

Bylaws for the Libertarian Party of Hartford County

Bylaws for the Libertarian Party of Hartford County adopted: 29 December 2020

Article I - Aims and Purpose

Section 1 - Basic Aims

1. To further personal liberty by opposing the initiation of force against individuals.
2. To secure means of protection to the individual for the exercise and defense of his own liberty.
3. To identify and study methods by which voluntary exchange may be promoted, directing our efforts toward liberty with responsibility and justice in an orderly society.
4. To support Libertarian candidates seeking public office in our county.

Section 2 – Purpose

The purpose of this regional Affiliate is to influence the region in a libertarian direction by promoting, organizing, and informing the public of our candidates, positions, and ideals as they pertain to current events. When representation from a town is deemed to be sufficient to support a town committee, such an opportunity shall be acted on.

Section 3 - Candidate Selection

As an official Affiliate of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut representing the towns in Hartford County on a regional basis until said towns form their own individual town committees, the Libertarian Party of Hartford County (LPHC) recognizes and respects self-determined individuals declaring their intentions for seeking and holding public office and will vote to endorse candidates running as Libertarians in the region for their respective races. This will be done in accordance with the bylaws and will serve as nothing more than public knowledge.

Article II - Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws, any relevant statutes, and any special rules of order the Party may adopt.

Article III – Membership

Section 1

All members must be registered to vote as Libertarian in Hartford County. In the event where there are additional potential members that meet voting member criteria from a town outside of Hartford County, the potential member must not be a member of any other County or Town Affiliate of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut, in accordance with the LP of CT bylaws.

Section 2

Voting rights shall be earned or restored after two (2) consecutive meetings attended, provided membership is positively attained by bylaws.

Section 3

Voting rights shall be suspended of any member that fails to report for three (3) consecutive regular meetings. Voting rights of any member so suspended may be reinstated immediately upon a majority vote of voting members in good standing.

Article IV – Organization

The officers of the Libertarian Party of Hartford County, an Affiliate of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut, shall be:

Chair: Serves as the officiator of each meeting and runs each meeting. Also serves as a key point of contact and oversees party operations.

Vice-Chair: Assists the Chair and serves in the event of his or her absence or inability.

Secretary: Keeps records of meetings, proceedings, and actions taken by the town committee.

Spokesmen for the LPHC shall be designated by the LPHC with such limitations as deemed appropriate. Such designation shall in no way serve to limit any individual's group's freedom of expression providing they properly identify themselves and do not imply Party endorsement.

Article V – Selections

Officers shall be selected by the LPHC from amongst its membership, during each Annual Convention, and shall take office at the close of the Annual Convention or Special Party Meeting. If there is more than one nominee for each office, the selection shall be made on a graded system in which each LPHC voting member present rates each nominee for his ability in that office on a scale of 0 to 10. The nominee receiving the highest total tally shall be declared selected, subject to any further requirements established by the LPHC in its Rules.

Article VI – Meetings

Section 1 – Conventions

Annual Conventions shall be called by the Affiliate once per calendar year. Special Party Meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Affiliate, the State Central Committee, or by 10% of the Members of this Affiliate or three members of this Affiliate, whichever is higher. Such Special Party Meetings may undertake any function authorized for Conventions under the provisions of these bylaws.

Section 2 - Regular Affiliate Meetings

Meetings shall be held on a regular basis with all Members advised of the time, place, and agenda. Meetings may be conducted in any manner chosen by the Committee, to include physical meetings, telephone conference, and online formats. It is the responsibility of the presiding officer to ensure that a quorum is present and to sufficiently ensure the identity of each participant. The LPHC shall meet a minimum of six times per year in accordance with the bylaws of the LP of CT.

Section 3 – Notice

Notice of all meetings shall be posted on a website or social media page operated by this Affiliate or provided to each Member at least two weeks prior to the meeting except that notice of Conventions and Special Party Meetings shall be provided to each member at least thirty days in advance. No commitments shall be made on any matter not specifically included in the notice. The Affiliate shall provide for the manner of notification.

Section 4 - Attendance Records

The Secretary shall maintain a record of attendance of all meetings.

Section 5 – Nominations

During the nominating process, self-nominations shall take precedence and the seconding is not required.

