days of the conclusion of the hearing to all participants and SLEC. The minutes of all Judicial Committee proceedings shall be reported to the SLEC at the next normal meeting of the SLEC. In the event that the Judicial Committee fails to issue a written ruling within the timeframe required, the Judicial Committee shall be considered to have taken no action on the matter at hand.

IV.c. County Affiliates.

IV.c.1. County Governing Authority.

- i. There shall be in each affiliated county a County Executive Committee composed of a County Chair and such other officials of that county affiliate as the bylaws of that county affiliate may designate.
- ii. County bylaws shall designate a procedure for filling vacancies on the County Executive Committee.
- iii. County Chairs are required to provide a copy of the county bylaws to the state Party Secretary upon any adoption or alteration of said county bylaws. In the absence of county bylaws being on file, the SLEC has the authority to recognize a qualified individual as County Chair in the event of a dispute.
- iv. All County Executive Committee members must be Voting Members of the Party.

IV.c.2. Affiliation of Counties

IV.c.2.i. Establishment of Provisional Affiliate and Appointing a County Chair

The SLEC shall maintain a policy to establish a provisional county affiliate in any currently unaffiliated county. This policy shall include a process for vetting and appointing a County Chair for the provisional affiliate and assigning the provisional affiliate a set of bylaws, which shall include rules pertaining to establishment of a County Executive Committee.

IV.c.2.ii Transition from Provisional Affiliate

A county affiliate shall no longer be considered provisional when it has successfully conducted a County Convention and submitted all records thereof to the State Party.

SLEC retains the right to disaffiliate a provisional county affiliate at any time for any reason by 2/3 vote. A provisional county affiliate shall be considered disaffiliated when all recognized members of the CEC have resigned.

IV.c.3. Precinct Chairs.

In counties without local rules specifying a procedure for selecting Precinct Chairs, the County Executive Committee shall select the Precinct Chairs. Within three (3) days of the election or appointment of a Precinct Chair, the name, address, phone number and email address of said Chair shall be sent to the State Chair.

IV.c.4. Automatic Disaffiliation for Failure to Hold a County Convention.

Any County Affiliate that, for whatever reason, fails to hold a County Convention in accordance with these bylaws or who fails to deliver within ten (10) days after a County Convention the county convention documents to the State Chair, or their designees, shall be disaffiliated.

The county convention documents of a County Convention are:

- i. A roster of participants in the County Convention;
- ii. A list of elected CEC members;
- iii. A copy of current county bylaws if updated;
- iv. A list of candidates, if any, nominated by the convention and certified in accordance with Texas Election Code Sec. 181.068;
- v. The minutes of the county convention;
- vi. A list of elected district delegates, if any; and
- vii. A list of elected state delegates and alternates, if any.

The presiding officer of the County Convention shall make reasonable efforts to obtain the voter registration ID, date of birth, full name, address, and email address or phone number for any persons listed on any roster or list required by this section.

Failure to deliver this information could result in rejection or disqualification as indicated in other sections of these bylaws.

IV.c.5. County Disaffiliation.

No motion to disaffiliate shall be brought within 90 days of the date of the precinct conventions.

The state Party may disaffiliate a county using the following process:

- i. A SLEC member moving to disaffiliate a county shall notify the members of the SLEC in writing no less than thirty (30) days before such a vote is to occur.

- ii. The State Secretary shall notify the County Executive Committee of the county to be disaffiliated at least twenty (20) days prior to such a vote.
- iii. A representative of the county to be disaffiliated may be chosen by the CEC of that county and shall be granted speaking privileges during consideration of the motion to disaffiliate.
- iv. At least three-fourths (3/4) of the entire body of the SLEC must vote in the affirmative to disaffiliate the county.
- v. From the date of the SLEC vote, a Voting Member registered to vote in the county to be disaffiliated has ten (10) days to initiate an appeal. If an appeal is not initiated in the time given, the disaffiliation becomes effective immediately. An appeal shall be resolved by the following:
 - A. The Secretary shall send out an email appeal notice to the county chairs of all affiliated counties once an appeal has been initiated.
 - B. County affiliates may vote to reverse the decision of the SLEC by majority vote of the CEC of each affiliated county.
 - C. Each county that was affiliated when the appeal notice was given shall be allowed to vote.
 - D. Each county shall submit a record of its vote with how each CEC member voted to the Secretary within thirty (30) days from the date of the Secretary's email appeal notice to all affiliated counties.
 - E. Each voting county shall be allocated the same number of votes as delegates allocated in the most recent state convention, or the minimum allocation in the case the county was not affiliated as of the last state convention.
 - F. A majority of all possible votes is required to reverse the decision of the SLEC.

