

Libertarian Party of the Seacoast New Hampshire

Bylaws

Amended in Convention, 2019

Principles

Life: We believe that all individuals have the right to control their own lives and live in whatever manner they choose, as long as they do not interfere with the identical rights of others.

Liberty: The only proper functions of government are the protection of the people from actual foreign or domestic threats to their lives and freedoms; and the protection of their individual rights, namely – life, property, and liberty of speech and action.

Property: The only economic system compatible with the protection of individual human rights is the free market; therefore, the fundamental right of individuals to own property and enjoy the rewards of their just earnings should not be compromised.

Statement of Principles

We, the members of the Libertarian Party, challenge the cult of the omnipotent state and defend the rights of the individual.

We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.

Governments throughout history have regularly operated on the opposite principle, that the State has the right to dispose of the lives of individuals and the fruits of their labor. Even within the United States, all political parties other than our own grant to government the right to regulate the lives of individuals and seize the fruits of their labor without their consent.

We, on the contrary, deny the right of any government to do these things, and hold that where governments exist, they must not violate the rights of any individual: namely, (1) the right to life—accordingly we support the prohibition of the initiation of physical force against others; (2) the right to liberty of speech and action—accordingly we oppose all attempts by government to abridge the freedom of speech and press, as well as government censorship in any form; and (3) the right to property—accordingly we oppose all government interference with private property, such as confiscation, nationalization, and eminent domain, and support the prohibition of robbery, trespass, fraud, and misrepresentation.

Since governments, when instituted, must not violate individual rights, we oppose all interference by government in the areas of voluntary and contractual relations among individuals. People should not be forced to sacrifice their lives and property for the benefit of others. They should be left free by government to deal with one another as free traders; and the resultant economic system, the only one compatible with the protection of individual rights, is the free market.

Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of the Seacoast New Hampshire

Article I: Name, Identity and Structure

The name of this organization shall be the Libertarian Party of the Seacoast New Hampshire (LPSCNH), hereinafter referred to as “the LPSCNH” and “the party.” The LPSCNH is officially chartered by the Libertarian Party of New Hampshire, hereinafter referred to as “the LPNH.”

Article II: Principles

The Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party, as adopted by the delegates assembled in convention, shall be the Statement of Principles of the Party.

Article III: Object, Purpose, Scope and Duration

Section 1: Object and Purpose

The object and purpose of the LPSCNH is to engage in partisan and nonpartisan political activity within Rockingham and Strafford Counties of New Hampshire. This includes but is not limited to: nominating candidates for partisan public offices corresponding to electoral districts wholly or partially within Rockingham and Strafford Counties; supporting and opposing ballot measures; providing support to candidates for statewide and local offices to increase personal, social and economic freedom; minimize the initiation of force against any individual or group of individuals; and fostering the growth of the Libertarian Party.

Section 2: Scope

The LPSCNH is focused on engaging in political activities in counties contiguous with Rockingham and Strafford Counties.

Section 3: Duration

The duration of the party shall be until county affiliates are formed and recognized as LPNH affiliates in both Rockingham & Strafford Counties. Neither County within LPSCNH may seek affiliation as an LPNH County Affiliate until membership in each county is, at minimum, 15 LPNH members.

Article IV: Members

The members of the Party shall be those persons who a) have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals b) are domiciled in Rockingham or Strafford County, c) have been recorded by the Vice Chair of the LPSCNH as current members of LPNH for at least ten days prior to any meeting and d) believe in the above objectives, purposes and principles of the Libertarian Party. The members that meet these requirements shall be known as the Central Committee.

Amended in convention, 6/9/2019

Article V: Duties of Officers

Section 1: Qualifications and General Duties

The officers of the LPSCNH shall be a Chair, Vice-chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. These collective officers plus an elected at large member shall be known as the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the Regular Convention and serve thereafter until the adjournment of the next Regular Convention. The officers of the LPSCNH Executive Committee shall at all times maintain their dues paid to the LPNH. The officers shall not be members of any party with ballot access in the State of New Hampshire other than the LPNH or its affiliates.

1. Chair

Chair shall be responsible for: presiding at all LPSCNH Conventions and all meetings of the Executive Committee and generally organizing the party; being the chief executive officer of the party; being an ex-officio member of all standing and ad-hoc committees in the party, being the primary contact with the LPNH; being the primary public spokesman for the party; prepare an agenda for all Executive Committee meetings; and hold the full powers and duties accorded the office by the LPNH Constitution.

