

2023 Bylaws Committed Report & Proposed Changes

The LPNH Bylaws Committee has regularly met, discussed, and agreed that the following changes to the LPNH Bylaws be presented to the body at convention.

1. Clarify the Definition of “The Chair”

Proposed Change: Strike CEO reference in VI.F.1:

VI. Officers

F. Chair

1. The Chair shall ~~[be the chief executive officer of the State Party, holding]~~ hold the powers of administration pertaining to the ordinary business affairs of the State Party and such other powers as may be delegated by the State Convention. The Chair shall serve as presiding officer for meetings of the Executive Committee and the State Convention.

Reason for the Change: To resolve the confusion associated with the corporate-world term ‘chief executive officer.’ A term generally associated with an officer elected by a ‘board of directors.’ That not being the case with the LPNH Bylaws and Rules, the term can be eliminated without requiring other significant changes.

2. To Clarify that Officers are Bound By Decisions of the Executive Committee and Members of the Executive Committee Must Attend Meetings

Proposed Change: Addition of Section VI.K.3 and VI.K.4:

VI Officers

K. Duties of Officers

- 3. Officers shall be bound by the decisions of the Executive Committee.**
- 4. Officers shall attend at least two of every three regular Executive Committee meetings. If the officer knows he or she will miss two consecutive meetings, the officer shall provide notice to the rest of the Executive Committee in a timely fashion.**

Reason for the Change: To reinforce the power of the Executive Committee and eliminate hierarchical structural doubt. And to ensure individual dedication to the responsibilities undertaken as an office of the organization.

3. Defining “for cause” in the Removal of an Officer

Proposed Change: Addition of Section VI.L.1:

VI. Officers

L. The Executive Committee may, for cause...

1. Cause shall include, but not be limited to: dereliction of duty, malfeasance, theft of or damage to state or affiliate party property, creating legal liability for the state party or an affiliate, causing ill repute of the state party, or acting in detriment to the goals and interests of the state party.

Reason for the Change: To provide a defining term for "cause". To bring clarity to the term and what constitutes "cause."

4. Open and transparent EC Meetings

Proposed Change: Addition of a sentence into VII.B.3 to include the entire membership:

VII Executive Committee

B. Meetings

3. 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. **Notice of upcoming meetings shall be provided to the membership via regular party communications. Except for matters to be taken in Executive Secessions, all Executive Committee meetings shall be open to the general Membership.**

Reason for the Change: To encourage party members to engage, be informed and to participate in party affairs throughout the year, not only at the annual convention.

5. Clarify JC duties on Recall petitions

Proposed Change: Strike existing VII.D.2 and addition of VII.D.2, 3, 4, 5, 6:

VII Executive Committee

D. Recall

~~[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.]~~

2. If a recall petition is submitted, the Judicial Committee shall verify whether it meets the criteria of section 1 within 7 days of receipt.

3. If the petition is verified, the Judicial Committee shall determine if the any of

the reasons specified in the petition rise to the level of removal, investigate the matter, hold a hearing if necessary, and render a decision within 30 days of the verification.

4. If the committee deems it appropriate, it may, with a 2/3 vote, temporarily suspend the voting rights of the Executive Committee member until the matter is resolved.

5. A 2/3 vote of all Judicial Committee members is required to remove an Executive Committee member.

6. The Judicial Committee shall provide a written decision to the interested parties and for state party records.

Reason for the Change: To clarify the JD's roles and powers in a recall.

6. Add Comms and JC to policy manual

Proposed Change: To include communications and media policies and judicial committee procedures to the policy manual required in Section VII.C.3:

VII. Executive Committee

C. General Provisions

3. The Executive Committee shall maintain a Policy Manual. The manual shall include all rules that govern the Executive Committee not specified within the Bylaws or Rules of Order; The Party's standard operating Procedures; **Communications and Media Policies; Judicial Committee Procedures;** and any other information deemed necessary by the Executive Committee.

Reason for the Change: To make consistent references to policy manual contents across the bylaws.

7. Clarify Judiciary Committee's Duties on Recall Petitions

Proposed Change: Modify VII.D.2 and addition of Sections 3, 4, 5 and 6:

VII. Executive Committee

D. Recall

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matter, hold a hearing if necessary, and render a decision within 30 days of the verification.

4. If the committee deems it appropriate, it may, with a 2/3 vote, temporarily suspend the voting rights of the Executive Committee member until the matter is resolved.

5. A 2/3 vote of all Judicial Committee members is required to remove an Executive Committee member.

6. The Judicial Committee shall provide a written decision to the interested parties and for state party records.

Reason for Change: To provide further guidelines in the instance of a recall.

8. JC to Establish Written Procedures for Handling Petitions

Proposed Change: Addition of IX.G.5:

IX. Standing Committees

G. Judicial Committee

5. The Judicial Committee shall provide procedures for submitting petitions, conducting investigations, rules for hearings, and other matters deemed necessary for committee operations for the state party's policy manual.

Reason for the Change: To provide a procedural guideline for the JC to follow when handling petitions for the purpose of ensuring due process of grievances.

End of Report

Dated: November 11, 2023

Unanimously Approved and
Respectfully Submitted,
The 2023 Bylaws and Policy Committee