

Constitution of Libertarian Party of Ventura County

Article I - Name

The name of this organization shall be the "Libertarian Party of Ventura County," hereinafter referred to as the "Party."

Article II - Authority

The Party is the duly authorized county organization of the Libertarian Party of California in accordance with its bylaws for Ventura County, hereinafter referred to as the "Region." The Constitution, Bylaws and Meeting Rules of the Party are subordinate to the Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of California, hereinafter referred to as the "State Party."

If the Party is one of several regions amongst a subdivided county, as soon as is convenient following each California primary, the Chair shall with the chairs of the other central committees in the county elect a county chair who shall be responsible for:

- A. Effecting liaison between the regions and the county election officials on such matters as monitoring and following-up on election law violations, coordinating poll-watchers, and producing sample ballots; and
- B. Any additional duties approved by two-thirds vote of the regional chairs.

Article III - Purpose

The purpose of the Party is to proclaim and implement the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party by engaging in political and information activities within the Region.

The Party is the leading movement in the Region dedicated to peacefully repealing statist law and restoring civil and economic liberty and property rights as proclaimed in the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party.

It is basic to this mission that the Party continually expand its numbers to accelerate the achievement of this goal.

In order to carry out this mission, the Party shall:

- A. Prepare a political environment to enhance the election of Party candidates by cost effectively expanding the number of Central Committee Members in the Region.
- B. Charter, organize, recognize, direct and guide local units.
- C. Where the demographics of a district suggest that a race is not yet winnable, the Party shall recruit, nominate, endorse and promote candidates who are Registered Libertarians who pledge to proclaim and implement the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party and are dedicated to expanding the number of Central Committee Members.
- D. Where the demographics of a district suggest that a race is winnable, the Party shall recruit, nominate, endorse and promote candidates who are Registered Libertarians who pledge to proclaim and implement the Statement of Principles of the national Libertarian Party and are dedicated to winning their races.

Article IV - Membership

Section 1. Definitions

Registered Libertarian: A person registered as Libertarian per the California Elections Code.

Central Committee Member: The Party's central committee (hereinafter referred to as "Central Committee") shall consist of those individuals who qualify as a Member of a Central Committee under the Bylaws of the State Party by:

- A. Being both elected by Libertarian voters in a primary election to a County Central Committee pursuant to the relevant parts of the California Elections Code and residing within the Region; or
- B. Making application, paying such dues as prescribed by the State Party Executive Committee, signing the following sentence: "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals," and who either:
 - a. Reside outside the Region and choose to affiliate with the Region; or
 - b. Reside within the Region and do not choose to affiliate with any other region.

No Central Committee Member shall be a registrant of or hold office in any political party other than the Libertarian Party. The terms "Member" and "Central Committee Member" are interchangeable.

Associate Member: An individual who is ineligible or unwilling to become a member of the Central Committee may become an associate, non-voting member. Dues collected from Associate Members shall be paid to the national Libertarian Party, or as otherwise directed by the State Party.

Central Committee Members and dues paying Associate Members may hereinafter be referred to as "Contributing Members," when referred to collectively.

Section 2. Qualifications for Office

All Party candidates for public office and the Chair shall be Registered Libertarians, if eligible.

Section 3. Voting Privileges

Membership in the Central Committee confers voting privileges. Members shall be eligible to vote on all matters during meetings of the Central Committee. In order to vote on a given matter, a Central Committee Member must be present at the time the vote is taken. Each Member present shall have one vote. Only the State Party can deprive a Member of his or her voting privileges.

Associate Members in the Central Committee are not eligible to vote.

Section 4. Other Privileges

A Central Committee Member shall be provided a copy of the Constitution, Bylaws and Meeting Rules upon request, at cost.

Section 5. Membership Lists

The Party's membership list shall be provided to Libertarian candidates, campaign committee, or initiative committee, or an interested Member in conjunction with Party activities to facilitate the Party organization under the following conditions:

- A. Two officers give approval to the request;

- B. The requesting individual or group agrees to pay the amount for receiving the list in effect at the time of the request as established by a current Standing Rule of the Executive Committee; and
- C. The requesting individual or group agrees to terms, in effect at the time of the request as established by a current Standing Rule of the Executive Committee, that are solely intended to assure that the membership list is not to be used for any other purpose, nor sold or furnished to any other group, organization, government official or agency.

Section 6. Suspensions

The State Party Executive Committee shall have the exclusive power to suspend a Central Committee Member for failure to maintain all the qualifications of membership, or for cause.

A Central Committee Member shall be suspended indefinitely if, without the permission or pardon of the State Party Executive Committee, the Member:

- A. Is registered in any political party other than the State Party; or
- B. Intentionally involves, or threatens to involve, legal authorities in any non-civil dispute against the State Party or one of its affiliates; or
- C. Has unpaid debts over 90 days old outstanding to the State Party.

Members suspended other than for cause shall be reinstated when the offending condition(s) has (have) been resolved.

Article V - Organization

Section 1. Local Units

The Party may charter local units.