IV.d. District and Precinct Executive Committees.

IV.d.1. District Executive Committees.

Whenever these bylaws or the actions of the SLEC require action by a District Executive Committee, the membership of any such District Executive Committee shall consist of the County Chairs for counties wholly or partially contained within that district.

- i. If at the time a District Executive Committee is required there is no District Chair, the State Chair shall appoint one of the District Executive Committee members to be the District Chair.
- ii. The District Executive Committee may, by majority vote of the entire committee, replace the current District Chair with another member of the District Executive Committee.
- iii. On the day following the date of district conventions, all District Chair positions shall be considered vacant.

IV.d.2. Commissioner's Precincts and Justice Precincts Executive Committees.

The Precinct Chairs within a Commissioner's Precinct, Justice Precinct or other such local entity within a county shall constitute the District Executive Committee and such Precinct Chairs shall elect one of their number to serve as Chair of the Committee.

IV.e. General Rules for the State Executive Committee.

IV.e.1. Governing Authority.

- i. These rules shall govern the conduct of all meetings and proceedings of the SLEC of the Party.
- ii. 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 SLEC 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 SLEC may adopt.
- iii. SLEC shall maintain bylaws that govern its own action. Bylaws of SLEC may be amended by a 2/3rds vote of SLEC or by a majority vote of the state convention. Where Bylaws of SLEC conflict with these Rules, state law, or federal law the Bylaws of SLEC shall yield.
- iv. The SLEC may make additional policies for its conduct so long as said additional policies do not conflict with these rules.

IV.e.2. Powers of the State Executive Committee.

- i. In compliance with these Rules and the directives of Conventions, the SLEC 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.
- ii. The State Executive Committee shall maintain policies to establish any staff as may be deemed necessary to assist the Party in its function. The State Executive Committee shall maintain a general policy to govern the removal of staff.
- iii. The SLEC shall decide whether to hold a Primary Election, and make appropriate notification thereof.
- iv. The SLEC may move the convention from a physical location to an online location, for good cause in an emergency situation which threatens the possibility of an in-person state convention, by a two-thirds vote of the entire body.
- v. The State Executive Committee may reject a county's bylaws in their entirety for cause. The county must be notified of the time and place of a vote to reject county bylaws at least 20 days before a vote can be taken. A designated representative from the county will be given speaking privileges during any debate on the issue.

Article V. Party Conventions.

V.a. Precinct Conventions.

1. The County Executive Committee shall set the place and time on the designated date for convening the precinct conventions, but no Precinct Convention, if held on a Monday through Friday, may convene prior to 7pm in a county with a population over 500,000, or 6pm in a county with a population at or fewer than 500,000.
2. To be eligible to participate in a precinct convention, a person must be a registered voter of the precinct, and the person must also be a Voting Member of the Party.

3. Each Precinct Convention shall automatically elect all participants thereof to be delegates to the County convention and shall elect no alternates. A person otherwise qualified need not be present at the Precinct Convention to be elected a delegate to the County Convention.
4. Attendees for the convention may be pre-registered for the convention by electronic or paper registration.
5. The Precinct Convention Chair may electronically scan and electronically submit convention documents to the County Chair and State Chair.
6. A Precinct Convention shall only be recognized as valid if:
 - i. it meets the requirements of Texas Election Code Sec. 181.062 through 181.067;
 - ii. the CEC notifies the State Chair, or their designees, of the hour and place of the precinct convention no later than ten (10) days preceding the date of the convention; and
 - iii. the precinct convention chair or their designee delivers a signed list of precinct convention participants to the County Chair and State Chair no later than the third (3rd) day after the date of the precinct convention.

V.b. County Conventions.

