

# Proposed Revision of the Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire

The Constitution, Bylaws and Rules Committee moves that the existing Constitution of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire and Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire be repealed and replaced with the following proposed Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire:

## **Article I. Name**

The name of this organization shall be the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire (hereinafter referred to as the "State Party").

## **Article II. Duration**

The duration of the State Party shall be perpetual.

## **Article III. Purpose and Principles**

- A. The purpose of the organization shall be to give voice to the principles in the National Libertarian Party Statement of Principles (hereinafter referred to as the "Statement of Principles") in the State of New Hampshire by:
  1. Nominating and supporting candidates for public office;
  2. Promoting, chartering, and coordinating local Libertarian organizations;
  3. Entering into political and/or educational activities; and
  4. Supporting activities of the National Libertarian Party.
- B. The Statement of Principles affirms that philosophy upon which the Libertarian Party is founded, by which it shall be sustained, and through which liberty shall prevail. The enduring importance of the Statement of Principles requires that it may be amended only by a vote of 7/8 of all registered delegates at a Regular Convention.
- C. The Party Platform shall include, but not be limited to, the Statement of Principles and the implementation of those principles in the form of planks.

## **Article IV. Structure and Definitions**

- A. The primary governing power of the State Party shall be vested in the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee, the Leadership Board (hereinafter referred to as the "Board"), and the New Hampshire Libertarian State Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "State Committee") shall have the powers specified by these bylaws and any special rules of order adopted by the State Party.
- B. The use of a singular pronoun in these bylaws, special rules of order adopted by the State Party, and any other Party documentation is not intended to exclude any person who is not of the specified gender.

## **Article V. Membership**

- A. All Party Members must certify that they do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means to achieve political or social goals.
- B. Levels of Membership
  1. Basic Membership
    - a. A Basic Member of the State Party shall be a person who has complied with the membership requirement specified in Section A of this Article and notified the Secretary of their desire to become a Basic Member of the State Party.
    - b. Basic Members shall receive a notice about upcoming meetings and conventions and may subscribe to other Party mailing lists if desired. Notices to Basic Members shall be delivered by electronic methods of communication. The Executive Committee may specify additional benefits for Basic Members.
  2. General Membership
    - a. A General Member of the State Party shall be a person who has complied with the membership requirement specified in Section A of this Article and has paid annual membership dues.
    - b. General Members shall receive all the benefits of Basic Membership and any additional benefits specified by the Executive Committee.
  3. Youth Membership

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- a. A Youth Member of the State Party shall be a person who has complied with the membership requirement specified in Section A of this Article, has paid annual membership dues, and is under the age of 25 years.
  - b. Youth Members shall receive the benefits of General Membership, a lower rate for annual membership dues, and any additional benefits specified by the Executive Committee.
- 4. Sustaining Membership
  - a. A Sustaining Member of the State Party shall be a person who has complied with the membership requirement specified in Section A of this Article and is making regular recurring donations to the State Party. Sustaining Members who have made recurring donations totaling an amount equal to or above the dues for General Membership and who chose to discontinue recurring donations shall continue to be considered General Members for a period of time to be determined by the Executive Committee, but in no case shall they be considered a General Member for less than one year. The Executive Committee shall determine the minimum amount required for a recurring donation for Sustaining Members.
  - b. Sustaining Members shall be recognized for their contributions in any State Party newsletters and the State Party convention program (unless the member requests to not be recognized). Sustaining Members shall receive all of the benefits of General Membership and additional benefits specified by the Executive Committee.
- 5. Life Membership
  - a. A member of the State Party whose donations to the State Party have reached a specified level over a specified period of time, as determined by the Executive Committee, shall be considered a Life Member of the State Party. No further donations from such a member shall be required in order to maintain General Membership in the State Party.
  - b. Life Members shall be recognized for their contributions in the convention program (unless the member requests not to be recognized). Life Members who meet the criteria of Sustaining Members shall receive all the benefits of Sustaining Membership. All other Life Members shall receive all the benefits of General Membership. Life Members may also receive additional benefits specified by the Executive Committee
  - c. For any other purpose under these bylaws or the rules of the State Party, a Life Member shall be considered a General Member, unless she meets the qualifications specified for Sustaining Membership, in which case she shall be considered a Sustaining Member.
- C. The Executive Committee shall determine the annual membership dues, required levels for monthly donations, and the requirements for Life Membership.
- D. All members of the State Party who are considered General Members, Youth Members, or Sustaining Members shall together be hereinafter referred to as “dues-paying members.”
- E. Members who are domiciled in an area that contains a local affiliate shall have a portion of their dues transferred to that local affiliate. The portion of the dues and the frequency of payments to Affiliates shall be determined by the Executive Committee.

### **Article VI. Officers**

- A. The Officers of the State Party shall be a Chair, a Vice Chair, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and an Officer-at-Large. All officers shall be voting members of Executive Committee and voting members of the Board.
- B. A member of the State Party who is eligible to become an Officer of the State Party (hereinafter referred to as “Officer-Eligible Member”) shall meet the following criteria at the time of her election or appointment and during her entire time in office:
  - 1. Be a dues-paying member of the State Party who has been a dues-paying member in good standing for at least the immediately preceding 182 days;
  - 2. Be a current inhabitant of the state of New Hampshire who has been an inhabitant of the state of New Hampshire for at least the immediately preceding 182 days;
  - 3. If registered to vote, and the Libertarian Party is a recognized option for affiliation, the member shall be registered as a Libertarian;
  - 4. If registered to vote, and the Libertarian Party is not a recognized option for affiliation, the member shall not be registered as affiliated with any other political party. This provision shall not apply during the brief period in which an undeclared voter may temporarily change her party affiliation to vote in a

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partisan primary election on election day, provided that she immediately switches her party affiliation back to undeclared.

