

Rules and Bylaws of the Harris County Libertarian Party

adopted March 14, 2020

Article I: Name and Purpose

The name of the organization is the Harris County Libertarian Party (hereinafter referred to as "LPHarris"). The purpose of LPHarris is to arrange and hold precinct and county conventions in Harris County, Texas and, when appropriate, district conventions and report the results thereof; to support nominees of the Libertarian Party of Texas (hereinafter referred to as the "LPTexas") and help elect those nominees to public office; to educate the Texas voting public about LPTexas and its principles; and generally grow the party in Harris County and nearby counties and throughout Texas.

Article II: LPHarris Voting Membership

A. Eligibility

A person is eligible to become a Voting Member of LPHarris if he or she:

1. is a qualified Texas voter registered to vote in Harris County,
2. is a resident of Harris County,
3. generally supports the LPTexas Statement of Principles,
4. is not affiliated with any other political party, and
5. a) during an election year, affiliates with LPHarris or
b) in a nonelection year, applies to become a Voting Member to the Chair of LPHarris County Executive Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "CEC") with approval of a majority of the CEC.

B. Termination

A person's Voting Membership terminates if he or she:

1. ceases to be eligible as defined by II. A. 1.-4. above,
2. fails to affiliate at the next Precinct Convention, or
3. is found guilty per due process under Article VIII: Removal for Cause.

C. Dues

No dues shall be required to become a Voting Member of the LPHarris. However, the CEC may establish other categories of membership that require dues.

Article III: The County Executive Committee

A. Composition

Positions on the CEC are Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer, which are elected offices, and Immediate Past Chair. All officers must be LPHarris Voting Members in good standing. A person may hold multiple offices, but may only have one vote.

B. Elected Offices

The four elected positions of the CEC shall be elected at the County Convention by a majority vote of the duly credentialed qualified delegates to the County Convention; provided, however, that the CEC has the right and authority to fill any vacant position other than Immediate Past Chair, pursuant to these Rules.

C. Term of Office

The terms of the four elected positions of the CEC are from adjournment of the County Convention that elected them until adjournment of the next County Convention.

D. Officer Duties

1. The duties of the Chair are to arrange and hold precinct, county, and district conventions in election years; call and chair meetings; and perform other duties usually pertaining to the office of chair.
2. The duties of the Vice Chair are to assist the Chair and perform the duties of the Chair when the Chair and Immediate Past Chair are absent or unable to do so, and perform other duties usually pertaining to the office of vice chair.
3. The duties of the Secretary are to keep accurate minutes of business meetings, maintain the official copy of LPHarris rules and bylaws and a roster of LPHarris Voting Members, and perform other duties usually pertaining to the office of secretary.
4. The duties of the Treasurer are to receive monies paid to LPHarris, deposit such monies in such banks as agreed to by the Chair and Treasurer, make any required reports to the Texas Ethics Commission, and perform other duties usually pertaining to the office of treasurer. The Treasurer may make the Chair an additional signatory on LPHarris's bank account.
5. The duties of the Immediate Past Chair are to assist the Chair and perform the Chair's duties if the Chair is absent or unable to do so, and to serve as acting Chair when the office of Chair is vacant until such vacancy is filled by the CEC.
6. If any officer is absent for two successive meetings, at the call of the second meeting, the position shall be declared vacant. A vacancy in any office other than Immediate Past Chair may be filled by the CEC pursuant to these Rules.

Article IV: Business Meetings

A. Notice

There shall be seven days notice of regular meetings of the CEC, which shall be open to the public. Public notice shall be given on the official Harris County Libertarian Party website: in addition, other notices may be used.

B. Phone meetings

If no CEC member objects, the Chair may call a telephone meeting of the CEC at which votes may be taken and business transacted just as in an in-person, public meeting. Results of a telephone meeting shall be confirmed at the next public meeting.

C. Majority Vote Required

At LPHarris meetings motions can be passed by a simple majority vote, unless otherwise provided by these rules and bylaws. At the option of the Chair or acting chair of the meeting, votes can be by acclamation, voice, show of hands, standing, or other common method including written secret ballot. When voting for a person to fill a vacancy, "None of the Above" is always an option.