Section 2. Officers

The officers of the Party shall be comprised of the following:

- Chair,
- Vice Chair,
- County Vice Chairs (one of each county if Region consists of greater than one county),
- Secretary,
- Treasurer,

And the chairs of the following standing committees:

- Membership,
- Fundraising,
- Volunteer,
- Newsletter,
- Website,
- Campaigns,
- Media, and
- Events.

All officers shall be elected at the Annual Meeting of the Central Committee and shall take office immediately upon the close of such meeting and serve thereafter until the final adjournment of the next Annual Meeting.

Section 3. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for the control and management of all of the affairs, properties, and funds of the Party consistent with the Constitution, Bylaws, Meeting Rules and any Standing Rules adopted by the Executive Committee.

It shall be the primary duty of the Executive Committee to develop, fund, and implement, either directly or through such committees as it shall appoint, a political strategy to implement the Party's purpose as described in the Party Constitution.

The Executive Committee of the Party shall be composed of the following:

- A. Officers; and
- B. Central Committee Members who serve on the State Party Executive Committee.

Officers along with Central Committee Members selected by the Party to serve on the State Party Executive Committee shall serve as regular members of the Executive Committee. Other Central Committee Members who serve on the State Party Executive Committee shall serve ex officio as members of the Executive Committee.

Each Executive Committee member shall take office immediately upon his or her selection and serve thereafter until the selection of his or her replacement or until his or her position is vacated.

The Executive Committee shall at its option either appoint new officers or schedule a special election if vacancies or suspensions occur, such officers to complete the term of the office vacated.

Failure to attend two consecutive Executive Committee meetings by a regular member of the Executive Committee shall result in his or her removal from office, unless pardoned by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Judicial Committee

In the event the Central Committee has 250 or greater Members, or if a majority at each Annual Meeting of the Central Committee authorizes, there shall be a Judicial Committee composed of three Central Committee Members elected at the Annual Meeting. The Judicial Committee shall take office immediately upon the close of the Annual Meeting and serve thereafter until the close of the following Annual Meeting. A member of the Judicial Committee may not serve on the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall at its option either appoint new Judicial Committee members or schedule a special election if vacancies or suspensions occur, such officeholders to complete the term of the office vacated. Whenever the Judicial Committee exists, it shall be the final body of appeal in all Party matters, subject to the provision that a decision of the Committee may be overturned by a three-fourths vote of the next Central Committee meeting held at least 15 days after the decision.

Article VI - Meetings

Section 1. Delegate Selection Meeting

The Central Committee shall hold a meeting at least 30 days but no more than 75 days in advance of the annual convention of delegates of the State Party, at a time and place reasonably accessible to Members, to elect a State Party Platform Committee delegate, a State Party Program Committee delegate, and delegates to the State Party convention. This meeting shall be called the Delegate Selection Meeting of the Central Committee and may be combined with the Annual Meeting of the Central Committee.

Section 2. Annual Meeting

The Central Committee shall hold a meeting no earlier than 75 days in advance but no later than 45 days following the annual convention of delegates of the State Party, at a time and place reasonably accessible to Members, to hold Party elections, nominate candidates, and conduct such other business as may come before it. This meeting shall be called the Annual Meeting of the Central Committee.

Section 3. Regular Meetings

The Executive Committee shall call other meetings of the Central Committee and set the agenda thereof as required to conduct the business of the Party. Meetings shall be held at a time and place reasonably accessible to Members.

Section 4. Meeting Conduct

The conduct of Central Committee meetings shall be governed by such Standing Rules as may be adopted or amended at any Executive Committee meeting.

Article VII – Elections

Section 1. State Party Election Requirements

The Party is deemed as having selected its officers, State Party Executive Committee representatives and delegates to the State Party convention only if an election notice has been mailed to the Members at least 30 days but no more than 60 days in advance of the election. The election notice must also be sent to and received by the State Party Secretary at least 30 days in advance of the election. Such notice shall specify the reason for the meeting and a time and place reasonably accessible to the membership. An election must be held every year. The results of the election must be reported to the State Party Secretary within 15 days after the election. Any Member may challenge the legality of an election by bringing the issue before the State Party Judicial Committee. The State Party Executive Committee may declare the Party inactive if it fails to hold elections in accordance with this section.

Section 2. Delegate Selection and Reporting

Any delegate or alternate to a State Party convention must be a current Member of a county central committee at the meeting at which delegates are selected and shall have been members at least 90 days prior to the State Party convention. The Party shall be entitled to one delegate for each 0.5% or fraction thereof of the total number of all members of all county central committees, the number of which shall be determined by the State Party Secretary as of the end of the third month prior to the opening session of the State Party convention. The State Party Secretary will notify each region of its eligibility for delegates by mail, no later than the 20th day of the second month prior to the opening of the convention.

In addition to the foregoing, each Member who is both a holder of an elective public office and registered to vote as a Libertarian, the Chair or a member of a county central committee appointed by the Chair, and each Member who is a member of the State Party Executive Committee, at the time the convention is held, shall be a Party delegate. Central committee membership shall not be considered to be a holding of public office.

All qualifying Members not selected as delegates shall be designated as alternates. An alternate with the consent of the Party's delegation may replace any delegate.