- C. Officers shall be elected at the annual convention and shall take office at the adjournment of that convention. The term of office for all officers shall be from the adjournment of the annual convention at which officers are elected until the adjournment of the following annual convention or until their successors are selected and qualified. Elections for officers shall follow the procedure for single-winner elections as specified in the Convention Rules.
- D. Any officer who has been elected or appointed to fill a vacancy for the remainder of a term shall take office immediately, and shall hold that position until the adjournment of the following annual convention or until the officer's successor is selected and qualified.
- E. No offices shall be combined or held by the same individual.
- F. Chair
  - 1. The Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the State Party, holding the powers of administration pertaining to the ordinary business affairs of the State Party and such other powers as may be delegated by the Board or State Committee. The Chair shall serve as presiding officer for meetings of the Executive Committee, the Board, and the State Committee.
  - 2. The Chair shall have the power to appoint persons to leadership roles within the State Party, subject to the confirmation of the Executive Committee, and may make immediate temporary appointments without confirmation if required to carry out tasks that require urgency.
  - 3. The Chair shall be responsible for ensuring the completion of any tasks assigned to the Executive Committee by the Board, the State Committee, or the Libertarian National Committee.
- G. Vice Chair
  - 1. The Vice Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of executive duties, hold such executive powers as the Chair may delegate, and shall perform the duties of the Chair as the Executive Committee may direct should the Chair be unable, for any reason, to perform those duties.
  - 2. The Vice Chair shall be responsible for establishing and maintaining regular communication with representatives of affiliates of the State Party, and facilitate resource sharing and cooperation among the affiliates.
- H. Secretary
  - 1. The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the State Party. The Secretary shall maintain all official records of the State Party and shall disseminate records and notices as may be required by these bylaws or the rules of the State Party.
  - 2. The Secretary shall provide, or make provisions for, legal services to the State Party, and shall ensure that the State Party maintains compliance with any legal mandates regarding official records and communications.
- I. Treasurer
  - 1. The Treasurer shall be responsible for maintaining accurate records of all income and expenses associated with the operation of the State Party and shall present a summary of all income and expenses incurred at the regular meetings of the Executive Committee, the Board, and the State Committee. The income and expense summary may be limited to activity since the last regular meeting of the body for which the report is being presented.
  - 2. The Treasurer shall, if necessary, provide assistance to members of the Board and officers of affiliate organizations regarding budgeting and financial matters.
- J. Officer-at-Large
  - 1. The Officer-at-Large will assume a major volunteer role for the party for which that member's skills, experience, and other qualities may best be utilized. The Executive Committee shall confirm the Officer-at-Large's role within the State Party.
  - 2. The Officer-at-Large shall additionally, if required, assist the Chair and Vice Chair with duties as they may assign with the consent of the Executive Committee.
- K. All officers of the party shall have any additional duties and powers specified by the Board, the State Committee, these bylaws, and the rules of the State Party.
- L. Vacancies
  - 1. If there is a vacancy in the position of Chair, the Vice Chair will become the interim Chair of the State Party. The Executive Committee may appoint someone to temporarily carry out the duties of the Vice

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Chair but is not required to do so. A person appointed to temporarily fill the Vice Chair position shall be considered an interim member of the Executive Committee.

2. If there is a vacancy in any other officer position, the Executive Committee may appoint someone to temporarily carry out the duties of that position. Any person appointed in this manner shall be considered an interim member of the Executive Committee.
3. Interim members of the Executive Committee shall carry out the duties of their position, but they shall not have a vote on the Executive Committee. A Vice Chair who becomes interim Chair is not considered an interim member of the Executive Committee.
4. The Executive Committee shall, within 24 hours, inform the Board of any vacancy.
5. The Board shall fill vacancies of the Executive Committee, either via electronic methods of communication or in person, and as quickly as is reasonably possible. If the Chair position is vacant, the Board may choose to appoint a new Chair or may appoint the Vice Chair to be the new Chair and then appoint a new Vice Chair. If, however, the vacancy occurs not more than two weeks prior to a scheduled convention, the Board shall not fill the position, and at the convention, the State Committee shall hold an election for that position.

### M. Officer Recall

1. A petition to remove a member of the Executive Committee may be submitted to the Executive Committee and the Judicial Committee, provided that the petition:
  - a. Contains a statement providing specific reasons why the Executive Committee member should be removed;
  - b. Contains the signatures of at least 25% of the delegates who attended the most recent convention who certify that they agree with the statement;
  - c. Specifies at least one representative from the signatories who may be contacted by the Judicial Committee for additional information regarding the petition.
2. If a recall petition is submitted, the Judicial Committee shall verify its authenticity, investigate the matter, and render a decision no later than 30 days after the verification of the petition. A 2/3 vote of all Judicial Committee members is required to remove an Executive Committee member.

- N. Officers shall have all powers delegated to them by these bylaws and any special rules of order adopted by the State Party. Officers shall have whatever additional duties are specified by these bylaws, any special rules of order adopted by the State Party, and at the direction of the Board or the State Committee.

## **Article VII. Executive Committee and Leadership Board**

### A. Executive Committee

1. The purpose of the Executive Committee (referred to as "committee" in this Section of this Article) shall be to oversee and act in respect to all matters pertaining to the organization, maintenance, conduct, affairs, and interests of the State Party consistent with law, these bylaws, and any rules of the State Party. The Executive Committee shall act as directed by these bylaws, the rules of the State Party, the Board, and the State Committee. The ongoing business of the State Party between conventions shall be administered by the Executive Committee.
2. Membership
  - a. The committee shall consist of:
    - i. The Officers of the State Party; and
    - ii. The most recent previous Chair of the State Party that served at least four months as Chair of the State Party within the immediately preceding eight years.
  - b. The term of the members of the Executive Committee shall be from the time they assume office until the adjournment of the next annual convention, or until their successors are selected and qualified, unless specified differently elsewhere in this article.
3. The committee shall manage the day-to-day operations of the State Party and shall have the control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of the State Party consistent with these bylaws and the rules the State Party. The committee shall carry out any duties as specified by these bylaws, the rules of the State Party, the Board, and the State Committee.
4. Meetings

