

Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Tulare County

LPTC Bylaws

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Article I. Name

The name of this organization shall be “The Libertarian Party of Tulare County”, referred to hereafter as the LPTC or simply “the Party”. The LPTC is an affiliate, Region 54, of the Libertarian Party of California, hereafter referred to as “LPC” or the “State Party”.

Article II. Purpose

The goal of the Party shall be to advance the cause of liberty in every honorable way, bearing in mind the adage, “Think globally, act locally.” We hold advancing the cause of liberty to mean promoting laws, policies and actions which are in accordance with the non-aggression principle: That one is free to do as one wishes, provided it harms no one else. Pursuant to this goal, we seek to implement the Statement of Purpose of the National Libertarian Party and the purpose and activities of the LPC within Tulare County.

As part of the LPC, the LPTC shall be the official voice of the Libertarian Party within Region 54, and shall manage and control a share of dues paid to the party, such share to be determined by the State Party in accordance with its Constitution and/ or Bylaws.

Article III. 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 County; 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 County and choose to affiliate with the County; or
 - b. Reside within the County and do not choose to affiliate with any other County.

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 Chairman 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 Bylaws upon request, at cost.

Section 5. Membership Lists

The Party's membership list shall be provided to Libertarian candidates, campaign committees, or initiative committees, 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 IV. Executive Committee

Section 1. Definition

The term “Executive Committee” refers to the portion of the Party’s voting block that consists of the four elected officers. The Party aims to be an organization *of* the people, run *by* the people, and *for* the people in the tradition of the American founding vision. With absolutely no disregard for this aim, certain organizational responsibilities are explicitly delegated to the executive committee, which is essentially the Party’s leadership team.

As it stands, the terms “Executive Committee” and “Officers” are interchangeable.

Section 2. Officers

The Executive Committee of the LPC shall consist of the following officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. No individual may hold more than one office, except as noted under [Section 3 below](#). Officers must be duly qualified voting members of the LPTC.

Section 3. Duties of Officers

The **Chair** shall preside at all meetings and functions of the party and shall have general supervision of the work of the organization. The Chair shall publish (or distribute) electronically to all members an agenda for each party meeting or similar event no later than one week preceding the event or meeting. The Chair shall be responsible for generating all meeting agendas, including any items requested for inclusion by voting members, in such a manner as to ensure that the organization meets its obligations in a timely manner and seizes opportunities which present themselves. The Chair may call meetings of the Executive Committee as described in [Article VII](#).

The **Vice-Chair** shall perform the duties of the Chair in that person’s absence, or may fill in when so requested by the Chair.

The **Secretary** shall take minutes at all meetings and similar party functions, and maintain this information in a database accessible to other officers and party members. The Secretary shall publish (or distribute) the minutes of each event or meeting electronically to all members no later than one week following the event or meeting. The Secretary will also be responsible for keeping and maintaining the Party's membership list.

The **Treasurer** shall receive and be custodian of all funds of the party and shall pay all bills. The Treasurer shall keep an account of all monies received and disbursed, and shall make a full report of the organization's finances at each regular monthly meeting, or as directed by the Chair, and shall file all proper reports as required by law. The Treasurer shall promptly reimburse other officers or party members for out-of-pocket expenses authorized by the Executive Committee.

Section 4. Terms of Office and Vacancies

The term of office for all Executive Committee members shall be one year, beginning at the first meeting of the calendar year and ending at the first calendar meeting of the following year.

If an officer's term has expired or an officer wishes to resign during his/her term and there is no one willing to fill the office, another officer may temporarily take on the title and duties of the vacant office until such time as a successor is elected. The Chair and Vice-Chair positions however, may never be occupied by the same person. When an office is vacant or being filled by another officer, a call for nominations shall be made at each regular meeting or similar event of the organization until the vacancy is filled.

Section 5. Other Executive Committee Members

Additional positions that may be filled by the Party's officers include (but are not limited to) a Webmaster and a Media Liason. Positions shall be appointed by the Chair, however his or her appointments may be vetoed by a majority disapproval of the remaining elected officers.

Section 6. Subcommittees

Various subcommittees may be formed and put into action when necessary at the discretion of the Chair, however the formation of any subcommittee may be denied by a majority disapproval by the remaining elected officers. Examples of subcommittees that may be deemed appropriate for LPTC are Outreach, Fundraising, and Publication.

Bylaw V - Finances and Accounting

Section 1.

The fiscal term of the Party shall coincide with the calendar year, beginning on January 1 and ending on December 31.

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.

Article VI – 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 Central Committee.

Section 2. Appeal

Upon appeal by the suspended officer, the body of appeal 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. 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.

Article VII. Meetings

Section 1. General meetings

The Party shall hold monthly general meetings in Tulare County, on a regular day or date, time, and location to be determined by the Executive Committee. Meetings must be scheduled and announced at least 21 days in advance. All voting members shall be sent written notification of any change in the day, date, time, or location of such meetings. "Written notification" in this context includes email. Failure to contact all voting members shall not be construed as evidence of improper procedure if good-faith efforts to notify members took place.

Decisions made by the LPTC at general meetings shall be made on the basis of a majority of those voting members present. The exceptions are voting to amend this document or to impeach an officer, actions which require a two-thirds majority vote of those voting members present.

Each officer has one vote, equal to the vote of any other voting member. All decisions duly made by the membership at a monthly meeting are binding on the Executive Committee, and previous decisions of the Executive Committee may be overruled by the voting members at such meetings.

Monthly meetings of the LPTC shall be open to the public, however the party reserves the right to exclude non-members from any meeting.

Section 2. Executive Committee meetings

The LPTC Party Chair may call meetings of the Executive Committee as noted in [Section 1](#). The Chair must give at least one week's notice to each officer, or failing this, may call a meeting on shorter notice with the consent of the other officers.

No decisions may be made or action taken by the Executive Committee of the LPTC unless a majority of officers are present. This rule may be waived if the officer or officers whose presence is necessary to make up a quorum give(s) specific authorization to conduct a decision-making meeting in his/her/their absence.

Significant decisions and actions of the Executive Committee shall be announced at the next general meeting, and published electronically to voting members online as soon as reasonably possible.

Article VIII. Elections

Election of all officers of the Executive Committee of the LPTC, and all LPC delegates and alternate delegates to the State Convention of the LPC, shall occur at duly constituted meetings as noted in [Article VII](#).

If any member present so proposes, election shall be by secret written ballot from among those nominated and who agree to serve if selected, otherwise election shall be by open vote.

The number of delegates and alternates to be selected shall be the number determined by the state party Secretary.

In the event that an elected delegate or alternate fails to attend any session of the State Convention, any member of the Executive Committee in good standing may take the individual's place by following the state party's procedures for credentialing.

Article IV. 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 Members in attendance 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 Party newsletter, website, or official social media, 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.

Article X. 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, and

ii. Notification of the proposed amendment accompanied the notice for the meeting at which the amendment will be considered.

Article XI. Conflict

In the event of any conflict or ambiguity arising between the constitution and bylaws adopted hereunder and the constitution of the LPC, the latter shall prevail.

Article XII. Parliamentary Authority

Robert's Rules of Order, Eleventh Edition, (the most recent revision) shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by the Bylaws, or by any other published meeting rules of the Party.