



T LIBERTARIAN

2024 NATIONAL BYLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE YELLOW-LINED ITEMS

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



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MARK-UP LEGEND

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

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.

PROPOSAL A – RESIGNATIONS

Rationale: Per the Party’s parliamentary authority, resignations must be voted on for acceptance, which requires a meeting or an email ballot. This proposal makes resignations effective once tendered. With this change, members of the Libertarian National Committee do not have to be concerned about a resignation being voted down, or inadvertently forgetting to schedule a timely and valid resignation vote.

CURRENT WORDING

None.

MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

ARTICLE 6: OFFICERS

[...]

8. Resignations shall be effective once tendered.

[...]

ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL COMMITTEE

[...]

7. Resignations shall be effective once tendered.

[...]

WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED

ARTICLE 6: OFFICERS

[...]

8. Resignations shall be effective once tendered.

[...]

ARTICLE 7: NATIONAL COMMITTEE

[...]

7. Resignations shall be effective once tendered.

PROPOSAL B – LIMIT ALTERNATE ALLOCATIONS

Rationale: Affiliates may appoint up to 50 convention alternates. Excessive alternates makes unnecessary work for the Credentials Committee and Convention Oversight Committee. It is also extraordinarily unlikely that an affiliate with far fewer than 50 delegates will need 50 alternates. This proposal right-sizes the number of alternates to be no more than the number of allocated delegates.

CURRENT WORDING

ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

[...]

4. Delegate Allocation:

[...]

- a. A list of the names and addresses of all delegates and alternates chosen by each affiliate party shall be sent to the Credentials Committee no later than one month prior to start of the first general session of the regular convention. Amendments to such lists may be made by the affiliate parties and submitted to the Credentials Committee until the close of the Credentials Committee meeting preceding the convention. The number of alternates' names submitted shall not exceed the greater of 50 or the number of delegates allocated.

[...]

MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

[...]

5. Delegate Allocation:

[...]

- a. A list of the names and addresses of all delegates and alternates chosen by each affiliate party shall be sent to the Credentials Committee no later than one month prior to start of the first general session of the regular convention. Amendments to such lists may be made by the affiliate parties and submitted to the Credentials Committee until the close of the Credentials Committee meeting preceding the convention. The number of alternates' names submitted shall not exceed ~~the greater of 50 or~~ the number of delegates allocated.

[...]

WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED

ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

[...]

6. Delegate Allocation:

[...]

- a. A list of the names and addresses of all delegates and alternates chosen by each affiliate party shall be sent to the Credentials Committee no later than one month prior to start of the first general session of the regular convention. Amendments to such lists may be made by the affiliate parties and submitted to the Credentials Committee until the close of the Credentials Committee meeting preceding the convention. The number of alternates' names submitted shall not exceed the number of delegates allocated.

[...]

PROPOSAL C – DUAL AFFILIATIONS

Rationale: The Libertarian Party is comprised of affiliate, state-level political parties with a distinct brand and program separate and apart from other political parties. Over the past few years some have invited Party affiliates to join with other political parties that may nominate competing presidential candidates. By prohibiting our affiliates from aligning with other political parties, this proposal supports organizational solidarity and resists external efforts to undermine Party, candidate, and member initiatives.

CURRENT WORDING

ARTICLE 5: AFFILIATE PARTIES

[...]

4. No affiliate party shall endorse any candidate 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 be an affiliate or other constituent unit of any other political party or endorse any candidate 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 be an affiliate or other constituent unit of any other political party or endorse any candidate 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.

PROPOSAL D – CLEAN UP AFFILIATION LANGUAGE & RESPONSIBILITIES

Rationale: There are perceived ambiguities in this section and one omission. One ambiguity is whether the LNC must take any taker (or even the first taker) submitting a petition for affiliation even if there is a good reason not to do so. This proposal says no. The second ambiguity is whether an affiliate’s duty to provide governing documents is ongoing. This proposal says yes. The omission is the lack of requirement that signatories to a Petition for Affiliation be sustaining members of the Party. This proposal adds that requirement.

CURRENT WORDING

ARTICLE 5: AFFILIATE PARTIES

[...]

2. The National Committee shall charter state-level affiliate parties from any qualifying organization requesting such status in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia (hereinafter, state). Organizations which wish to become state-level affiliate parties shall apply for such status on a standard petition form as adopted by the National Committee, which petition shall be signed by no fewer than ten members of the Party residing in the appropriate state. Affiliate party status shall be granted only to those organizations which adopt the Statement of Principles and file a copy of their constitution and/or bylaws as adopted with the Party Secretary.

[...]

MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

ARTICLE 5: AFFILIATE PARTIES

[...]