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- a. The committee shall meet at least twelve times per year, and at least once every month. Unless otherwise already scheduled, meetings shall be at the call of the chair or at the call of any two other members of the committee.
  - b. The committee may conduct meetings with some or all of the members of the meeting participating via electronic methods of communication. If electronic methods of communication are used, a method that allows video interaction and the sharing of documents is strongly encouraged.
  - c. The committee shall, as part of the agenda of every meeting, set a date, time, and place for the next meeting. A notice reminding the members of the meeting schedule shall be provided to all Executive Committee members via electronic methods of communication by the Secretary at least seven days prior to the start of the meeting.
  - d. The Chair may call for an emergency meeting if circumstances require it. The Secretary shall provide a notice of at least 72 hours prior to an emergency meeting to all members via electronic methods of communication and a phone call.
  - e. Draft minutes of committee meetings shall be distributed to all members of the Board within four days of the adjournment of an Executive Committee meeting.
  - f. A majority of the Officers of the State Party shall constitute a quorum.
5. Vacancies of Officers of the State Party shall be filled as specified in Article IV.
- B. Leadership Board
1. The purpose of the Board shall be to provide oversight for all activities of the Executive Committee, provide guidance and support to all organizations within and affiliates under the State Party, and assist the Executive Committee with the development of strategic plans to achieve the goals of the State Party.
  2. Members of the Board must be Officer-Eligible Members of the State Party.
  3. The following persons shall be voting members of the Board:
    - a. The Officers of the State Party;
    - b. A representative from each Affiliate;
    - c. A representative from the Membership & Outreach Committee, the Politics & Campaign Committee, the Bylaws & Rules Committee, and the Platform Committee;
    - d. The most recent previous Chair of the State Party that served at least four months as Chair of the State Party within the immediately preceding eight years and is not already a member of the Board via a role specified in sub-items **a**, **b**, or **c**;
    - e. At least one and no more than seven members of the State Party that have been appointed by the Executive Committee to serve a major volunteer role for the State Party or appointed by an Affiliate to serve a major role for that Affiliate, and have been selected to become a Board member by the Executive Committee.
  4. Terms of office
    - a. The members of the Board described in sub-items **a**, **b**, **c**, and **d** of item 3 of this Article shall serve on the Board for as long as they hold those positions which entitle them to membership on the Board.
    - b. The members of the Board described in sub-item **e** of item 3 of this Article shall serve from their appointment until the adjournment of the next annual convention, provided that the member continues to hold the same major volunteer role within the State Party that was held at the time of the appointment. Such members shall be eligible for reappointment to the Board if continuing to hold a major volunteer role with the State Party. The Executive Committee may remove the designation of Board member from a major volunteer for cause, e.g. failure to attend meetings.
  5. The chair of the Convention Committee shall be a non-voting member of the Board and shall not be considered for determining a quorum. Additional persons may be invited to Board meetings by the Executive Committee or the Board in order to provide information relevant to the activities of the Board, but they shall not have a vote and shall not be considered for determining a quorum.
  6. The officers of the State Party shall be the officers of the Board.
  7. The Board shall have the following duties:
    - a. Oversee the activities of the Executive Committee;

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- b. Authorize major expenditures, as defined by the Executive Committee with the concurrence of the Board;
    - c. Develop and maintain institutional knowledge that will help current and future affiliate and State Party operations;
    - d. Ensure that the State Party is in compliance with all federal, state, and local law that it may be subject to;
    - e. Carry out all duties assigned to the Board by these bylaws, the rules of the State Party, and the State Committee.
  8. The Board shall have the following powers:
    - a. To assign projects and tasks to the Executive Committee;
    - b. To fill vacancies on the Executive Committee;
    - c. To overturn motions passed by the Executive Committee, provided that the provisions of that motion have not already been carried out;
    - d. To adopt standing rules for the State Party;
    - e. To adopt special rules of order for the State Party as specified in Article XV of these bylaws;
    - f. Any other powers specified by these bylaws or the special rules of order adopted by the State Party, or any powers delegated to the Board by the State Committee.
  9. Meetings
    - a. Meetings shall be held at least four times per year. The agenda of each meeting shall include setting the date, time, and place for the next meeting. If the details of the next meeting are not set by the Board, the Executive Committee shall determine the date, time, and place of the next Board meeting.
    - b. Meetings shall be conducted in person at a location within 15 miles of the New Hampshire State House. A meeting may be postponed due to inclement weather or unforeseen circumstances that substantially burden a significant portion of the membership of the Board. The Chair shall have the power to postpone the meeting, and if possible shall provide notice of the postponement no later than 12 hours prior to the scheduled start of the meeting.
    - c. The Board shall have the power to conduct business between meetings via electronic methods of communication.
    - d. A majority of the voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum.
    - e. The Secretary shall notify all members of the Board of an upcoming meeting no later than 21 days prior to the start of the meeting.
  10. Vacancies shall be filled in accordance with the procedures for the specific role a member holds, as specified in these bylaws and the rules of the State Party. If no person is qualified to fill the most recent past Chair position, the position shall remain vacant and shall not be used in the determination of a quorum.
- C. General Provisions
  1. Members of the Executive Committee and Affiliate Chairs shall have access to the current and past records of the State Party. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to provide records and reports to other members of the Board.
  2. The Executive Committee and the Board shall have the power to go into executive session for any matters for which they determine it is necessary. Any discussion related to discipline regarding any member shall automatically be considered to be in executive session.
  3. The Executive Committee and the Board shall have all the powers granted to them throughout these bylaws, any special rules of order adopted by the State Party, and any additional powers conferred upon them by law, and shall carry out any additional duties assigned to them by these bylaws, the rules of the State Party, and the State Committee.