V.b.1. County Conventions General

- i. A County Convention will be held on the designated date and time in accordance with these bylaws.
- ii. Within twenty (20) days following the deadline for making applications for the nomination of the Party in a general election, the Secretary shall notify each county chair of any candidates who have filed with the State Chair that are required to be nominated at a County Convention.
- iii. 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.
- iv. The County Convention shall be composed of all delegates thereto who were duly elected by their Precinct Conventions that year, and who are Voting Members.
- v. Unless specifically addressed by the County bylaws, all delegates may vote for nomination of candidates for districts that are entirely contained within the county and for which an application for nomination was filed with the State Chair or with the County Chair as required by the Election Code.
- vi. A County Convention shall only be recognized as valid if:
 - A. it meets the requirements of Texas Election Code Sec. 181.063 and Sec. 181.064 by posting public notice of the hour and place of the precinct and county conventions;
 - B. the CEC notifies the state Chair, or their designees, of the hour and place of the county convention no later than ten (10) days preceding the date of the convention; and
 - C. the CEC is able to produce valid evidence of proper notice of precinct and county conventions upon request by either the state Party officers or by the Credentials committee.

V.b.2. State Delegates and Alternates from a County Affiliate.

The County Convention may elect delegates and alternates to the State Convention and to any appropriate District Conventions.

- i. County Conventions may elect a list of delegates and a list of alternates to the State Convention, and each list shall not exceed the total number of delegates allocated to that county.
- ii. All delegates and alternates elected by a county convention must be qualified voters of that county, and Voting Members.
- iii. A person otherwise qualified need not be present at the County Convention to be elected a delegate or alternate to the State or District Conventions.
- iv. Alternates shall be assigned a number corresponding to their precedence of seating. The number assigned shall be a whole number between 1 and the total number of alternates. Unless another method is chosen at the County convention, then the assignment of precedence number shall be chosen by random lottery by the Credentials committee.
- v. Each delegate and alternate shall not be credentialed unless their voter registration ID, date of birth, full name, address, and either email address or phone number is provided to the Party in a manner prescribed by the State Chair.

V.c. District Conventions.

1. A District Convention will be held on the designated date and time 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 (1) person has filed with the State Chair an application as a candidate for nomination for public office.
2. All candidates for the Party's nomination for public office and for Party leadership shall be given an opportunity and are 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.
3. The District Convention shall be composed of all delegates thereto who were duly elected by their County Conventions of that year, and are Voting Members.
4. Within twenty (20) days following the deadline for making applications for the nomination of the Party in a general election, the Secretary shall send each County Chair a correspondence informing the chair that they are a member of a District Executive Committee (as specified in these bylaws) for each district for which at least one (1) person has filed an application for nomination. The correspondence shall contain the following:
 - i. A list of the districts which are contained in whole or in part in the county for which one or more applications for nomination have been received;
 - ii. The names, addresses, and phone numbers of the Chairs of the other affiliated counties in each such district;
 - iii. Identifies which member of the District Executive Committee is the District Chair;
 - iv. A list of candidates who have filed for the Party's nomination for that district.
5. 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.

6. All members of each District Executive Committee shall be notified and have the opportunity to vote in the location selection. The District Chair shall report to the state chair at least fifteen (15) days before the district convention the location and time of the convention. If the District Chair fails to report in time the state chair may select a location and time within the district.

V.d. State Conventions.

V.d.1. Composition and When Held.

- i. A State Convention will be held in even numbered years in accordance with these Rules.
- ii. The State Convention shall be composed of all delegates thereto who were duly elected by their County Conventions of that year.

V.d.2. Apportionment of Delegates and Alternates.

- i. The SLEC may limit the number of delegates and alternates that each county may elect to the State Convention to a fraction of the total number of votes cast in that county for all Libertarian nominees for statewide offices in the most recent general election for state and county officers. For the purposes of this section, nominees for federal offices are considered to be excluded. Such a fraction, if established, shall be uniform for all counties.
- ii. The number calculated under subsection (i) shall be rounded up to the nearest whole number and shall not be fewer than three.
- iii. An additional delegate seat, and an alternate seat shall be allocated for each ten percentage points received, up to fifty percent points, in the highest performing county race as measured by percentage in the most recent general election. A county race for purposes of this section shall be defined as a race for public office nominated at county convention.

V.d.3. Seating of Delegates and Alternates.

- i. Qualified participants shall be seated together by County at the State Convention.
- ii. County delegations may select from amongst themselves a Delegation Leader to help coordinate and communicate the status of their county delegation.
- iii. Alternates shall become qualified participants in order of precedence to fill any vacancies up to the maximum allotment of available delegate seats for the County they represent.
- iv. An alternate may temporarily relinquish their right to be seated which allows the next available alternate in precedence order to be seated.
- v. A seat vacancy occurs when:
 - A. A delegate does not register as attending;
 - B. A qualified participant communicates they are temporarily vacating their seat to allow an alternate to take their seat; or
 - C. A qualified participant permanently leaves the convention in accordance with V.e.3.
- vi. If an unseated alternate wishes to be recognized as available to be seated, they shall remain in a designated alternate seating area until such time as they are called to fill a vacancy.

