

Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Maine, Inc.

As amended at the Libertarian Party of Maine Convention on ~~May 15th, 2016~~ May 12th, 2018

ARTICLE I – Name

The name of the corporation shall be the “Libertarian Party of Maine, Inc.”, hereinafter referred to as the “Party”.

ARTICLE II – Purpose

The purpose of the Party is to implement and give voice to the libertarian principles such as those in the “Statement of Principles” of the Libertarian Party of the United States by:

- a. Promoting candidates for public office within Maine;
- b. Working for the election of the national Libertarian Party nominee for President and Vice-President;
- c. Promoting, chartering and coordinating affiliate parties throughout the State of Maine;
- d. Entering into informational and educational activities;
- e. Supporting or opposing referenda, ballot initiatives, citizen vetoes, and other ballot questions; and
- f. Engaging in any and all additional activities necessary and proper to advance the “Statement of Principles” and the cause of Liberty in America.

ARTICLE III – Principles

The Party shall always act in accordance with the “Statement of Principles” of the national Libertarian Party.

ARTICLE IV – Membership

- I. Full members of the Party shall be those persons residing in Maine, who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals. This certification may be submitted to either the national Libertarian Party, or the Libertarian Party of Maine

2. Membership in the Party is not to be restricted by a person's race, creed, color, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, or residency.
3. There are no dues or fees charged or levied to become a full member of the Party. Voluntary contributions are accepted. A person may become an "enrolled" member of the Party in accordance with state law.
4. A sustaining member is defined as one who is a full member and has either...
 - a. Paid dues to the national party as per its bylaws to be considered a sustaining member, or alternatively.
 - b. Donated the minimum annual dues for being a national sustaining member, directly to the LPME instead.

ARTICLE V – Organization

I. Officers

- a. The officers of the Party shall be Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, **and** Treasurer, ~~and Assistant Treasurer~~. Term of office shall be two years. These officers shall be elected at the Biennial Convention by the attending full members and shall take office immediately upon the close of such Meeting or Convention and serve until the final adjournment of the next Meeting or Convention. All officers will be elected by a simple majority.
- b. No offices shall be combined.
- c. The officers shall have such powers and perform such duties as are delegated by the State Committee and are not inconsistent with the provisions of these Bylaws, and the laws of the State of Maine.
- d. Any officer of the Party may be temporarily suspended by a vote of three (3) State Committee members, subject to ratification by a 2/3 vote of the full members attending a special convention called for such purpose. The members will then elect a replacement officer, except in the case of the Chair being suspended, in which case the Vice-Chair shall become Chair, and the members shall elect a new Vice-Chair. Such officer will complete the term of office vacated.
- e. The State Committee shall appoint new officers if any of the positions of Vice-Chair, Secretary, ~~Assistant~~ Treasurer, District Members or At-Large Members of the State Committee, if vacancies, not due to suspensions, occur.

- f. If the position of Chair is vacated, the Vice-Chair becomes chair, and the position of Vice-Chair is appointed by the State Committee
- g. ~~If the position of Treasurer is vacated, the Assistant Treasurer becomes Treasurer, and the position of Assistant Treasurer is appointed by the State Committee~~
- h. Officers and members of the State Committee may not serve as an officer of, or committee member of another state or national political party. This applies to all organizations that consider themselves political parties, whether or not the state of Maine has given any official status to them
- i. If an individual is elected or appointed as an Officer or State Committee member to the Party while holding a conflicting role in another party, as defined above, that individual has 90 days to resign from one position or the other. If such individual fails to do so, the position is considered vacant, and may be filled according to the rules for doing so described in Article V, Part I e
- j. All Officers and State Committee members must be *sustaining* **full** members.
- k. Unless the State Committee appoints a Finance Chair, the Treasurer shall serve as the Finance Chair of the party.
- l. **If the State of Maine recognizes the Libertarian Party as an option for voter registration, all Officers and State Committee members must be enrolled in the party within 90 days of being elected or appointed to the State Committee**

2. State Committee

The State Committee is the Board of Directors for the purposes of the Maine Nonprofit Corporation Act, and shall be responsible for the control and management of all the affairs, properties, and funds of the Party consistent with these Bylaws. The State Committee shall meet at such times and places as may be determined by the committee, by call of the chair, or by the written request of any two (2) members of the committee. More than one half of the membership thereof shall constitute a quorum at all meetings. The State Committee by majority vote may agree to allow absentee ballots by mail or telephone. No secret meeting will be held by the State Committee; all meetings will be open to all Party members.