Certification of delegates and alternates selected for each county shall be submitted to the Party Secretary at least two weeks prior to the opening session of the convention by the person presiding over the meeting at which the delegates were selected.

Section 3. Additional Reporting Requirements of Offices Filled or Vacated

Offices filled or vacated by means other than by election shall be reported to the State Party Secretary within 15 days after the occurrence.

Article VIII – Bylaws and Meeting Rules

The Bylaws and Meeting Rules are subordinate to this Constitution.

Article IX - Amendments

This Constitution may be amended by:

- A. A majority vote of the eligible positions on the State Party Executive Committee provided that:
 - a. Such action of the State Party Executive Committee is published in the State Party's newspaper, and
 - b. A majority of the Central Committee present at a duly noticed meeting fails to reject such an amendment and notify the State Party Secretary of its rejection no later than the end of the calendar month subsequent to the issue date of the State Party's newspaper containing the published notice; or
- B. A two-thirds vote at either:
 - a. Any Annual Meeting, or
 - b. Any meeting of the Central Committee provided that:
 - i. The amendment was proposed at the previous meeting by a petition signed by a majority of all the Central Committee Members, if the number of Central Committee Members is fewer than 20; or signed by a number equal to at least 10% of all the Central Committee Members, but in no event shall such number be fewer than 10 nor greater than 50, if the number of Central Committee Members is equal to 20 or greater; and
 - ii. Notification of the proposed amendment accompanied the notice for the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.

The most current Constitution, Bylaws, and Meeting Rules shall be published on a website where the contents are controlled by the Party and available to the general public. Any revisions to the Constitution, Bylaws and Meeting Rules shall be mailed or e-mailed to the State Party Secretary.

Article X - Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order as newly revised shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by the Constitution, Bylaws, and Meeting Rules of the Party.

Article XI - Conflicting Authority

Section 1.

In the event of any conflict between the Constitution, Bylaws, and Meeting Rules and the State Party Bylaws, the State Party Bylaws shall govern the Party and its affairs.

Section 2.

In the event of any conflict between the Constitution, Bylaws, and Meeting Rules and the California Election Code, the Federal Election Code, or any other law or regulation, these Bylaws shall govern the Party and its affairs.

Section 3.

In the event that any authority should declare any portion of the Constitution, Bylaws, and Meeting Rules void or invalid, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

Bylaws of Libertarian Party of Ventura County

Bylaw I - Local Units

The Executive Committee shall charter local units under the following conditions:

- A. The local unit charter is not in conflict with either the Party or State Party bylaws;
- B. The local unit operates within a territory no larger than one county within the Region;
- C. The local unit limits membership to Contributing Members within the territory, or a subset thereof;
- D. The local unit grants voting rights only to Members;
- E. The local unit members number ten or greater;
- F. The local unit collects from each local unit member (or his or her sponsor) a fee of at least \$10 per month; and
- G. The local unit pays the Party an administrative fee of \$10 per year per member, payable quarterly.

Bylaw II - Elected Officers

Section 1. Qualifications and Requirements

Only a person who is a Member and who has expressed a willingness to serve shall be eligible for election or selection to any elected position of the Party. Each officeholder elected or selected by the Party shall contribute at least \$10 each month to the Party. No person shall hold greater than two Party offices (three if the Central Committee has fewer than 250 Members) and no person shall hold greater than one of the following offices: Chair, Vice Chair, County Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer. A member of the Judicial Committee may not serve on the Executive Committee.

Each County Vice Chair shall reside in his or her respective county.

No officeholder shall be a registrant of or hold office in any political party other than the Libertarian Party.

No officeholder shall use any office in the Party in supporting a candidate of another political party.

Section 2. Chair

The Chair shall preside at all Central Committee meetings and at all meetings of the Executive Committee. He or she shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Party.

For reference purposes, Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, states that the duties of the Chairman are:

- 1) To open the meeting at the appointed time by taking the chair and calling the meeting to order, having ascertained that a quorum is present.
- 2) To announce in proper sequence the business that comes before the assembly or becomes in order in accordance with the prescribed order of business, agenda or program, and with existing orders of the day.
- 3) To recognize members who are entitled to the floor.

- 4) To state and to put to vote all questions that legitimately come before the assembly as motions or that otherwise arise in the course of the proceedings ... , and to announce the result of each vote; or, if a motion that is not in order is made, to rule it out of order.
- 5) To protect the assembly from obviously frivolous or dilatory motions by refusing to recognize them.
- 6) To enforce the rules relating to debate and those relating to order and decorum within the assembly.
- 7) To expedite business in every way compatible with the rights of members.
- 8) To decide all questions of order, subject to appeal – unless, when in doubt, the presiding officer prefers initially to submit such a question to the assembly for decision.
- 9) To respond to inquiries of members relating to parliamentary procedure or factual information bearing on the business of the assembly.
- 10) To authenticate by his or her signature, when necessary, all acts, orders, and proceedings of the assembly.
- 11) To declare the meeting adjourned when the assembly so votes or – when applicable – at the time prescribed in the program, or at any time in the event of a sudden emergency affecting the safety of those present.