- vii. The lack of a presence of a token or other identifying mechanism shall not preclude a delegate or alternate from being seated nor prohibit a qualified participant from participating in a convention.

V.d.4. Committees of the Convention.

V.d.4.i. 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 Bylaws Committee, which shall consider and report to the Convention on recommendations for amendments to the permanent bylaws of the Party and to the Bylaws of the SLEC;
- C. A Credentials Committee, which shall establish the temporary roll of the convention, report to the convention the list of County Affiliates that delivered county convention records and recommendations to establish the permanent roll of the convention, and continually update the roll for any changes to qualified participants throughout the convention;
- D. Any other committees which the SLEC may deem it proper to establish.

V.d.4.ii. Membership of Committees.

- A. The members of all committees at State Conventions shall be appointed by the SLEC 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 SLEC meeting at which they are selected.

V.d.4.iii. Credentials Committee

The SLEC shall maintain policy to govern the responsibilities and authority of the Credentials committee on any topics not established in these bylaws.

The Credentials Committee of the State Convention, not fewer than sixty (60) days prior to the County Convention, shall notify county chairs of each Affiliated County reminding them of their obligation to read, understand, and fulfill the requirements prescribed by these bylaws in order for their conventions to be considered valid and for the credentialing of their elected delegates to state convention.

V.d.4.iv. 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.

V.d.4.v. Right to Submit Proposals to Committees.

- A. Any Voting Member shall have the right to submit proposals to any committee of the state convention for its consideration. All such proposals shall be made in writing and delivered to the chair of the committee.
- B. No later than 30 days after the first meeting of the committee that committee shall adopt rules governing the time and manner in which Voting Members may present their proposal to the committee, and adopt a final date where consideration of new proposal submissions will be considered. Such rules shall be made available in a manner easily accessible by any Voting Member.
- C. The committee shall adopt no rule restricting which Voting Members may present proposals, and shall not deny any Voting Member the right to present a duly submitted proposal according to its rules.

V.d.4.vi. 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.

V.d.4.vii. Committee Reports.

- A. The chair of each committee, or the chair's designees, shall report the committee's recommendations to the floor of the Convention. Recommendations on the report may be made individually or as a whole. The convention chair or committee chair shall preside over any discussion and any votes on recommendations.
- B. A committee may also issue a minority report or reports which shall have priority of consideration and from which specific amendments or substitutions may be moved as long as it has the support of the greater of two (2) or one-third (1/3) of the members of the committee.
- C. Each proposed amendment or substitution to a recommendation shall be debated and voted upon separately.

V.d.4.viii. 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.

V.d.5. Order of Business.

At all State Conventions the order of business shall be as follows:

- i. The Temporary Chair calls the Convention to order;
- ii. The Credentials Committee report on the Temporary Roll;
- iii. The Temporary Chair introduces the temporary officers of the Convention and the Temporary Chair resumes the Convention;
- iv. Any opening ceremonies;
- v. The Credentials Committee report and action to establish the Permanent Roll;
- vi. The nomination and election of permanent officers of the Convention;
- vii. The Permanent Chair resumes the Convention;
- viii. The Bylaws Committee Report;
- ix. Nomination of candidates for public office;
- x. Nomination and election of state Party officers;
- xi. The Chair announces clearly to the Convention the place of each regional caucus;
- xii. Recess for regional caucuses;
- xiii. Regional caucuses meet and elect District Representatives;
- xiv. The Chair calls the Convention back to order;
- xv. Nomination and election of Judicial Committee;
- xvi. Regional caucuses submit their minutes to the Convention Secretary;
- xvii. Nomination and election, if any, of delegates and alternates to the national convention;
- xviii. The Platform Committee report;
- xix. Nomination and election, if any, of Presidential Elector candidates;
- xx. Other business;
- xxi. Acceptance speeches, if any, by nominees for public office;
- xxii. Adjournment.

V.d.6. Functionaries of the State Convention.