The State Committee shall meet at least four (4) times per calendar year. Notice of all State Committee meetings shall be given not less than fourteen (14) days prior to said meeting. Posting of meeting notice on the Party website shall be considered notice of the meeting.

The State Committee shall consist of the following:

- a. The four elected officers of the party;
- b. ~~Two district members, one from each Congressional district; and~~
- c. One At-Large member.
- d. **A representative from each county as defined in Article V, part 4 below**

3. District Committees

- a. District Committees for each congressional district shall consist of the ~~members of the State Committee~~ **Chairs and Acting Chairs of County Committees within that congressional district.**
- b. Each committee will ~~be chaired by its representative on the State Committee~~ **elect a District Chair from their membership**
- c. ~~If there is no current representative for a district on the State Committee, the members of the District Committee will elect one from their membership, when needed.~~

4. County Committees

- a. If a county does not have a recognized committee at the time of a state convention, ~~For the purposes of state law:~~
 - i. The membership of the County Committee shall be the party's Sustaining Members residing in that county.
 - ii. The Chair of the County Committee ~~shall be the State Committee district representative of the district the county predominantly sits in~~ **shall be elected by delegates at the state convention from that county.**
 - iii. **If no acting County Chair is elected as the state convention or the acting County Chair position is otherwise vacated, the State Committee may appoint an acting County Chair.**
 - iv. **After the appointment or election of a new acting County Chair, the newly established County Committee will have six months to formally elect a chair. If it does not meet to elect a a chair, the State Committee may choose to replace the acting County Chair.**
- b. The State Committee shall create rules for the formation and affiliation of a county committee.
- c. The Chair of a recognized County Committee serves as a member of the State Committee, with the Vice-Chair of that County Committee serving as an alternate.

d. Members of a County Committee must be Full Members of the party, and reside in that county.

5. Judicial Committee.

A Judicial Committee may be formed. The Judicial Committee shall be composed of five (5) full members appointed by the State Committee. The term of a member of the Judicial Committee shall run through the period of the next Party convention and until a successor is appointed. No officer of the Party may serve on the Judicial Committee. The Judicial Committee shall be the final body of appeal in all matters regarding interpretation of the Bylaws, Rules, or Resolutions of the Party subject to the provision that a decision of the Committee may be overturned by a 2/3 vote of a convention.

6. Exhaustion. In the event that all State Committee positions become vacant, former State Committee members who are willing and qualified to be members of the State Committee shall constitute themselves as the Interim State Committee. They shall promptly act as described in this Article to fill positions on the State Committee. Until it is replaced via Elections at a Convention or Special Meeting under Article VI of these Bylaws, the Interim State Committee shall have all powers and bear all responsibilities of the regular State Committee.

ARTICLE VI – Special Meeting and Conventions

1. Conventions

- a. The Party shall hold a Biennial Convention every general election year at the time and place selected by the State Committee. The Party may have such additional conventions as may be deemed desirable by the State Committee. A special Convention may be called by presenting a petition signed by 10% of the sustaining members of the Party, such Convention to be held within 30 days of the presentation to the State Committee. The State Committee shall appoint a convention committee to arrange the Convention. Notice of the Convention shall be given not less than fourteen (14) days prior to said Convention. Posting of notice on the Party website, and via direct mail to all members shall be considered notice of the Convention.
- b. Any sustaining member attending any Convention of the Party may cast a vote as a delegate.
- c. A Convention called for the purpose of nominating delegates and alternates to the national Convention shall be held within a year of the national Convention after the number of delegates is announced. Any full member in attendance may cast a vote, if they register for the convention at least 6 days prior to the convention

2. Special Meeting

If a Biennial Convention is not called as provided under this Article by June 1 of any even numbered year, any five (5) members of the Party may call a Special Meeting. Notice of the Special Meeting shall

be given not less than fourteen (14) days prior to said meeting. Posting of meeting notice on the national Libertarian Party website (www.lp.org) shall be considered notice of the meeting. New Officers will be elected at the Special Meeting, and other business will be conducted as required.