### **Article VIII. State Committee**

- A. The name of the body of delegates in convention shall be the "New Hampshire Libertarian State Committee" (hereinafter referred to as the "State Committee").
- B. The State Committee shall have the powers conferred upon it by law, these bylaws, and any rules adopted by the State Party.

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- C. A member of the State Party who is eligible to become a member of the State Committee (hereinafter referred to as "Delegate-Eligible Member") shall meet the following criteria:
1. Be a dues-paying member of the State Party who has been a dues-paying member of the State Party in good standing for at least the immediately preceding 35 days;
  2. Be a current inhabitant of New Hampshire and have been an inhabitant of New Hampshire for at least the immediately preceding 35 days;
  3. Be at least 16 years of age;
  4. If registered to vote, and the Libertarian Party is a recognized option for affiliation, the member shall be registered as a Libertarian;
  5. If registered to vote, and the Libertarian Party is not a recognized option for affiliation, the member shall not be registered as affiliated with any other political party. This provision shall not apply during the brief period in which an undeclared voter may temporarily change her party affiliation to vote in a partisan primary election on election day, provided that she immediately switches her party affiliation back to undeclared.
- D. A Delegate-Eligible Member shall become an official delegate for a convention if the member meets the criteria specified in the previous section of this Article and registers for the convention no later than seven days prior to the first day of the convention.
- E. Delegate-Eligible Members who wish to become an official delegate for the convention who do not register at least seven days prior to the first day of the convention are considered Prospective Delegates and shall become official delegates if, by a majority vote, the State Committee approves. When there are Prospective Delegates during the convention, the Credentials Committee shall have priority to the floor over all others in order to make a motion to approve the Prospective Delegates for inclusion as official delegates of the convention. No such motion for delegate approval may be made until at least 15 minutes have elapsed since the last motion for delegate approval has been disposed of. If a meeting is called to order at or after the scheduled time, and the State Committee does not yet have a quorum, but accepting the Prospective Delegates as official delegates would create a quorum, then all Prospective Delegates shall immediately become official delegates.
- F. Conventions
1. The Party shall meet in convention at least once per year.
  2. The Annual Convention shall begin no earlier than the Friday before the last Saturday of February and shall end no later than the last day of April.
  3. Notification of the date or dates of the annual convention must be delivered by electronic methods of communication to all State Party members no later than 91 days prior to the first day of the convention. A detailed notice of the annual convention must be sent to all dues-paying members no later than 35 days prior to the first day of the convention.
  4. The Executive Committee shall have the power to change the date of the annual convention to a date outside of the date range specified in this section if it becomes necessary due to unforeseen circumstances. If the calling of a Business Convention will resolve the problem, then the Executive Committee shall not change the dates of the convention in question, and shall instead schedule a Business Convention.
  5. The Annual Convention shall include (but not be limited to) the following items on the agenda:
    - a. Reports from all standing committees;
    - b. Consideration of proposals for changes to the bylaws, special rules of order, and the party platform;
    - c. Officer elections;
    - d. Elections for the members of committees that are selected by the State Committee;
    - e. Nominations for candidates for public office, if authorized by law;
    - f. Elections for delegates to the Libertarian National Convention, in years in which a Libertarian National Convention is held.
  6. The sub-items listed in Item 5 may also be held at conventions other than the annual convention, if necessary. The annual convention and other conventions may also include (but not be limited to) the following items on the agenda:
    - a. A report from the regional representative to the Libertarian National Committee;
    - b. Elections to fill vacancies, as authorized by these bylaws and the rules of the State Party.

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7. Bylaws, Rules, and Platform Changes
  - a. The Report of the Convention Rules by the Bylaws & Rules Committee shall be included as soon as practicable in the agenda of any convention.
  - b. Any proposals by the Bylaws & Rules Committee and by the Platform Committee shall have an initial period of debate during which no amendments to the proposal are permitted. After this period of debate has concluded, the State Committee shall vote on the proposal. If the proposal passes, it shall take effect immediately, unless otherwise specified in the proposal. If the proposal fails, the proposal shall again come to the floor and shall be open to debate and amendment.
  - c. Proposals for amendments to the bylaws, new or amended special rules of order, and changes to the State Party Platform must be submitted to the proper committee as specified in the bylaws. No proposal for an amendment to the bylaws or for a new or amended special rule of order shall be considered by the State Committee if it has not been evaluated by the Bylaws & Rules Committee. No proposal for a change to the State Party Platform shall be considered by the State Committee if it has not been evaluated by the Platform Committee.
8. Business Conventions
  - a. The Executive Committee shall have the power to call for a Business Convention to conduct State Party business.
  - b. Notification of the date or dates of any business convention must be delivered by electronic methods of communication to all State Party members no later than 21 days prior to the first day of the convention. The notice shall include an agenda of all items of business scheduled for the meeting.
  - c. The Executive Committee may, by a 2/3 vote, determine that no new business shall be introduced during the meeting by members of the State Committee. The State Committee may overrule this decision, but that shall require a 2/3 vote, and under no circumstances may new business be introduced at a business convention prior to the completion of the business on the agenda prepared by the Executive Committee.
9. A quorum at any convention shall consist of a majority of all of the delegates who have registered for that convention.