At each meeting, in addition to the necessary papers proper to that meeting's business, the presiding officer should have at hand:

- A copy of the bylaws and other rules of the organization;
- A copy of its parliamentary authority;
- A list of all standing and special committees and their members; and
- A memorandum of the complete order of business listing all known matters that are to come up, shown in proper sequence under the correct headings – or with their scheduled times – as applicable.

Section 3. Vice Chair

The Vice Chair shall act as assistant to the Chair, and shall perform the duties of the Chair in the event the Chair is, for any reason, unable to perform the duties of his or her office.

Section 4. County Vice Chairs

Each County Vice Chair shall act as assistant to the Chair, and shall be tasked with developing his or her county for the purpose of forming an independent duly authorized region affiliated with the State Party.

Section 5. Secretary

The Secretary shall be the recording officer of the Party. The secretary shall be responsible for maintaining the Party membership list, and for receiving or sending formal notifications as shall be specified in the Constitution, Bylaws and Meeting Rules, and shall be responsible for recording and promptly distributing minutes of Party proceedings. The Secretary shall maintain a current set of Standing Rules.

The Secretary shall make available for inspection to any Member a copy of all the minutes and current Standing Rules and shall, upon written request, provide copies of such documents to any Member, at cost. The Secretary may satisfy this requirement by publishing such documents on a website accessible to Members and whose contents are controlled by the Party.

For reference purposes, Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, states that the duties of the Secretary are:

- 1) To keep a record of all the proceedings of the organization – usually called the minutes.

- 2) To keep on file all committee reports.
- 3) To keep the organization's official membership roll (unless another officer or staff member has this duty); and to call the roll where it is required.
- 4) To make the minutes and records available to members upon request.
- 5) To notify officers, committee members, and delegates of their election or appointment, to furnish committees with whatever documents are required for the performance of their duties, and to have on hand at each meeting a list of all existing committees and their members.
- 6) To furnish delegates with credentials.
- 7) To sign all certified copies of acts of the society, unless otherwise specified in the bylaws.
- 8) To maintain record book(s) in which the bylaws, special rules of order, standing rules, and minutes are entered with any amendments to these documents properly recorded, and to have the current record book(s) on hand at every meeting.
- 9) To send out to the membership a notice of each meeting, known as the *call* of the meeting, and to conduct the general correspondence of the organization – that is, correspondence that is not a function proper to other offices or to committees.
- 10) To prepare, prior to each meeting, an order of business for the use of the presiding officer, showing in their exact order, under the correct headings, all matters known in advance that are due to come up and – if applicable – the times for which they are set.
- 11) In the absence of the [Chair] and [Vice Chair], to call the meeting to order and preside until the immediate election of a chairman pro tem.

Section 6. Treasurer

The Treasurer shall receive, expend, and account for the funds of the Party under the supervision and direction of the Chair and Executive Committee.

For reference purposes, Roberts Rules of Order, Newly Revised, states that the duties of the Treasurer are as follows:

The treasurer of an organization is the officer entrusted with the custody of its funds. The treasurer, and any other officers who handle funds of the society, should be bonded for a sum sufficient to protect the society from loss. The specific duties of the treasurer will vary depending on the size and complexity of the society; but this officer cannot disburse funds except by authority of the society or as the bylaws prescribe. The treasurer is required to make a full financial report annually or as the bylaws may prescribe, and to make such interim reports as the assembly or the executive board may direct.

Section 7. Membership Chair

The Membership Chair shall be responsible for maintaining and increasing the number of Contributing Members in the Party. This Standing Committee Chair may choose to work with others or alone. At a minimum, the Membership Chair shall issue a monthly report of who joined the Party in the previous month and whose memberships lapsed in the previous month. This officer shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee as long as the Central Committee has a greater number of current Contributing Members than three months earlier or as of the beginning of the officer's term, whichever is later. In the event this officer fails to qualify as a voting member, the Executive Committee may restore the voting rights of this officer until the beginning of the next meeting.

Section 8. Fundraising Chair

The Fundraising Chair shall be responsible for raising money to support the Party's growth. At a minimum, the Fundraising Chair shall issue a monthly report of who is a monthly pledger in good standing and who donated money in the previous month. This Standing Committee Chair may choose to work with others or alone. This officer shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee as long as Party non-dues revenues exceed an average of \$1 per Member per month over the last three months or since the beginning of the officer's term, whichever is later. In the event this officer fails to qualify as a voting member, the Executive Committee may restore the voting rights of this officer until the beginning of the next meeting.

Section 9. Volunteer Chair

The Volunteer Chair shall be responsible for recruiting, motivating and coordinating volunteers for activities sponsored by the Party. At a minimum, the Volunteer Chair shall issue a monthly report of the names, dates and accomplishments of the previous month's volunteers. This Standing Committee Chair may choose to work with others or alone. This officer shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee as long as total volunteer hours (excluding travel and meeting time) exceed an average of one hour per month for every 100,000 in population over the last three months or since the beginning of the officer's term, whichever is later. In the event this officer fails to qualify as a voting member, the Executive Committee may restore the voting rights of this officer until the beginning of the next meeting.