2. The National Committee shall charter state-level affiliate parties ~~from any qualifying organization requesting such status~~ in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia (hereinafter, state). Organizations which wish to become state-level affiliate parties shall apply for such status on a standard petition form as adopted by the National Committee, which petition shall be signed by no fewer than ten sustaining members of the Party residing in the appropriate state. Affiliate party status shall be granted only to those organizations which adopt the Statement of Principles and ~~file a~~ provide copy copies of their constitution and/or bylaws as adopted and later amended with the Party Secretary.

[...]

WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED

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ARTICLE 5: AFFILIATE PARTIES

[...]

2. The National Committee shall charter state-level affiliate parties in each state, territory, and the District of Columbia (hereinafter, state). Organizations which wish to become state-level affiliate parties shall apply for such status on a standard petition form as adopted by the National Committee, which petition shall be signed by no fewer than ten sustaining members of the Party residing in the appropriate state. Affiliate party status shall be granted only to those organizations which adopt the Statement of Principles and provide copies of their constitution and/or bylaws as adopted and later amended with the Party Secretary.

[...]

PROPOSAL E – NATIONAL DELEGATE QUALIFICATIONS

Rationale: Under our current Bylaws, a national convention delegate must be either a member of a state affiliate party or a member of the national party. The latter path only requires signing the membership certification, not paying dues. To encourage national delegates to have more “skin in the game,” this proposal would require delegates who are not members of an affiliate party to be sustaining members of the national Party, meaning they pay dues in addition to the membership certification.

CURRENT WORDING

ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

[...]

2. Delegates

- a. Delegates shall be required to be members of either the Party or an affiliate party. At all regular conventions delegates shall be those so accredited who have registered at the convention.

[...]

MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

[...]

2. Delegates

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- a. Delegates shall be required to be either members of an affiliate party or sustaining members of the Party. At all regular conventions delegates shall be those so accredited who have registered at the convention.

[...]

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

[...]

2. Delegates

- a. Delegates shall be required to be members of either an affiliate party or sustaining members of the Party. At all regular conventions delegates shall be those so accredited who have registered at the convention.

[...]

PROPOSAL F – AFFIRMING DELEGATE COUNTS

Rationale: The count of each member and computation of convention delegate allocations for each affiliate is not subject to challenge by any member or affiliate outside of convention or action by the National Committee. A count of members that is too low or a computation that is in error could unfairly disadvantage or advantage an affiliate’s representational capacity at convention. In addition, the count has been conducted by staff rather than the Secretary. This proposal updates existing language to correct those issues.

CURRENT WORDING

ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

[...]

4. Delegate Allocation:

- a. In order to be counted for delegate allocation, sustaining membership applications must be sent to the National Headquarters by either the individual member or the affiliate party and received or postmarked no later than the last day of the seventh month prior to the regular convention.
- b. The Secretary shall make a count of the sustaining members qualified under the requirements set forth here and shall compute the delegate allocations for the affiliate parties. Notification of the sustaining membership totals and allocation totals shall be sent by the Secretary to the chair of each affiliate party no later than the last day of the sixth month prior to a regular convention.

[...]

MARK-UP COPY OF PROPOSAL

ARTICLE 10: CONVENTIONS

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4. Delegate Allocation:

- a. In order to be counted for delegate allocation, sustaining membership applications must be sent to the National Headquarters by either the individual member or the affiliate party and received or postmarked no later than the last day of the seventh month prior to the regular convention.
- b. The National Committee ~~Secretary~~ shall ~~make a count~~ cause a count to be made of the sustaining members qualified under the requirements set forth here and the Secretary shall compute the delegate allocations for the affiliate parties. The National Committee shall ratify the count and computation by a roll call vote. Notification of the sustaining membership totals and allocation totals shall

be sent by the Secretary to the chair of each affiliate party no later than the last day of the sixth month prior to a regular convention.

[...]

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

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- a. In order to be counted for delegate allocation, sustaining membership applications must be sent to the National Headquarters by either the individual member or the affiliate party and received or postmarked no later than the last day of the seventh month prior to the regular convention.
- b. The National Committee shall cause a count to be made of the sustaining members qualified under the requirements set forth here and the Secretary shall compute the delegate allocations for the affiliate parties. The National Committee shall ratify the count and computation by a roll call vote. Notification of the sustaining membership totals and allocation totals shall be sent by the Secretary to the chair of each affiliate party no later than the last day of the sixth month prior to a regular convention.

[...]

PROPOSAL G - CLARIFY MEMBERSHIP DEFINITION

Rationale: This proposal clarifies that taking the Pledge by certifying in writing that one opposes the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals is absolutely required to be called a national Party member.

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 **exclusively** 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:
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WORDING IF PROPOSAL IS ADOPTED

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