## **Article IX. Standing Committees**

- A. The Standing Committees of the State Party shall be the Membership & Outreach Committee, the Politics & Campaign Committee, the Judicial Committee, the Bylaws & Rules Committee, the Platform Committee, the Credentials Committee, and the Convention Committee.
- B. These committees shall be governed by these bylaws, the rules of the State Party, and the parliamentary authority. They may be assigned additional powers or duties by the Executive Committee, the Board, or the State Committee.
- C. Committee Operations
  1. All committee members must be members of the State Party. Additional requirements for any specific committee may be specified in these bylaws and the rules of the State Party.
  2. Each standing committee shall have a chair and a secretary. For any standing committee which does not have procedures specified elsewhere in these bylaws or the rules of the State Party, the Executive Committee shall determine the initial chair and secretary of each committee. The committee members may either confirm these selections or change them as they see fit.
  3. The chair of each committee shall:
    - a. Preside over all committee meetings;
    - b. Serve as the representative of the committee on the Board if the committee is authorized to have a representative, unless she is already on the Board as a member of the Executive Committee;
    - c. Present the committee's reports to the State Committee at any convention that includes the committee's report as part of the agenda;
    - d. Perform any other duties specified by these bylaws, the rules of the State Party, the Executive Committee, the Board, or the State Committee.
  4. The secretary of each committee shall:

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- a. Send a draft copy of the meeting minutes to the Secretary of the State Party no later than four days after the conclusion of any committee meeting;
  - b. Send a copy of any approved minutes to the Secretary of the State Party within four days of their approval;
  - c. Notify the Secretary of the State Party of any vacancies on the committee within 24 hours of the vacancy;
  - d. Send all official reports produced by the committee to the Secretary of the State Party;
  - e. Notify all committee members and all members of the Executive Committee at least ten days prior to any scheduled meeting;
  - f. Perform any other duties specified by these bylaws, the rules of the State Party, the Executive Committee, the Board, or the State Committee.
5. The terms of members of Standing Committees shall begin at the adjournment of the annual convention, and shall end at the adjournment of the following annual convention or until their successors are selected, unless otherwise specified in these bylaws or the rules of the State Party.
6. Members of standing committees, excluding any person designated to be a member of a committee by these bylaws, may be removed from a committee by a 2/3 vote of the State Committee or by a 2/3 vote of the Executive Committee. A motion to remove a member of a standing committee shall require prior notice.
7. Vacancies
  - a. The committee members shall select alternate members of the committee to temporarily carry out the tasks of the committee chair or committee secretary if either member is temporarily unavailable. If the committee chair is also a member of the Executive Committee, the committee shall select another member to represent the committee at all Board meetings. If a committee member serving as the committee chair or committee secretary is no longer able to continue performing those duties, the committee members shall promptly select another member of the committee to fill the vacancy. If the vacancy is not promptly filled by the members of the committee, the Executive Committee shall select a new committee chair or committee secretary as may be needed.
  - b. Any member of a committee who fails to attend two out of three consecutive meetings and does not provide an adequate explanation for the member's absence to the chair of the committee shall be considered to have resigned. Any member of a committee who fails to attend three out of five consecutive meetings shall be considered to have resigned. Members who choose to voluntarily resign from the committee should notify the secretary of the committee.
  - c. The secretary of the committee shall immediately notify the Secretary of the State Party of any change in membership. The chair or another committee member shall notify the Secretary of the State Party if the committee secretary position is vacated.
  - d. The Executive Committee shall ensure that the committee maintains the required minimum number of members by making appointments to fill vacancies as necessary. The Executive Committee may fill any committee positions normally selected by the State Committee that have not been filled at a convention.
  - e. If a Section of this Article for a specific committee describes specific procedures for vacancies that differ from the above, the procedures listed in that Section shall apply for that committee for any procedures in conflict with these.
8. Representation on the Board
  - a. For any committee that is required to provide a representative to the Board, the Chair of that committee shall serve as the representative for the committee on the Board. If the Chair of the committee is already a member of the Board by virtue of being on the Executive Committee, the committee shall select another committee member to serve as representative to the Board.
  - b. The committee shall select an alternate member to serve as the representative on the Board for cases in which the designated representative is unable to serve.

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9. Members of the Executive Committee shall have the right to attend any meetings of any Standing Committee and participate in deliberations but shall not have a vote on any matter before the committee unless they have been elected or appointed to be a member of the committee.
  10. Unless otherwise specified, a quorum for any standing committee shall be at least half of its members.
- D. Membership & Outreach Committee
1. The Membership and Outreach Committee (referred to as “committee” in this Section of this Article) shall further the goals of the State Party by recruiting and retaining members, planning and performing outreach, and other related activities.
  2. Membership
    - a. Members of the committee must be a dues-paying member of the State Party who has been a dues-paying member of the State Party in good standing for at least the immediately preceding 182 days.
    - b. The committee shall consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of sixteen members. The initial committee membership shall consist of up to eight members elected at any regular convention by the State Committee, and up to eight members directly appointed by the Executive Committee.
    - c. The member designated as the Membership Director of the State Party by the Executive Committee shall be the committee chair. The Executive Committee shall appoint the initial committee secretary.
  3. The committee shall promote the goals of the party by:
    - a. Planning, organizing, implementing, and assisting with outreach activities for the State Party and its affiliates;
    - b. Performing all tasks required to recruit and retain Party members;
    - c. Completing other tasks related to the activities mentioned above;
    - d. Training volunteers to complete all of the above tasks;
    - e. Any other duties assigned by the Executive Committee.
  4. The committee shall determine its own schedule for meetings in consultation with the Executive Committee.
- E. Politics & Campaign Committee
1. The Politics and Campaign Committee (referred to as “committee” in this Section of this Article) shall further the goals of the State Party by recruiting and training candidates and campaign activists, developing legislative proposals and strategies, and other related activities.
  2. Membership
    - a. Members of the committee must be members of the State Party.
    - b. The committee shall consist of a minimum of three and a maximum of sixteen members. The initial committee membership shall consist of up to eight members elected at any regular convention by the State Committee, and up to eight members directly appointed by the Executive Committee.
    - c. The volunteer designated as the Political Director of the State Party by the Executive Committee shall be the committee chair. The Executive Committee shall appoint the initial committee secretary.
  3. The committee shall promote the goals of the party by:
    - a. Recruiting and developing Party candidates for public office;
    - b. Recruiting and developing volunteers to aid candidates running for public office;
    - c. Developing legislative proposals and strategies for use by appointed and elected public officials and candidates for public office;
    - d. Completing other tasks related to the activities mentioned above;
    - e. Training volunteers to complete all of the above tasks;
    - f. Any other duties assigned by the Executive Committee.
  4. The committee shall determine its own schedule for meetings in consultation with the Executive Committee.
- F. Judicial Committee