- i. 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.
- ii. The permanent officers of the Convention shall be a Chair, Secretary, and any additional officers who may be elected.
- iii. The Parliamentarian shall be chosen before the Convention by the SLEC.
- iv. The permanent officers shall be elected separately and not as a slate.

V.d.7. Voting in District Caucuses.

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

Each district caucus shall submit minutes to the convention secretary containing a roster of participants and election results before a district election shall be considered valid.

All delegates and alternates that are credentialed on the permanent roll may participate in the district caucus that they belong to, as found on their voter registration, regardless of their status as a qualified participant.

V.d.8. Resolutions, Statement of Principles and Platform Amendments.

- i. The Statement of Principles adopted by the Party at the first State Convention in July, 1972, as amended in accordance with the bylaws, shall remain the permanent Statement of Principles of the Party. Aside from the Statement of Principles, the Party shall have no permanent Platform; all planks in the Platform adopted at a previous convention shall expire or sunset upon the end of the third convention from adoption (6 years) unless the plank is deleted, renewed, or amended by a subsequent convention. The Platform Committee shall have the authority to recommend changes to or deletions of any plank before its scheduled sunset date.
- ii. Proposed amendments to the Statement of Principles and Platform must be voted upon separately on a plank by plank basis.
- iii. Each new plank or amendment to an existing plank must receive the votes of two-thirds (2/3) of the qualified participants for inclusion in the Platform.
- iv. Each proposed amendment to the Statement of Principles must receive the votes of three-fourths (3/4) of the qualified participants, and this subsection (iv) shall not be amended or removed without a four-fifths (4/5) approval of qualified participants at a state convention.
- v. An existing plank may be deleted before its scheduled sunset date by a majority of the qualified participants.
- vi. The Platform committee shall submit a report of any sunseting planks to the SLEC ninety (90) days before the state convention, or as soon as reasonably possible if the committee is formed after that deadline.

- vii. Proposed resolutions must receive the votes of two-thirds (2/3) of the qualified participants for adoption by the Convention.

V.d.9. Election of Presidential Electors.

- i. The State Convention in a Presidential election year 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.
- ii. Any Voting Member of the Party who does not hold any office of profit or trust under the United States shall be eligible to be a Presidential Elector candidate.
- iii. If for any reason the State Convention cannot or does not select Presidential Elector candidates, Presidential Elector candidates shall be chosen by the SLEC.
- iv. 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 SLEC.

V.d.10. Election of Delegates and Alternates to National Conventions.

V.d.10.i. National Delegate Eligibility

A person is eligible to become a delegate to the National Convention if the person:

- A. Is a Voting Member of the Party and
- B. has signed the Libertarian pledge, "I certify that I oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals."

V.d.10.ii. 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.

V.d.10.iii. National Alternates for National Delegates.

At the national convention alternates shall serve in the same order of precedence as their vote ranking in the absence of delegates, except as may be provided otherwise by the rules of the national Party.

V.d.10.iii.A. National Alternates Election

Alternates to the national convention shall not require a majority to be selected.

V.d.10.iv. 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 and alternates shall be chosen by an open meeting of the SLEC.
- B. If reasonably possible, 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 Voting Member may appear before the SLEC at the meeting for a reasonable time to present arguments for the election of himself or herself or any other Voting Member to be a delegate or alternate.

V.d.10.v. Finality of Delegate Selection.

Neither the delegation nor the delegation chair shall have the power to add or remove delegates or alternates.

V.d.11. 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.

V.e. General Rules Governing Party Conventions.

V.e.1. Governing Authority.

- i. These Rules shall govern all proceedings and the conduct of all meetings of all Conventions and caucuses and committees at Conventions at all levels.
- ii. 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.
- iii. Any Convention may make any additional rules for its conduct and proceedings which do not conflict with state law or these Rules.
- iv. 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.

V.e.2. Eligibility to Vote at Conventions.

- i. All qualified participants at any convention shall be eligible to vote on all matters before the floor of that Convention, except for regional caucuses at State Conventions.
- ii. In order to vote on any given matter, a qualified participant must be present on the floor at the time the vote is taken.
- iii. Each qualified participant present shall have one vote.
- iv. A person must be a Voting Member of the Party in order to participate in procedures at a Convention or serve as a qualified participant.

V.e.3. Quorum.

The quorum at any Convention shall be a majority of the qualified participants registered as attending.