Section 6 – Quorums

A Quorum for the Affiliate shall be one half of its membership, not counting vacancies. A quorum for a Convention or Special Meeting shall be one half the delegates, including those represented by proxy, or two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) the delegates present at the opening of the Convention, whichever is greater.

Article VII – Dissolution

The Affiliate may dissolve itself upon the unanimous recommendation of the State Central Committee and a three-quarters ($\frac{3}{4}$) vote to dissolve at a Convention or Special Party Meeting. In the event of the approval of dissolution, the Affiliate shall wind up the affairs of the Affiliate and shall distribute all of the assets to other organizations which uphold the principles upon which this Party is formed.

Article VIII – Amendments

The bylaws may be amended at a Convention or Special Party Meeting by a vote of two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) of the delegates in session upon recommendation by the Affiliate or a special committee created for the purpose at a previous Convention or Special Meeting.

Article IX - Convention Rules

Section 1 – Offices

The incumbent Party Chairman and Secretary shall be Chairman and Secretary respectively of the Convention.

Section 2 - Agenda

The proposed agenda shall be established by the Affiliate and included in the notification of the convention. It shall consist of at least the following:

1. Reading and distribution of the previous convention's minutes.
2. The taking up of bylaws amendments, if any.
3. Selection of officers.

Section 3 – Delegates

Only delegates may vote on convention business. To be a delegate, a person must have been registered to vote as a Libertarian continuously from 30 days prior to the date of the convention until the day the convention finishes. This requirement of 30 days continuous registration as a Libertarian shall not count for the purposes of the first meeting establishing this Affiliate.

Section 4 – Voting

Nominations for the three officer positions shall be from the floor. The election shall be conducted in the following manner:

- a. Each delegate may cast a ballot with a vote for either none-of-the-above (NOTA) or one vote per candidate for any number of candidates. Every ballot with a vote for NOTA or one or more candidates is counted as one ballot cast. A vote for NOTA shall be ignored if the ballot also includes a vote for any other candidate. The top candidates receiving a majority vote of the ballots cast, up to the number of seats designated to be filled, shall be elected. Tie votes affecting the outcome shall be decided by lot. In the event that this procedure does not elect sufficient members to fill the number of seats designated to be filled, the candidate receiving the fewest votes, and all elected candidates shall be removed from consideration and another round of balloting held to fill the remaining seats, until all seats designated to be filled have been elected.
- b. Nominations for each candidate may be made by any delegate present on the floor, provided he or she has the candidate's permission. Nominating speeches shall be limited to five minutes, split in any manner between the delegate nominating the candidate, the candidate, and any additional speakers desired by the candidate.

Section 5 – Amendments

The bylaws may be amended one section at a time in accordance with the requirements of Article VIII - Amendments.

Section 6 – Platform

The Platform may be amended at a convention by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote upon recommendation from the Affiliate or a special committee established for this purpose, or by a motion from the floor. Any proposals except those from the floor will be considered one plank at a time and will receive an up-down vote, with amendments considered only if the initial up-down vote fails.

Section 7 – Challenges

Any action of the Convention may be challenged in writing during the Convention as being in conflict with the bylaws. Such challenge shall be signed by the challenging delegates and delivered to the Secretary who will refer it to the Libertarian Party of Connecticut Judicial Committee for a decision. If the challenge is upheld, the challenged action shall be null and void but can be reinstated by a three-fourths ($\frac{3}{4}$) vote of the Convention.

Section 8 - Rescinding Actions

Any actions of the Affiliate may be rescinded or modified by a two-thirds ($\frac{2}{3}$) vote upon a motion from the floor.

Article X - Consent to Operate

Section 1 - Affiliate Status of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut

The Libertarian Party of Hartford County is an Affiliate of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut. Approval for the LPHC to operate as an Affiliate shall, upon recognition of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee, be retroactive to its first meeting so long as the acts taken are consistent with these bylaws as well as those of the Libertarian Party of Connecticut and the National Libertarian Party.

Section 2 - Notifications to the Libertarian Party of Connecticut.

Upon any changes of officers by way of Special Party Meeting or Convention, the Secretary or Acting Secretary shall notify the Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee who the new officers are. Upon any change of these bylaws as amended, the Secretary or Acting Secretary shall notify the Libertarian Party of Connecticut State Central Committee of such change and provide to it an updated copy of its bylaws as amended.