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1. The Judicial Committee (referred to as “committee” in this Section of this Article) shall serve the State Party by resolving disputes, hearing petition cases brought to it in accordance with these bylaws and any special rules of order adopted by the State Party,
2. The State Committee shall elect the members of the Judicial Committee in accordance with the Convention Rules adopted by the State Party.
3. A member of the State Party who is eligible to become a member of the Judicial Committee (hereinafter referred to as “Judicial-Eligible Member”) shall meet the following criteria at the time of her election or appointment and during her entire time in office:
  - a. Be a dues-paying member of the State Party who has been a dues-paying member of the State Party in good standing for at least the immediately preceding 91 days;
  - b. Has been a dues-paying member of the State Party in good standing for at least one year;
  - c. Be a current inhabitant of the state of New Hampshire and have been an inhabitant of the state of New Hampshire for at least the immediately preceding 91 days;
  - d. If registered to vote, and the Libertarian Party is a recognized option for affiliation, the member shall be registered as a Libertarian;
  - e. If registered to vote, and the Libertarian Party is not a recognized option for affiliation, the member shall not be registered as affiliated with any other political party. This provision shall not apply during the brief period in which an undeclared voter may temporarily change her party affiliation to vote in a partisan primary election on election day, provided that she immediately switches her party affiliation back to undeclared.
4. The committee shall meet as is needed to carry out its duties, as called for by the chair of the committee or by the Executive Committee.

### G. Bylaws & Rules Committee

1. The Bylaws & Rules Committee (referred to as “committee” in this Section of this Article) shall be responsible for evaluating, modifying, and issuing recommendations for or against proposals for amendments to the bylaws and new or amended special rules of order, including proposals for convention rules.
2. Membership
  - a. Members of the committee must be Delegate-Eligible Members of the State Party.
  - b. The committee shall consist of a minimum of five and a maximum of sixteen members. The initial committee membership shall consist of up to eight members elected at any regular convention by the State Committee, and up to eight members directly appointed by the Executive Committee.
3. Operations
  - a. The committee shall accept proposals from any Delegate-Eligible Member of the State Party. Proposals for consideration at the annual convention must be submitted to the committee at least 70 days prior to the first day of the annual convention. Proposals may suggest an amendment to the bylaws or suggest a new or amended special rule of order, including convention rules.
  - b. The committee shall not accept any proposals made after the deadline for submissions has passed unless ordered to by the Executive Committee. The committee may resume accepting proposals after the adjournment of the annual convention.
  - c. The committee members shall evaluate each proposal submitted by the deadline, modify it as they see fit, and request information from the member who submitted the proposal if they believe that additional information would be helpful. After deliberations on a proposal are complete, the committee members shall then vote on a recommendation regarding the proposal. A majority vote for passage of the proposal shall result in a committee recommendation of "Ought to Pass;" otherwise, the vote shall result in a committee recommendation of "Inexpedient Motion."
4. Meetings
  - a. The chair of the committee shall call meetings as required to complete its work. If there is at least one proposal that has not yet been evaluated, and at least two members of the committee demand a committee meeting, the chair shall call a meeting of the committee.

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- b. The Executive Committee shall have the power to order the committee to meet and process some or all of the existing proposals so that they may be considered at an upcoming business convention.
  - c. The committee may meet entirely in person, or with some or all of the members utilizing electronic methods of communication to attend. Meetings shall conform to the procedures and rules specified in the rules of the State Party and, if applicable, as directed by the Executive Committee.
5. Reports
- a. The committee shall prepare three reports for each convention that shall include all of the evaluated proposals for each area:
    - i. Report on the Convention Rules;
    - ii. Report on the Bylaws;
    - iii. Report on the Special Rules of Order and Standing Rules;
  - b. For each proposal included, a brief majority report explaining the reasoning behind the committee's recommendation shall be attached. Additionally, a brief minority report shall be attached if one is prepared by committee members who voted in opposition to the majority on the proposal.
  - c. The Report on the Special Rules of Order shall include all proposals examined by the committee and any special rules of order and standing rules that have been adopted by the Board since the most recent convention.
  - d. The committee shall complete its work and submit its reports to the Secretary of the State Party no later than 45 days prior to the first day of the annual convention, or if applicable, no less than 28 days prior to any business convention. At the convention, the committee shall introduce every proposal it has evaluated, announce its recommendation regarding the proposal, and briefly explain its reasoning for its recommendation.
6. The Executive Committee may set submission deadlines and specify what proposals shall be considered if bylaw or rule changes are to be considered at a business convention.
- H. Platform Committee
- 1. The Platform Committee (referred to as "committee" in this Section of this Article) shall be responsible for evaluating, modifying, and issuing recommendations for or against proposals for the creation, deletion, or modification of planks of the State Party Platform.
  - 2. Membership
    - a. Members of the committee must be Delegate-Eligible Members of the State Party.
    - b. The committee shall consist of a minimum of five and a maximum of sixteen members. The initial committee membership shall consist of up to eight members elected at any convention by the State Committee, and up to eight members directly appointed by the Executive Committee.
  - 3. Operations
    - a. The committee shall accept proposals from any Delegate-Eligible Member of the State Party. Proposals must be submitted to the committee at least 70 days prior to the start of a convention in order to be considered by the committee for that convention. Proposals may suggest creating, deleting, or modifying a plank of the State Party Platform.
    - b. The committee shall not accept any proposals made after the deadline for submissions has passed unless ordered to by the Executive Committee. The committee may resume accepting proposals after the adjournment of a regular convention.
    - c. The committee members shall evaluate each proposal submitted by the deadline and modify it as they see fit, except that proposed deletions of existing planks may not be modified. The committee may request information from the member who submitted the proposal if they believe that additional information would be helpful. After deliberations on a proposal are complete, the committee members shall then vote on a recommendation regarding the proposal. A majority vote for passage of the proposal shall result in a committee recommendation of "Ought to Pass;" otherwise, the vote shall result in a committee recommendation of "Inexpedient Motion."
  - 4. Meetings