Article V. County Conventions

A. Voting

At the option of the Chair or acting chair of the meeting, votes can be by acclamation, voice, show of hands, standing, or other common method including written secret ballot. When voting for a person to fill a vacancy, "None of the Above" is always an option. Elections must be held by secret ballot when there is a contested race for any Party office or offices (including delegate or alternate) or for the Party nomination for any public office.

B. Nominations

All nominations for Party office including delegates and alternate delegates or for nomination for public office shall be made from the floor, and no nomination by committee shall be permitted. All nomination for public office or party office including delegate or alternate delegate shall be made separately and not as a slate. A motion to close nominations requires a two-thirds vote and is not in order until after a reasonable time has passed.

C. District Convention Delegates

To be made a delegate to a District Convention, you must be affiliated with LPHarris

and a resident in and registered voter of that district.

D. Majority Vote Required

The vote of a majority of delegates registered as attending and voting at the County Convention shall be necessary and sufficient for election to a Party office including delegate and alternated delegate or for nomination for public office.

Article VI. Special Conventions

A. Calling a Special Convention

The Chair or three members of the CEC may call a Special Convention to conduct non-routine business such as change of these rules and bylaws, removal of a member for cause, or for the CEC to receive direction from the Voting Membership. The Chair must give 14 days written public notice of a Special Convention by posting it on the website and the LPHarris Facebook page, which notice must include the time, place, date, and purpose of the Special Convention.

B. Eligibility to Vote

Any LPHarris Voting Member as of seven days prior to the Special Convention shall be eligible to vote, and a quorum to conduct business shall be 25 Voting Members in good standing. The Special Convention shall have full authority of LPHarris to act except where there is a conflict with the Texas Election Code.

Article VII. Amending These Rules and Bylaws

A. Notice Required

With proper notice, these rules and bylaws may be amended at a County Convention or Special Convention called for that specific purpose. To be placed on the agenda of a County Convention, proposed amendments must be approved by the CEC and the text of approved changes published seven days prior to the County Convention or Special Convention on the website and Facebook page. To be placed on the agenda of a Special Convention, proposed amendments must be approved by the CEC and the text of approved changes provided along with the notice of the meeting.

B. Two-Thirds Vote Required

At any County Convention or Special Convention, the delegates may modify or add to the proposed amendments by a two-thirds vote of those present and voting. A two-thirds vote is required to adopt any amendments and permanently change these rules and bylaws.

C. Perpetual Status; Severability

These rules shall remain in effect in perpetuity unless amending in accordance with these rules and bylaws. If one portion of these rules and bylaws is voided, the remainder shall remain in full force and effect.

Article VIII. Vacancy and Succession

A. Vacancies Filled

The CEC may fill a vacancy in the office of Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, or Treasurer by a majority vote. Any person selected to fill a vacancy must be a LPHarris Voting Member.

B. Duties during Vacancy

In the event of a vacancy in the office of Chair, the Immediate Past Chair shall perform the duties of Chair until a successor is elected. If for any reason there is no Immediate Past Chair or he or she is unable to perform this role, the Vice Chair shall do so.

C. Appointed Chair.

In the event that a chair is appointed or recognized by the State Chair or Executive Committee, the appointed chair shall call a Special Convention no earlier than 14 and no later than 60 days after appointment for the purpose of electing *all* elective Executive Committee members. If another person is elected Chair, the appointed chair shall not assume the position of Immediate Past Chair.

Article IX: Removal for Cause or Lesser Sanction

Any member of the CEC or any Voting Member may be removed for cause by a two-thirds vote of the CEC, provided that the procedures set forth in the State Rules for the State Executive Committee for removal for cause are observed. The CEC shall also have the right to enact a less severe penalty than removal as a sanction.

Article X: Potential Conflict with Texas Election Code

In the event that these rules and bylaws conflict in any material respect with a provision of the Texas Election Code, the inconsistent rule or bylaw shall yield to the

extent necessary to resolve the conflict.

Article XI: Parliamentary Authority

In any matter not covered by these rules and bylaws and which is covered by the latest edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised, Robert Rules shall apply unless the CEC during a business meeting or the delegates in a County or Special Convention by a two-thirds vote holds otherwise.