1. Vice-Chair

The Vice-Chair shall be responsible for: assisting the Executive Committee Chair; performing the duties of the Executive Committee Chair when the Chair is unable to perform those duties; acting as the Chair of the Membership Committee and maintaining the membership rolls of the party; and performing the duties of the Secretary in absence of the Secretary.

1. Secretary

The Secretary shall be responsible for: maintaining all records of the party, other than membership rolls and financial records; providing or making provisions for legal services to the party; acting as the Chair of any media-related Committee of the party; recording the minutes of all Executive Committee meetings and the minutes of the party conventions; and performing the duties of the Vice-Chair, in the absence of the Vice-Chair. The Secretary shall also be responsible for updating the public postings of meeting minutes.

1. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall be responsible for: receiving, expending and accounting for all funds or other property of the party under the supervision and direction of the Executive Committee; making commitments and disbursement of the party funds for expenses within the budget established by the Executive Committee and for out-of-budget expenses specifically approved by the Executive Committee; being the Chair of the Finance Committee; supervising and coordinating fundraising efforts of the party, and act as coordinator for fundraising events, both with the party from which it was chartered and all affiliate parties; and preparing a quarterly financial report for the Executive Committee.

1. At Large

The At Large member shall be responsible for becoming familiar with the operations of the party, and working toward the goals of the party that are not specifically designated to other elected officers of the party.

Section 2: Ballot Election and Term of Office

The Executive Committee officers shall be elected at the annual convention of the Central Committee, to serve for one year or until their successors are elected, and their term of office shall begin at the close of the annual meeting at which they were elected.

Section 3: Office Holding Limitations

No member shall hold more than one Executive Committee office at a time.

Section 4: Removal

Officers may be removed from office by a four-fifths vote of the Executive Committee.

Section 5: Vacancy

Where there is a permanent vacancy at any time in the Executive Committee prior to 45 days before a convention, the Executive Committee shall publicly notify the membership via electronic format or print for two weeks and the membership shall vote upon nominations at the next business meeting.

Amended in convention, 6/9/2019

Article VI: Executive Committee

Section 1: The Executive Committee shall have such powers and duties as are prescribed in the LPNH Bylaws. The Executive committee shall meet at such times and places prescribed by the LPNH Bylaws. Notices shall be given in accordance with procedures as the Executive Committee may, by a majority determine.

Section 2: The Executive Committee may, without meeting together, transact business by mail, telephone, verbally, or by electronic communications by voting on questions submitted to them by, or with the approval of, the Chair. Elections not made in person must remain active for 7 days, and not be closed before those 7 days. These elections must conform to all quorum requirements, lest they be invalid.

Section 3: A quorum for a meeting of the Executive Committee shall be a majority of the Executive Committee. Except as otherwise provided in the Constitution; a majority vote of those present at an Executive Committee meeting, shall rule.

Section 4: The Executive Committee shall not compose anyone who is registered as a member of any party that is constituted in the state of New Hampshire that is not the Libertarian Party.

Article VII: Other Committees

Section 1: Membership Committee

The Membership Committee will be a standing committee and shall be chaired by the Vice-Chair. Its membership shall be set by the Executive Committee and is open to any voting LPSCNH member. It is responsible for maintenance of the party membership list. It shall conduct periodic membership drives at least once per quarter so long as the position is not vacant. It shall meet and recommend to the Executive Committee that the membership of any individual be revoked if that member makes statements or takes actions which are contrary to the Statement of Principles. Such recommendation shall require a three-quarters (3/4) vote of the entire Membership Committee.

Section 2: Finance Committee

The Finance Committee will be a standing committee of the LPSCNH. The members shall be appointed by the Executive Committee of the party. Membership is open to any voting member of the party. The Finance Committee shall develop the annual budget and submit it to the Executive Committee of the LPSCNH for approval. The Finance Committee is responsible for fund raising and accounting for party funds.

Amended in convention, 6/9/2019

Section 3: (repealed)

Amended in convention, 6/9/2019

Section 4: Bylaws Committee

The Bylaws Committee will be a Standing Committee of the LPSCNH. The members of this committee shall be appointed by the Executive Committee. Membership is open to any voting member. This committee shall draft changes to the bylaws. Such changes shall be submitted to the Executive Committee or Convention for approval.

Amended in convention, 6/9/2019

Section 5: County Committees

Rockingham County Libertarian Committee & Strafford County Libertarian Committee will be standing committees and shall maintain their own executive committees for their particular county; but, will fall under the purview of the LP Seacoast until such time that both counties have the 15 LPNH members required by LP Seacoast bylaws and are granted affiliation with LPNH after maintaining 15 LPNH members for a minimum of twelve consecutive months. If unable to staff one of these committees in convention, it stays unfilled until the next convention.

