

**Bylaws of the  
Maryland Libertarian Party**  
(Approved 9 April 2022)

Bylaw on Proxies

1. Substantive Criteria

A proxy is an action by which one member of the State Central Committee, as principal, exercises his voting powers through another member of the State Central Committee, as agent. To be valid a proxy must satisfy all of the following criteria:

- (a) It must be in writing.
- (b) It must be signed by the principal and dated.
- (c) The proxy must say who is the agent.
- (d) The proxy must clearly indicate that the principal gave his power to vote in the State Central Committee to the agent. It is not enough that it expresses the principal's opinion.

2. Limitations

A proxy cannot be voted if one or more of the following occurs:

- (a) It is revoked by the principal.
- (b) The principal is present.
- (c) Another agent casts the vote of the principal with a subsequent proxy.
- (d) The expiration date has passed or the vote does not conform to the limitations in the proxy.

Unless the duration is specified in the proxy, it shall expire after one year. Unless limitations are specified in the proxy, it shall be unlimited. If a proxy may be voted on a motion, then unless otherwise specified in the proxy, it may be voted on any subsidiary motion.

3. Procedure

- (a) If an agent wishes to cast his principal's vote at a meeting of the State Central Committee, he must allow the secretary to examine the proxy.
- (b) The secretary will make an initial determination of whether the proxy is valid.
- (c) A simple majority of the Executive Board members present may overrule the secretary.
- (d) The State Central Committee may overrule the secretary and/or Executive Board, subject to the following conditions:
  - (i) Challenges to the determinations made must be voted on one alleged proxy at a time.
  - (ii) The proxies which may be voted on a challenge are those which are currently allowed, except that the challenged proxy may not be voted even if otherwise allowed.
  - (iii) Motions to challenge a ruling on an alleged proxy and motions to cutoff consideration of further challenges are both questions of privilege which take priority over all other motions except: to fix a time to adjourn to; to adjourn; to recess; and to close debate.
  - (iv) The vote on them must be by roll call.

## Bylaw on Delegates to the National Convention

Delegates to the national convention shall be selected at a state convention. Selection shall be by the semi-negotiable vote method used for electing the Executive Board (adjusted for the number of delegate slots available), except that in the event that the number of nominees is less than or equal to the number of delegate slots available the State Central Committee may, by a 3/5 vote of those present and voting, vote to send all nominees as delegates.

## Bylaw on Alternates to the National Convention

Any member of the party may become an alternate with the approval of 3/5 of the State Central Committee members voting at a state convention. Any member of the State Central Committee may also become an alternate by petition signed by four other members of the State Central Committee submitted to the secretary or another Executive Board member at a state convention. A delegate temporarily off the floor may select her own replacement (or none). A delegate permanently off the floor shall be replaced by a vote of the delegation.

## Bylaw on Organizational Memory

1. A copy of the minutes of each meeting of the Executive Board and the State Central Committee will be sent to all past Chairmen who are current General or Pledge Members.
2. The Chairman shall appoint one or more past Chairmen and/or Secretaries to serve as a *Committee of Organizational Memory* and consult with them on all matters in which a knowledge of past experience will benefit the activities of the Party.
3. The Executive Board shall arrange for the preparation and maintenance of documentation on past experiences and activities as may be of benefit to the Party.

## Transferable Ballot Method of Proportional Representation

N offices; C candidates; B ballots: each ballot is a list of candidate names in order of preference with no minimum or maximum number. "None of the Above (NOTA)" is always included as a voting option, is treated as a candidate, and is never dropped. The voting algorithm is as follows:

BALLOT <= 0

Repeat

THRESHOLD =  $B * N / (N + 1)$

BALLOT <= BALLOT + 1

COUNT <= 0

CANDIDATE\_VOTE\_TOTALS <= 0 (C values)

Repeat

COUNT <= COUNT + 1

Select highest unelected not eliminated choice on each ballot (can be none)

Add selection on each ballot to CANDIDATE\_VOTE\_TOTALS

For each candidate, If (CANDIDATE\_VOTE\_TOTAL > THRESHOLD)

Then candidate is elected

Until (Offices all filled) OR (COUNT == N)

If (Offices not all filled) Then

If at least one candidate does not withdraw

Then candidate (or candidates if equal) with lowest CANDIDATE\_VOTE\_TOTAL eliminated

N <= remaining offices

C <= remaining candidates

Until (Offices all filled)

Unresolved ties are handled by coin toss.

The above algorithm takes precedence, however the following textual description is provided as an explanation:

The Threshold for election into office is the number of total ballots cast (B) times the number of offices being filled (N) all divided by the number of offices plus one.

**The First Ballot:**

All those eligible to vote shall cast their ballot as a list of desired candidates, starting with the most preferred. NOTA may be included.

**Ballot 1, Count 1:**

The highest unelected and not eliminated candidate on each ballot shall be identified and given one count for each appearance. If the count for any candidate at the end of the totaling is above the threshold, then that candidate is elected. No candidates need be elected in this count.

**Ballot 1, Count N:**

Each subsequent count shall be performed in the same manner, adding to the candidate totals, until all offices are filled or until the count number reaches N (the number of offices being filled).

**Subsequent Ballots:**

At the end of each ballot (given all offices are not filled) one candidate must withdraw. If no candidate wishes to withdraw, the candidate with the lowest vote total in Count N shall be eliminated from the candidate list. A new Threshold is calculated at the end of each ballot using the number of remaining offices (Nr) and the number of ballots cast in the same way as initially. No candidate need be elected in a ballot, so Nr may equal N. The subsequent ballots shall be performed the same as the first, starting with zero candidate totals using the new Threshold and performing counts up to Count Nr. This process shall be repeated until all offices are filled or some remain vacant. Vacancies can occur when either all candidates have been eliminated and therefore further ballots cannot be constructed, or NOTA is elected.

Should the election process result in one or more vacancies, the body may immediately hold another election, nominating candidates who were not defeated in the prior election. Otherwise, Article V, Section 4D applies.