Section 10. Newsletter Chair

The Newsletter Chair shall be responsible for the publication of a newsletter for dissemination of information about the Party to Contributing Members. This Standing Committee Chair may choose to work with others or alone. This officer shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee as long as the newsletter is published and mailed to Contributing Members the previous month (or previous quarter while the Central Committee has fewer than 200 Members and Associate Members). In the event this officer fails to qualify as a voting member, the Executive Committee may restore the voting rights of this officer until the beginning of the next meeting.

Section 11. Website Chair

The Website Chair shall be responsible for the publication of a website where the contents are controlled by the Party and available to the general public. This Standing Committee Chair may choose to work with others or alone. This officer shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee as long as the website was updated with new information at least once during the previous month (or previous quarter while the Central Committee has fewer than 200 Members and Associate Members). In the event this officer fails to qualify as a voting member, the Executive Committee may restore the voting rights of this officer until the beginning of the next meeting.

Section 12. Campaigns Chair

The Campaigns Chair shall be responsible for coordinating candidate recruitment, training, and support. This Standing Committee Chair may choose to work with others or alone. This officer shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee unless during the officer's term the Party fails to collect valid signatures to qualify Registered Libertarian candidates for a direct primary equal in number to the lesser of:

- A. Twenty percent of Registered Libertarians in the Region, the number of which is determined by the most recent count available from county elections officials prior to the beginning of a candidate-filing period for a direct primary; or
- B. Seventy-five for every 100,000 in population or fraction thereof in the Region.

In the event this officer fails to qualify as a voting member, the Executive Committee may restore the voting rights of this officer until the beginning of the next meeting.

Section 13. Media Chair

The Media Chair shall be responsible for the dissemination of information about the Party to the media and the public. This Standing Committee Chair may choose to work with others or alone. This officer shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee if an average of one media release per month has been sent to newspapers of general circulation during the previous three months or since the beginning of the officer's term, whichever is later. In the event this officer fails to qualify as a voting member, the Executive Committee may restore the voting rights of this officer until the beginning of the next meeting.

Section 14. Events Chair

The Events Chair shall be responsible for the planning and oversight of events held for the benefit of Contributing Members. This Standing Committee Chair may choose to work with others or alone. This officer shall be a voting member of the Executive Committee if one meeting with an outside guest speaker has been held during the previous two months (or previous quarter while the Central Committee has fewer than 200 Members and Associate Members). In the event this officer fails to qualify as a voting member, the Executive Committee may restore the voting rights of this officer until the beginning of the next meeting.

Bylaw III - Executive Committee

Section 1. Meeting Notice

The Executive Committee shall meet at such time and place as may be determined by action of the Committee, by call of the Chair, or by the written request of one-third or more of the members of the Executive Committee. A notice of the time and place of all meetings shall be given to each member of the Executive Committee in writing no fewer than 4 days prior to said meeting. Copies of such notice shall be filed with the organization's records and made a part of the minutes of the meeting. Notice may be waived provided that either before or after the meeting every member of the Executive Committee signs a Waiver of Notice. All such Waivers shall be filed with the organization's records and made a part of the minutes of the meeting.

Section 2. Quorum

A majority of the members of the Executive Committee eligible to vote shall constitute a quorum for any meeting.

Section 3. Transaction of Business by E-mail

The Executive Committee may, without meeting together, transact business by e-mail by voting on questions submitted by the Secretary at the request of at least one-third of the committee or by the Chair. Voting will be completed any time after 48 hours from the transmission time of the e-mail ballot if the motion has received Yea votes from 2/3 of the members of the Executive committee, or if the motion has received Nay votes from 2/3 of the members of the Executive Committee, or after 120 hours in all other cases. Members may change their vote up to the close of the voting period. If, at the expiration of the applicable period, a quorum of the Executive Committee has not voted the measure being voted upon shall be deemed to have failed. The Secretary must preserve all such votes until the next meeting of the Executive Committee, at which meeting the Executive Committee shall order the disposition of such votes.

Section 4. One Person, One Vote

Each member of the Executive Committee shall have only one vote, regardless of the number of offices he or she holds, as long as at least one of the offices he or she holds has voting rights.

Section 5. Super-majorities

A two-thirds majority of members of the Executive Committee shall be required to pass the following:

- A. Removing an officeholder from office;
- B. Disciplining a Contributing Member;
- C. Endorsing or rescinding the endorsement of any candidate for public office;
- D. Endorsing or opposing any proposed ballot measure, but rescinding such action shall be considered a normal main motion;
- E. Creating an annual budget;
- F. Incurring a financial liability or contractual obligation lasting more than three months; and
- G. Providing the Party mailing list to non-Libertarian groups or individuals.

Section 6. Simple majorities

Unless requiring a greater percentage or different voting rules for approval elsewhere in these Constitution, Bylaws and Rules, a simple majority of the regular members of the Executive Committee shall be required to pass main motions.

Bylaw IV - Judicial Committee

Section 1.

The Judicial Committee shall elect a chair who shall receive all appeals and petitions, and schedule hearings so as to obtain a quorum of the Committee. When a hearing is requested, the chair shall be allowed 2 days to set the date of the hearing.