ARTICLE VII – Platform

1. The Party may adopt a platform. The platform shall include, but need not be limited to, the Libertarian Party's National Committee's "Statement of Principles" and the implementation of the principles contained in the "Statement" in the form of planks.
2. The State Committee shall appoint a Platform Committee whose responsibility it is to write and submit said platform to the Convention for approval on a plank by plank basis by a 2/3 majority of the delegates present and voting at the Convention.

ARTICLE VIII – None of the Above

1. Votes cast for "None of the Above" in voting on the Party's candidates for delegates to national Libertarian Party conventions, representatives to the national Libertarian Party platform committee, and for the four Party officers shall be considered valid and properly recorded.
2. Should "None of the Above" receive a majority for an officer, another election for that office shall be called.

ARTICLE IX – Election of delegates to Libertarian Party National Conventions

1. All delegates and alternates shall be full members.
2. Delegates and alternates shall be elected by full members in attendance at the Party's convention in the year of the Libertarian Party National Convention.
 - a. The first step in electing delegates shall be to receive any number of seconded nominations.
 - b. The Party Convention attendants shall then vote by secret ballot for "acceptable" nominees of their choice. Delegates may also indicate "unacceptable" nominees.
 - c. Only those nominees receiving more "acceptable" votes than "unacceptable" votes shall be delegates or alternates. They shall be ranked in order of number of "acceptable" votes received.
 - d. Should there be more winners than slots allocated by the National Libertarian Party those with the most "acceptable" votes shall be delegates and those remaining shall be alternates.

- e. In case of ties for the last regular delegate slots, all those tied shall be ranked by voting Party Convention attendees. Those with the highest rank sum are regular delegates. Further ties shall be resolved by the Chair.
 - f. The next ranking alternate, as determined by the Chair, shall become a regular delegate in case a regular cannot attend the Libertarian Party National Convention. Other alternates shall substitute for regular delegates on the National Convention floor.
3. If the Party is eligible to elect a national Libertarian Party Platform Committee, or Libertarian Party Credentials Committee member, member under the Rules, Constitution, or Bylaws of the national Libertarian Party, the election of such member will be by majority vote of the full members present and voting at the Convention. Voting shall be done by secret ballot. An alternate shall also be elected for this position. If the deadline for such a choice occurs before a convention can be held, the choice is to be made by a majority vote of the State Committee.
 4. The head of the delegation shall be nominated and elected by the convention from among the persons who have been elected as delegates. An alternate head shall also be elected.
 5. Prior to and at the National Convention, the elected delegation head may select additional people to be alternate delegates.
 6. Alternate delegates added by the delegation head, may be residents of locales other than Maine, so long as they are Sustaining Members of the national Libertarian Party.

ARTICLE X – Parliamentary Authority

Roberts Rules of Order-Newly Revised shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters or procedure not specifically covered by the Bylaws of the Party.

ARTICLE XI – Amendments

1. These Bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the members voting on that particular issue at any Biennial Convention or Special Meeting.
2. Article IV, 2, Article V, I.d, , and this Article shall not be amended or suspended without a 7/8 vote.

ARTICLE XII: Nomination of Candidates

We prefer that candidates ~~Candidates~~ for statewide races, state legislative races, and U.S. Congressional district races, ~~may to~~ be nominated at the biennial convention, or any special convention called by the State Committee for such a purpose. Any candidate so nominated must be a Full Member.