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- a. The chair of the committee shall call meetings as required to complete its work. If there is at least one proposal that has not yet been evaluated, and at least two members of the committee demand a meeting, the chair shall call a meeting of the committee.
  - b. The Executive Committee shall have the power to order the committee to meet and process some or all of the existing proposals so that they may be considered at an upcoming business convention.
  - c. The committee may meet entirely in person, or with some or all of the members utilizing electronic methods of communication to attend. Meetings shall conform to the procedures and rules specified in the rules of the State Party and, if applicable, as directed by the Executive Committee.
5. Reports
- a. The committee shall prepare a report that includes all proposals evaluated by the committee.
  - b. For each proposal included, a brief majority report explaining the reasoning behind the committee's recommendation shall be attached. Additionally, a brief minority report shall be attached if one is prepared by committee members who voted in opposition to the majority on the proposal.
  - c. The committee shall complete its work and submit its report to the Secretary of the State Party no later than 45 days prior to the convention. At the convention, the committee shall introduce every proposal it has evaluated, announce its recommendation regarding the proposal, and briefly explain its reasoning for its recommendation.
  - d. The report for a convention shall be submitted to the Secretary of the State Party no later than 45 days prior to the first day of that convention.
6. The Executive Committee may set submission deadlines and specify what proposals shall be considered if platform changes are to be considered at a business convention.
- I. Credentials Committee
1. The purpose of the Credentials Committee (referred to as "committee" in this Section of this Article) is to complete all tasks necessary to verify the membership status of all persons wishing to fulfill various roles within the State Party and any related tasks, as specified in these bylaws, the rules of the State Party, and as directed by the Executive Committee and the Board.
  2. Membership
    - a. The members of the committee shall be:
      - i. The Membership Director, who shall be the chair of the committee;
      - ii. The Secretary of the State Party, who shall be the secretary of the committee;
      - iii. At least one member and not more than five members of the State Party who are not members of the Executive Committee.
    - b. The members of the committee, excluding the Membership Director and Secretary, shall be appointed by the Executive Committee no later than 35 days prior to the first day of a convention.
  3. The committee shall:
    - a. Verify which members of the State Party are qualified as:
      - i. Current dues-paying members of the State Party;
      - ii. Delegate-Eligible Members;
      - iii. Officer-Eligible Members;
      - iv. Judicial-Eligible Members;
      - v. All standard classes of membership;
      - vi. Any other subgroup of members for which special qualifications exist;
    - b. Process the registration of delegates at conventions;
    - c. Verify that a quorum exists at conventions;
    - d. Verify that any member nominated at a convention for a position in the State Party is eligible for the position and immediately inform the presiding officer if a nominated member is not qualified;
    - e. Present reports at conventions required by these bylaws, the rules of the State Party, the Executive Committee, the Board, or the State Committee.
  4. Meetings

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- a. The committee shall meet at least once no later than three weeks prior to the convention, at which the chair of the committee shall ensure that all members understand their roles for the upcoming convention.
  - b. The committee shall meet in the hour immediately preceding the opening of registration for the convention, beginning no later than 20 minutes prior to the opening of registration on the first day of the convention.
  - c. The committee may, at the call of either the Membership Director or the Secretary, have additional meetings prior to the convention.
  - d. Meetings may be conducted via electronic methods of communication.
5. The committee members shall carry out tasks assigned to the committee by the rules of the State Party, the Executive Committee, or the Board.
- J. Convention Committee
1. The purpose of the Convention Committee (referred to as “committee” in this Section of this Article) is to complete all tasks necessary for planning and executing the annual convention of the State Party.
  2. The Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint members of the State Party to the committee. No later than 60 days after an annual convention, the Executive Committee shall ensure that the committee has members who will plan the following year’s annual convention.
  3. After the convention prepared by the committee has completed, the committee shall prepare a final report on the convention. The final report must be completed and submitted to the Executive Committee no later than 30 days after the convention.
  4. Whenever a new chair is appointed to lead the committee, the previous chair of the committee shall attend at least the first meeting of the committee with the new chair and be available for questions via electronic means of communication for at least thirty days after the new chair has been selected.
  5. The chair of the convention committee or another member designated as a representative of the committee shall attend all meetings of the Board, and shall have a report prepared regarding the progress of the committee. This person shall not have a vote on the Board if they are at a Board meeting representing this committee.

### **Article X. Special Committees**

- A. The Executive Committee, the Board, and the State Committee shall have the power to create special committees and appoint persons to those committees to advance the goals of the State Party. The body creating the special committee may assign an initial chair and secretary to the committee, specify reporting requirements, determine its initial membership, and assign the committee specific tasks that must be completed. If the meeting at which the special committee is created adjourns without the completion of the aforementioned tasks, the Executive Committee shall complete those tasks.
- B. If the Board or Executive Committee determines that a special committee should become a permanent Standing Committee, the Executive Committee shall create and submit a proposal for a bylaw amendment to the Bylaws & Rules Committee for consideration.
- C. These committees shall be governed by these bylaws, the rules of the State Party, and the parliamentary authority. They may be assigned additional powers or duties by the Executive Committee, the Board, or the State Committee.

### **Article XI. Affiliate Organizations**

- A. Development Groups
  1. For areas of the state without an organized affiliate, the Executive Committee shall create one or more Development Groups in order to promote the activities of the State Party within those areas, including the establishment of a formally recognized affiliate, and assign members to these groups.
  2. The boundaries of Development Groups may be determined, with the consent of the Executive Committee, by the persons assigned to the Development Groups.
  3. The Development Groups shall have the powers assigned to them by the Executive Committee.
  4. Development Groups may be terminated by the Executive Committee at any time for any reason.
- B. General Provisions
  1. Any five (5) or more dues-paying members may create a local organization and petition the Executive Committee to affiliate with the State Party per the guidelines under these bylaws.