Section 2.

The Judicial Committee must provide at least 2 days notice to each of the interested parties to a hearing.

Section 3.

Hearings must be held within 14 days from the time the request is received by the Judicial Committee, unless otherwise specified.

Section 4.

Each party to a hearing shall have the right to represent his or her interests in the manner of his or her own choosing.

Section 5.

The Judicial Committee must provide a ruling within 2 days of the conclusion of a hearing, unless otherwise specified.

Section 6.

A majority of the members of the Judicial Committee shall constitute a quorum for any meeting.

Bylaw V – Other Committees

The Chair shall appoint such other committees, standing or special, as the Executive Committee shall from time to time deem necessary to carry on the work of the Party. Committees may include, but are not limited to, Awards & Recognition, Legislation & Lobbying, Legal, and Voter Registration. Chairs of such committees are not members of the Executive Committee. The Chair shall be ex officio a member of all committees.

Bylaw VI - State Party Representation

The Executive Committee may appoint Central Committee Members to fill those positions in the State Party Executive Committee that are to be selected by the Party. Such appointments shall be subject to ratification at the next Central Committee meeting taking place at least 40 days after such appointments. An election notice shall be mailed in accordance with notice requirements for other elections. A meeting may fail to ratify an appointment only by electing a new member to fill the position for which the appointment was made.

Bylaw VII - Central Committee Meetings

Section 1.

At most two months (three months while the Central Committee has fewer than 200 Members and Associate Members) shall be allowed to elapse between meetings of the Central Committee.

Section 2.

Other than at an Annual Meeting, the portions of meetings at which amendments to the Constitution, Bylaws, or Meeting Rules are to be voted upon require a quorum equal to a majority of Central Committee Members if they number fewer than 20; or 10% of all Central Committee Members in the event they total 20 or greater, but in no event shall such number be fewer than 10 nor greater than 50.

Section 3.

The Executive Committee shall be responsible for setting the time and place of all Central Committee meetings. Such meetings shall be reasonably accessible to Central Committee Members.

Section 4.

A minimum of 2 weeks but no more than 90 days written notice sent via USPS shall be provided to Central Committee Members concerning any meeting other than a meeting with an election of officeholders, State Party Executive Committee representatives or delegates to the State Party convention.

Section 5.

At least 30 days but no more than 60 days written notice sent via USPS shall be provided to Members concerning any meeting with an election of officeholders, State Party Executive Committee representatives or delegates to the State Party convention. The election notice must also be sent to and received by the State Party Secretary at least 30 days in advance of the election. Such notice shall specify the reason for the meeting and a time and place reasonably accessible to the membership. The results of the election must be reported to the State Party Secretary within 15 days after the election.

Bylaw VIII - Finances and Accounting

Section 1.

The fiscal term of the Party shall coincide with the calendar year.

Section 2.

The Executive Committee shall cause an efficient system of accounts to be installed and maintained. The accounting records shall be open to any member of the Executive Committee at any reasonable time.

Section 3.

No disbursements of \$20 or more shall be made with cash. No disbursements shall be made without supporting documentation.

Section 4.

The Party shall not enter into any contract lasting more than three months, incur any expense in a non-budgeted category, or incur any expense in a budgeted category greater than the amount budgeted by more than 10% without a two-thirds vote of the entire Executive Committee. Anyone who incurs such a financial liability without such approval shall be personally liable.

Section 5.

The Treasurer shall compile a report at least quarterly consisting of a balance sheet and profit and loss statement. The balance sheet and profit and loss statement shall be available to Members of the Party from the Treasurer upon written request. The Treasurer may satisfy this requirement by publishing such documents on a website accessible to Members and whose contents are controlled by the Party.

Bylaw IX – Newsletter Content and Distribution

Section 1. Content

Whenever possible, each issue of the newsletter shall include information on Organization, Membership, Fundraising and Volunteers.

Information on Organization shall include the following: current officer contact information, including phone numbers and e-mail addresses; a list of vacant officer positions; a reference to any Party controlled websites; names of Contributing Members attending meetings and events, or the number if greater than 20; names and backgrounds of guests attending meeting and events, or the fact that none were in attendance; a Treasurer's summary, which includes total receipts, spending and cash on hand; and the tracking of any Party established goals.

Information on Membership shall include the following: names of Contributing Members recently joining; combined number of Contributing Members compared to last year; a retention lapse ratio calculated by the number of Contributing Members lapsed during the last 12 months who were also members longer than one year divided by the current number of Contributing Members.

Information on Fundraising shall include the following: listing of new monthly pledgers, indicating anonymous where requested; monthly pledges added in last month and last twelve months; pledges for the month versus last year; and the tracking of any fundraising goals.

Information on Volunteers shall include the following: names, dates and accomplishments of last month's volunteers; hours of volunteer time last month and last twelve months, not including travel time, business meetings or volunteer sessions less than 3 hours in duration; hours of volunteer time last month versus last year.

Where historical information is not available, comparisons with information from the earliest month available shall be used. Ideally, information shall be displayed in a bar chart graph showing each month over 24 months.