Added in convention 3/24/2018

Amended in convention, 6/9/2019

Section 6: Ad-hoc Committees

The Chair shall have the authority to appoint ad-hoc committee chairs and members as s/he may deem necessary; subject only to Executive Committee three-fifths (3/5) veto. These committees will have the full force and effect of standing committees.

Article VIII: Conventions and Meetings

Section 1: Conventions

The LPSCNH shall hold an annual convention at a time and place chosen by the Executive committee which shall provide notice to all members 30 days in advance. Notice shall be provided through multiple means including electronic mail, publishing on the official website, social networks and physical mail sent via USPS. The convention shall be governed by the bylaws. Any LPSCNH member attending a convention that is domiciled in Rockingham or Strafford County, New Hampshire and has been a party member in good standing for at least ten (10) days shall become a delegate and may vote at such convention. The purpose of holding the convention is to nominate candidates for Rockingham and Strafford County offices, State offices that represent areas within the geographical limits of Rockingham and Strafford Counties, any cities within the geographical limits of Rockingham and Strafford County and Officers of the LPSCNH standing committees. These nominations shall be submitted to the LPNH for ratification. Any amended bylaws go into effect at the conclusion of the convention. (Amended in convention 3/24/2018)

Section 2: To be eligible to vote at LP Seacoast conventions, delegates must be a current dues paying member LPNH domiciled within Rockingham or Strafford County.

Added in convention 3/24/2018

Amended in convention, 6/9/2019

Section 3: Special Conventions

A Special Convention may be called when necessary by a majority of the Executive Committee and with no less than a thirty (30) day notice to the Central Committee, as per the same notice requirements listed in Section 1 of Article VIII. A Special convention must be called with a specific purpose, and that purpose made public as part of the notice of the Special Convention. No other activities may occur at a Special Convention other than those previously announced in the notice to the Central Committee.

Section 4: Meetings

The LPSCNH shall hold regular meetings to occur once per month at a time and date designated by the Executive Committee. A quorum for a meeting of the party shall be a majority of the members present. A member must be present in committee to vote.

Article IX: Finances and Accounting

Section 1: The fiscal term of the Party shall begin on January 1 and end December 31.

Section 2: The Executive Committee shall cause an efficient double entry system of accounts to be installed and maintained.

Section 3: All disbursements exceeding \$20.00 shall be made solely by check, ACH, debit card, or credit card and be recorded in the next meeting's minutes.

Amended in convention, 6/9/2019

Section 4: Financial commitments of \$100 or greater require the agreement of a majority of the Executive Committee

Section 5: The Executive Committee shall have the power to designate the depository of all funds of the party; and shall appoint such officers as its judgment may deem advisable, to deposit and withdraw funds from said depository. A withdraw exceeding \$100 requires the approval of the Treasurer plus one other Executive Committee member or the Chair plus one other Executive Committee member.

Section 6: The Treasurer shall provide a yearly written report within the first quarter of the subsequent year. This report shall describe the financial status of the party at the end of the year and the summary numbers on sources and uses of funds.

Section 7: The Treasurer shall also supply pertinent financial data at the request of a majority of the Executive committee, and any other information which, in his/her judgement is important to the orderly management of the party.

Article X: Nominations and Elections

Section 1: A Nominating Committee of not less than five members shall be appointed by the chair and approved by the Executive Committee prior to each election. The Committee will be an

ad-hoc Committee and shall dissolve at the conclusion of each Convention. This Committee shall report one nominee for each public office at the Convention for such election after which nominations from the floor shall be allowed.

Section 2: Where there is only one candidate for a public office, election may be by voice vote.

Section 3: Where more than one candidate is nominated for a public office election will be by written ballot. A majority of votes cast shall elect.

Article XI: Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised; shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of precedence not specifically covered in the Constitution or Bylaws.

Article XII: Membership Fees

Fees for membership (dues) in the Party shall be set by the Executive Committee and amended from time to time as the Executive Committee deems necessary.

Article XIII: Standing Committees

Section 1: The Executive Committee shall propose and a Convention may ratify such Standing Committees as may from time to time be required to fulfill the needs of the party.

Section 2: A Convention may elect Standing Committee Chairs and members.

Article XIV: Conflict

In the event of any conflict or ambiguity of the bylaws adopted hereunder, the LPNH Bylaws shall prevail.

Article XV: Amendments to Bylaws

Amendments to the Bylaws shall be in accordance to the LPNH Bylaws.