Delegates and alternates may permanently leave the State Convention by submitting signed notification to the Credentials Committee at which point they will be removed from the permanent roll.

V.e.4. Voting Procedures.

- i. 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.
- ii. 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.
- iii. All votes taken shall be counted by the presiding officer and secretary or their designees.
- iv. 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).
- v. Proxy voting or voting by proxies is prohibited in all conventions and caucuses and committees at Conventions of the Party.
- vi. The use of the unit rule or the practice of instructing delegates and alternates shall not be permitted at any level of the Convention process.

V.e.5. Limits on Discussion.

- i. No qualified participant shall speak for more than five minutes on any one motion at any Convention; provided, however, that the persons making the majority and minority reports of any committees may speak on such reports for not exceeding ten (10) minutes each and then may answer legitimate questions relating to such reports from any qualified participant.
- ii. The discussion on any motion shall not exceed a total of twenty minutes time.

V.e.6. Petition to Place Item on Agenda.

A petition signed by delegates or alternates with a number of signatures equal to at least fifteen percent (15%) of the qualified participants of any Convention shall be sufficient to automatically place any legitimate item of business on the agenda of that Convention for its consideration. The item of business will be placed as the last order of business under the agenda category for which it was written.

Any petition to add business to the agenda shall clearly state the motion and agenda category it shall be placed under. The petition must be signed, have the full name in clear print for each signer, list the county of each signer, and list whether the signed is a delegate or alternate for a signature to be valid.

V.e.7. Nominations and Elections.

V.e.7.i. 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.

V.e.7.ii. 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. 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.
- C. 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.

V.e.7.iii. 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 a partisan 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; or
 - 2. has not expressed a willingness to accept the nomination of the Party.

V.e.7.iv. Declining to Nominate or Elect Candidate for Office.

A Convention, for any reason, may decline to nominate or elect any or all candidates for public office or Party office.

V.e.7.v. Majority Required

The vote of a majority of the qualified participants voting at the relevant Convention or district caucus shall be necessary and sufficient for election to public or Party office.

V.e.7.vi. Right to Not Elect Candidates.

- A. Qualified participants shall have the right to cast a vote against each candidate seeking Party or public office, and to not elect any person for a Party or public office.
- B. Votes cast against a candidate or for “None of the Above” in voting for a Party or public office shall be considered valid and properly recorded.

V.e.8. Balloting for Candidates for Public and Party Office.

V.e.8.i. Single Seat Balloting Procedures.

- A. The method for voting by ballot shall be Approval Voting.
- B. Each ballot shall contain the full list of all nominees. Each qualified participant shall have the option to vote “for” or “against” each nominee.
- C. Total votes “for” and “against” a nominee shall be recorded along with the number of ballots cast.
- D. No nominee is eligible without receiving the majority of “for” votes of ballots cast for that election.
- E. The eligible nominee receiving the plurality of “for” votes is the winner. If multiple eligible nominees have an equal number of “for” votes, the nominee with the fewest “against” votes is the winner. If multiple eligible nominees have an equal number of “for” votes and “against” votes then the body may choose how to decide the election between the tied nominees.
- F. Order of nominations. 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.
- G. The qualified participants of the convention may decide by two-thirds (2/3) vote to use whatever balloting method they prefer to elect candidates for Public or Party Offices as long as the ability to vote “against” each nominee is included.

V.e.8.ii. Multiple Seat Balloting Procedures.

- A. The method for voting by multi seat ballot shall be Approval Voting.
- B. Each ballot shall contain the full list of all nominees. Each delegate shall have the option to vote “for” or “against” each nominee.
- C. All votes “for” and “against” a nominee shall be recorded along with the number of ballots cast.
- D. No nominee is eligible without receiving the majority of “for” votes of ballots cast for that election.
- E. All nominees that obtain more “for” votes than “against” votes are eligible nominees. Eligible nominees will be ranked in order of highest “for” count to lowest “for” count. In the case of a tie for votes, the higher preference shall be the eligible nominee with less “against” votes. If a tie occurs when eligible nominees have the same “for” and “against” votes, then the body may choose how to decide the election between the tied nominees.
- F. Nominees will be seated in ranked order until all seats are filled or until there are no longer eligible nominees.
- G. If all positions are not filled, the body may, by majority vote, open nominations to fill more positions.
- H. The delegates of the convention may decide by two-thirds (2/3) vote to use whatever balloting method they prefer to elect candidates as long as the ability to vote against each nominee is included.