Section 2. Distribution

At a minimum, the newsletter shall be mailed to Contributing Members. To satisfy notice requirements and enable the Party to work closer with the State Party, the newsletter shall also be mailed to the State Party Secretary, the State Party Editor and the State Party Awards & Recognition Chair.

Bylaw X - Endorsements

Section 1.

Except as provided in Sections 2 and 3 below, the Party shall make endorsements, make recommendations, or otherwise take positions with respect to elections, nominations, measures, or other matters appearing on a public ballot only by a two-thirds vote of the Central Committee at a meeting the notice for which included a statement that such action would be considered. "Public ballot" includes any general, special, primary, or other election conducted by any level of government.

Section 2.

If, within 60 days of an election, (1) a new matter is added to the ballot, (2) a new candidate or other option is added to a matter already on the ballot, or (3) a candidate or option upon which the Central Committee has previously taken a position is removed from the ballot, the Executive Committee may, by a two-thirds vote, take a position on behalf of the Party with respect to the matter affected by the change.

Section 3.

If a measure, other than a statewide measure, is placed on the ballot within 45 days of the deadline for submission of ballot arguments, the Executive Committee may, by a two-thirds vote, take a position on that measure on behalf of the Party in order to allow an argument to be submitted by the Party or by one or greater number of Party officers using their Party titles. This position shall be effective only upon actual submission of such an argument to the appropriate election official prior to the deadline.

Section 4.

No Party officer shall use his office or allow Party funds or other Party resources to be used to support or oppose any candidate or other option in any matter appearing on a public ballot, except in accordance with a position taken by the Party as provided in Sections 1, 2, or 3 of this Bylaw.

Section 5.

Nothing in this Bylaw shall be construed to prohibit publication in the Party newsletter of factual material relating to matters appearing on a public ballot, or of signed opinion articles stating the personal opinions of their authors, as long as such opinions are clearly identified as not being official positions of the Party.

Section 6.

Nothing in this Bylaw shall be construed to prohibit use of Party resources for the recruitment or training as candidates of individuals who have not yet received an endorsement, as long as the Party has taken no position specifically opposing their candidacy.

Bylaw XI - Executive Appeal

Section 1.

Any action taken by a Party officer or the Executive Committee may be appealed to the body of appeal by the petition of a majority of all the Central Committee Members, if the number of Central Committee Members is fewer than 20; or by a number equal to at least 10% of all the Central Committee Members, but in no event shall such number be fewer than 10 nor greater than 50, if the number of Central Committee Members is equal to 20 or greater. A Central Committee Member may only sign one such petition in any six-month period. The body of appeal shall be the Judicial Committee or the Central Committee, if there are no Judicial Committee members.

Section 2.

The body of appeal will hold a hearing to determine whether or not the action in question was within the scope of the Constitution, Bylaws, Meeting Rules, and Resolutions of the Party. Should the body of appeal rule that the action was not proper, then the body of appeal shall direct such corrective measures as it deems appropriate.

Bylaw XII – Suspensions and Recalls

Section 1. Suspension

An officeholder may be suspended from office by a two-thirds vote of the entire Executive Committee's voting members. The office of a suspended officeholder shall be declared vacant unless the suspended officeholder appeals his or her suspension within 3 days of notification of suspension. The body of appeal shall be the Judicial Committee or the Central Committee, if there are no Judicial Committee members or if the officeholder being suspended is a member of the Judicial Committee.

Section 2. Appeal

Upon appeal by the suspended officer, the body of appeal shall set the date of a hearing, unless the body of appeal is the Central Committee, in which case the Executive Committee shall set the date of a hearing no later than 30 days after the appeal request. Following the hearing, the body shall rule to either uphold the suspension, thereby vacating the office, or restore the officer to full authority. A failure to rule shall be deemed as restoring the officer to full authority.

Section 3. Recall Petitions

An officeholder shall be subject to a recall election if petitioned by a majority of all the Central Committee Members, if the number of Central Committee Members is fewer than 20; or by a number equal to at least 10% of all the Central Committee Members, but in no event shall such number be fewer than 10 nor greater than 50, if the number of Central Committee Members is equal to 20 or greater. An officeholder shall not be subject to a recall election more than once during any 12-month period.

Section 4. Recall Elections

Upon qualification of a recall petition, the Executive Committee shall schedule, notice and conduct a recall election in accordance with these bylaws, unless an Annual Meeting is scheduled within the next 60 days. Should a majority of the Members at a duly held recall election vote to remove an officeholder, or if the individual subject to a recall election is suspended or otherwise vacates the office before the recall election, an election to replace the officeholder for the balance of the term shall occur at the same meeting as the scheduled recall election.

Bylaw XIII - Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by:

- A. A majority vote of the eligible positions on the State Party Executive Committee provided that:
 - a. Such action of the State Party Executive Committee is published in the State Party's newspaper, and
 - b. A majority of the Central Committee present at a duly noticed meeting fails to reject such an amendment and notify the State Party Secretary of its rejection no later than the end of the calendar month subsequent to the issue date of the State Party's newspaper containing the published notice; or
- B. A majority vote at either:
 - a. Any Annual Meeting, or
 - b. Any meeting of the Central Committee provided that:
 - i. The amendment was proposed at the previous meeting by a petition signed by a majority of all the Central Committee Members, if the number of Central Committee Members is fewer than 20; or signed by a number equal to at least 10% of all the Central Committee Members, but in no event shall such number be fewer than 10 nor greater than 50, if the number of Central Committee Members is equal to 20 or greater; and
 - ii. Notification of the proposed amendment accompanied the notice for the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.