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2. Each petition for affiliation must include a copy of the organization's proposed bylaws. These bylaws shall specify a geographical area to be covered by the affiliated organization.
  3. No geographical area in the state shall be included in the jurisdiction of more than one affiliate unless otherwise approved by the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall have the power to adjust geographical boundaries of affiliates.
  4. If requested by an affiliate and approved by the Executive Committee, the affiliate may have the responsibility for the nomination of candidates for office whose districts lie entirely within its geographical region.
  5. If requested by multiple affiliates and approved by the Executive Committee, the affiliates may join together for the responsibility of the nomination of candidates for office whose districts lie entirely or substantially within their combined geographical regions.
  6. Membership requirements in affiliated organizations shall not be at odds with the State or National Party requirements. In any dispute, the Judicial Committee shall make a determination.
  7. Meetings of affiliated organizations shall be open after proper notice has been given to all State Party members domiciled in the geographic region.
  8. Affiliates shall comply with any additional provisions and procedures specified by the bylaws, the rules of the State Party, or the Executive Committee.
- C. Representation on the Board
1. The Chair of each affiliate shall serve as the representative for the affiliate on the Board. If the Chair of the affiliate is already a member of the Board via her role as a member of the Executive Committee or as the chair of a standing committee, the Vice Chair of the affiliate shall be the representative of the affiliate. If both the Chair and the Vice Chair of the affiliate are already members of the Board via either of the roles mentioned previously, the Executive Committee of the affiliate shall select another member of the affiliate to serve as representative to the Board.
  2. Each affiliate shall select an alternate member to serve as the representative on the Board for cases in which the designated representative is unable to serve. The alternate should be the Vice Chair unless that person has already become the representative or for other reasons cannot accept that role.
- D. Disaffiliation
1. If an affiliate organization has acted recklessly or acted in contravention of furthering the goals of the State Party, the State Party may end its association with the affiliate by:
    - a. A 3/4 vote of the Executive Committee; or
    - b. A 2/3 vote of the Board, excluding the representative of the affiliate in question, who shall not have a vote on the question of disaffiliation.
  2. The Judicial Committee shall have the authority to hear an appeal if an affiliate's status is terminated, and may, by a 2/3 vote, reverse the decision to disaffiliate.

### **Article XII. Primary Elections**

In the event the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire is entitled to a primary election, no voter who is not registered as Libertarian shall be allowed to vote in the Libertarian Party primary.

### **Article XIII. Libertarian National Convention**

- A. Any person seated with the State Party delegation to a Libertarian National Convention must be a dues-paying member of the State Party in good standing and must also have either:
  1. Have been a dues-paying member of the State Party for at least the 182 days preceding the first day of the National Convention; or
  2. Have been a member of the National Party for at least the two years preceding the first day of the National Convention.
- B. If the Chair is unavailable to serve as delegation chair, the Vice Chair shall be the chair of the delegation. If both the Chair and Vice Chair are unavailable to serve as delegation chair, the delegation shall select its own chair.
- C. The State Committee shall elect the delegates to the National Convention in accordance with the Convention Rules adopted by the State Party.

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- D. The delegation shall follow the rules and procedures specified by the Bylaws and Rules of the National Libertarian Party and any applicable rules and procedures specified by these bylaws and the rules of the State Party.

### **Article XIV. Parliamentary Authority**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the State Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the State Party may adopt.

### **Article XV. Amendments**

- A. Changes to bylaws and special rules of order by the State Committee
1. Proposed bylaw amendments, new special rules of order, and modifications to existing special rules of order may be enacted by the State Committee and must follow the procedures specified in these bylaws describing the operations of the Bylaws & Rules Committee, the procedures for handling proposals from the Bylaws & Rules Committee at conventions, and any related additional procedures specified in the bylaws and in special rules of order adopted by the State Party.
  2. Notice of proposals of bylaw amendments and new or modified special rules of order shall be included with the official notice of a convention, and the proposals will be available for members to view as soon as practicable after the completion of the reports of the Bylaws & Rules Committee.
  3. Any bylaw amendments, new special rules of order, and modifications to existing special rules of order enacted by the State Committee must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the State Committee at a convention.
  4. Neither Section B of Article III of these bylaws, nor this part of this section, shall be amended by a vote of less than 7/8 of all registered delegates at a regular convention.
- B. Changes to special rules of order by the Board
1. The Board shall have the power to create new special rules of order or modify existing special rules of order by a 2/3 vote at any regular meeting of the Board. A previous notice shall be required.
  2. No special rules of order enacted by the Board may grant any additional power to the Board.
  3. The State Committee shall have the power to veto any special rules of order passed by the Board at the first convention held after the Board has enacted the special rule of order. If the State Committee vetoes a special rule of order enacted by the Board, the Board may not enact the same or a substantially similar special rule of order until after the adjournment of the annual convention of the next calendar year. However, the Bylaws & Rules Committee may make the same proposal or a similar proposal at any convention.
- C. Platform changes by the State Committee
1. The current Platform of the State Party shall serve as the basis of all future platforms.
  2. Proposed modifications to the Platform must follow the procedures specified in these bylaws that describe the operations of the Platform Committee and the procedures for handling proposals from the Platform Committee at conventions and must also follow any additional related procedures specified in these bylaws or in special rules of order adopted by the State Party.
  3. Notice of proposed modifications to the Platform shall be included with the official notice of a convention, and the proposals will be available for members to view as soon as practicable after the completion of the report of the Platform Committee.
  4. The Platform may be only modified at a convention. Additional platform planks or modifications to existing platform planks must be approved by a 2/3 vote of the State Committee at a convention. A platform plank may be deleted by a majority vote of the State Committee at a convention.