V.e.9. 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.

Article VI. Adoption, Status, Amendment and Publication of Rules.

VI.a. Effective Date of Original Rules.

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

VI.b. Permanent Amendments.

These Rules may be permanently amended, altered or repealed only by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of a State Convention.

The SLEC, by four-fifths (4/5) vote of the entirety of SLEC, may renumber, modify spacing, fix grammatical errors, fix spelling errors, and modify formatting of these rules as long as it does not change wording, substance, or intent in any way. Notification of these changes must be sent to all county affiliates within one (1) week of a successful vote.

VI.c. Temporary Amendments.

1. Between State Conventions these bylaws may be temporarily amended for good cause by a vote of four-fifths (4/5) of the entire membership of the SLEC, provided:
 - i. each member of the SLEC shall receive written notice including the full text of any proposed amendment at least two (2) weeks prior to any meeting held to consider temporary amendments to the Rules; or
 - ii. if the vote on the proposal is by mail ballot then the ballot shall contain the full text of any proposed amendment.
2. On subjects not covered by these bylaws, the State Chair may specify an amendment to take effect at the adjournment of the next meeting of the SLEC if the amendment is approved by a four-fifths (4/5) of the entirety of the SLEC. This temporary amendment, once approved, is treated as a temporary amendment as described in this section.
3. 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.

VI.d. Statement of Principles of the Party Bylaws Listing.

An up to date version of the Statement of Principles shall be maintained as the preamble to these bylaws.

VI.e. 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.

A State Convention, by majority vote, may make any permanent amendments effective immediately upon adoption.

VI.f. Permanence and Superiority of Rules.

VI.f.1. Superiority.

- i. These bylaws, as permanently amended by State Conventions, shall constitute the permanent and continuing bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Texas, wholly superseding, nullifying and rescinding all previous bylaws, rules, Constitutions, and resolutions.
- ii. The Bylaws of SLEC shall be permanent and continuing.
- iii. The SLEC may establish a permanent and continuing set of policies that govern Party organization and procedures. These policies shall be created, maintained, or dissolved by the SLEC. No policies may supersede these bylaws. Any policies found to contradict or conflict with these bylaws are void.

VI.f.2. Permanence.

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

VI.g. Publication of Rules and Amendments.

1. County Chairs shall be notified of amendments to these rules (whether permanent or temporary) within thirty days following the adoption of such amendments.
2. The SLEC 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.
3. 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.

It is hereby certified 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 as amended below:

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;
in Dallas, June 8, 2002;
in College Station, June 12, 2004
 (Royce Mitchell (chair));
in Houston, June 11, 2006
 (Rock Howard);
in Fort Worth, June 14, 2008
 (Rock Howard, Arthur DiBianca);
in Austin, June 12, 2010
 (Rock Howard (chair));
in Fort Worth, June 9, 2012
 (Geoffrey Neale (chair), Jon Roland, Kathie Glass, Kevin Tunstall, Michael Lee);
amended by the SLEC, July 11, 2012;
in Temple, April 12, 2014
 (Arthur Thomas (chair), Ed Kless, James Gholston, Jim Ryan, Michael Lee);
in San Antonio, April 9, 2016
 (Alan Smith, Arthur Thomas (chair), James Holland, Melina Baker);
in Houston, April 14-15, 2018
 (Arthur Thomas, John Wilford (chair), Melina Baker);
Amended by the SLEC, April 4, 2020;
in Big Spring, August 2nd, 2020
 (Arthur Thomas (chair), John Wilford, Anastasia Wilford, Eugene Flynn, Alan Smith, George Reynolds,
 Andrew Amelang).
in Arlington, Texas, Apr 10, 2022

Revision History:

Modified on	Event	Updated by
5/29/2019	2018 Convention Changes Incorporated	Arthur M Thomas IV
3/12/2019	Incorrect numbering updated (duplicate numbers)	Arthur M Thomas IV
8/5/2019	Missing changes incorporated (IV.4.i.2 - minor)	Arthur M Thomas IV
4/4/2020	Added Temp Rule - Emergency Online State Convention	Arthur M Thomas IV
4/14/2020	Added amended info (no rules change)	Arthur M Thomas IV
8/9/2020	2020 convention changes incorporated	Arthur M Thomas IV
04/10/2022	2022 Convention changes incorporated	Anastasia Wilford