Bylaw Amendment I – Elected Officer Requirements

Notwithstanding any other bylaw, other than the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, no officeholder shall be required to contribute each month to the Party as a condition of holding such office.

Meeting Rules of Libertarian Party of Ventura County

Rule I - Voting Procedure

On all matters except elections and nominations, voting will be by voice vote or show of hands. If ten percent of Central Committee Members present object to the Chair's ruling on the outcome of the vote, a roll call vote will be held. Voting on elections and nominations shall be by written ballot, unless a race is uncontested, in which case a voice vote or show of hands may be used. In all voting for elections and endorsements of candidates for public office, there shall be the voting option of "None of the Above." A majority vote is required to employ an alternative method of voting for an election or nomination.

Rule II - Agenda

The business of a meeting shall normally consist of the following items, conducted in the following order:

- Reciting of Mission Statement
- Reports of Party Officers
- Committee Reports
- Resolutions and other business
- Elections
- Nominations of Candidates

Rule III – Mission Statement

As Libertarians, we seek a world of liberty; a world in which all individuals are sovereign over their own lives, and no one is forced to sacrifice his or her values for the benefit of others.

We believe that respect for individual rights is the essential precondition for a free and prosperous world, that force and fraud must be banished from human relationships, and that only through freedom can peace and prosperity be realized.

Consequently, we defend each person's right to engage in any activity that is peaceful and honest, and welcome the diversity that freedom brings. The world we seek to build is one where individuals are free to follow their own dreams in their own ways, without interference from government or any authoritarian power.

Our goal is nothing more nor less than a world set free in our lifetime, and to accomplish this we are dedicated to expanding the number of Libertarian members until our ideas are implemented.

Rule IV - Elections

Section 1. Offices With A Single Holder

Nominations shall be from the floor. For single-holder offices (e.g. Party officers), elections shall be conducted using Instant Runoff Voting (IRV). For each office, a majority vote of all the ballots cast will be necessary and sufficient for election. Ballots shall allow Members to rank their choices of candidates in order of preference, such as First Choice, Second Choice, Third Choice, etc. In cases in which no candidate receives a majority of First Choice votes, the lowest running candidate will be eliminated and his or her ballots redistributed to the remaining candidates according to the next choice indicated on those ballots and the ballots recounted. If no candidate yet has a majority of votes, the process of eliminating the candidate with the least number of votes, redistributing according to the next choice on those ballots and then recounting shall be repeated until one candidate has a majority. Lack of a majority vote for one candidate or a majority vote for "None of the Above" shall cause nominations for that office to be reopened.

Section 2. Offices With Multiple Holders

Nominations shall be from the floor. For multiple-holder offices (e.g. Convention Delegates, Judicial Committees, etc.), elections shall be decided by plurality vote. Each Member may vote for no more than the number of positions available, further limited by the number of candidates, or for "None of the Above," but not both. If a position is not filled due to votes for "None of the Above," nominations for the remaining positions shall be reopened.

Rule V - Nominations

A candidate may only be nominated for any office who is eligible to serve in that office and who has expressed a willingness to accept the nomination of the Party. Nominees for any office shall be chosen by majority vote. Should no candidate obtain a majority on a ballot, a new ballot shall be taken. After every second ballot, if no candidate has yet received a majority vote, the candidate with the least number of votes shall be struck from subsequent ballots.

Rule VI - Amendments

Section 1.

These Meeting Rules may be amended by:

- A. A majority vote of the eligible positions on the State Party Executive Committee provided that:
 - a. Such action of the State Party Executive Committee is published in the State Party's newspaper, and
 - b. A majority of the Central Committee present at a duly noticed meeting fails to reject such an amendment and notify the State Party Secretary of its rejection no later than the end of the calendar month subsequent to the issue date of the State Party's newspaper containing the published notice; or
- B. A majority vote at either:
 - a. Any Annual Meeting, or
 - b. Any meeting of the Central Committee provided that:
 - i. The amendment was proposed at the previous meeting by a petition signed by a majority of all the Central Committee Members, if the number of Central Committee Members is fewer than 20; or signed by a number equal to at least 10% of all the Central Committee Members, but in no event shall such number be fewer than 10 nor greater than 50, if the number of Central Committee Members is equal to 20 or greater; and
 - ii. Notification of the proposed amendment accompanied the notice for the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.

Section 2.

Any Meeting Rule that specifies a greater than majority vote may not be amended by a lesser vote than that specified.

Section 3.

Amendments to these Meeting Rules will normally take effect at the close of the meeting in which the amendments were adopted. Such amendments may be adopted by a majority vote.

Section 4.

Amendments to these Meeting Rules taking effect immediately upon adoption will require a two-thirds vote.