



Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Tulare County

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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 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 through outreach, public discourse, and direct political action. We hold advancing the cause of liberty to mean promoting legislation and policies which are in accordance with the following principle: that one is free to govern his or her own life as one sees fit; that is to live however he or she chooses, provided that one’s actions do not harm anyone else or limit another individual’s freedom in any direct way. The party maintains the belief that freedom applies equally to everyone, and that the primary role of government is to protect the liberty of all individuals. Pursuant to the aforementioned goal, we seek to implement the Statement of Principles 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 Tulare County, 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 bylaws.

Article III. Membership

Section 1. Definitions

Registered Libertarian: A voter registered as Libertarian per the California Elections Code

Central Committee Member: The Party’s Central Committee Members shall consist of those individuals who qualify as a member of a Central Committee under the Bylaws of the State Party by:

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 Tulare County and choose to affiliate with the LP of Tulare County; or
- b. Reside within Tulare County and do not choose to affiliate with any other LPC county organization.

“Central Committee Members” are referred to collectively as the “Central Committee”.

Section 2. Qualifications for Office

All Party candidates for public office and the officers 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, except where otherwise outlined. 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.

To be eligible to vote in annual officer elections, one must have been a Central Committee member affiliated with LPTC for any 120 day period before the election is held.

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 Executive Committee shall have the exclusive power to suspend a Central Committee Member if he or she 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. Additional members (including but not limited to "At Large" positions) may be added to the Executive Committee by adding an amendment to the bylaws to do so. The addition must be approved by a two-thirds majority vote of the Central Committee.

Section 2. Officers

The Executive Committee of the LPTC shall consist of the following officers: Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. No individual may hold more than one office, unless there are less than 20 dues paying members or as noted under Section 4 below. Candidates for officer positions must be duly qualified voting members of the LPTC for no less than one year. However, if they have been members for less than a year, they are eligible to run, but will require a two thirds majority to be elected.

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 immediately following the election during 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 may be made at each regular meeting or similar event of the organization until the vacancy is filled.

In the event that an officer misses two business meetings in one fiscal year, a vote shall be taken at the business meeting following the officer's second absence to either revoke or retain the officeholder's position.

Section 5. Other Leadership Positions

Additional positions that may be filled by the Party's officers include (but are not limited to) a Webmaster, an Outreach Director, and a Media Liaison. Additional positions shall be appointed by the Chair, however his or her appointments may be vetoed by a majority disapproval of the remaining elected officers, or by a two-thirds majority disapproval by the Central Committee.

Section 6. Committees

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

Article 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 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.

Section 6.

A minimum of two officers (one being the Treasurer) shall have access to the party's bank account(s).

Article VI. Suspensions and Recalls

Section 1. Officer 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 30 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 by majority vote, 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. Officer 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 by secret ballot in accordance with these bylaws, unless an Annual Meeting (County Convention) 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.

Section 5. Member Suspension

A Central Committee member may be suspended from the Party by a two-thirds vote of the entire Executive Committee's voting members. The body of appeal shall be the Central Committee. The suspension may be overturned by a vote as outlined in Section 2.

Article VII. Meetings

Section 1. General meetings

The Party shall hold quarterly 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, text message, and private messaging through social media platforms. Failure to contact all voting members shall not be construed as evidence of improper procedure if good-faith efforts to notify members took place.

Meetings can be held either in person or via videoconference.

Decisions made by the LPTC at general meetings shall be made on the basis of a majority of those voting members present, unless otherwise specified in these bylaws. The exceptions are voting to amend this document, which requires 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. Meetings may be 'closed' to the public by a three-fourths majority vote of the Executive Committee by email ballot or special meeting held in advance of the closed meeting.

Section 2. Executive Committee meetings

The LPTC Party Chair may call meetings of the Executive Committee. 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.

An Executive Committee meeting can be held in person, or the Executive Committee can choose to hold a meeting via videoconference. Email ballots by the Executive Committee are also a legitimate option for conducting certain business matters that do not require a vote by the Central Committee.

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 IV, Section 4.

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.

Article IX. 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.

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 or 2 of this Article.

Section 4.

Nothing in this Article 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.

Article X. Amendments

These Bylaws may be amended by:

A two thirds majority vote at either:

- a. Any Annual Meeting, or
- b. Any meeting of the Central Committee provided that the amendment was proposed 48 hours in advance of the meeting

Article XI. Conflicting Authority

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

Article XII. Parliamentary Authority

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

In the event of any conflict or ambiguity arising between this document and RONR, these bylaws shall always supersede RONR.