

MINUTES OF THE 2016 CONVENTION OF THE
LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF NORTH CAROLINA
Holiday Inn Crabtree Valley Mall, Raleigh, NC
April 23-24, 2016

The 2016 Convention of the Libertarian Party of North Carolina convened at 8:30 a.m. April 23. Brian Lewis, Convention committee chair, greeted the delegates and noted that this marked the 40th anniversary of the LPNC.

CALL TO ORDER

J.J. Summerell, LPNC chair, called the convention to order at 8:30 a.m. The secretary reported there were 26 registered delegates; 14 constituted a majority and 18 constituted two-thirds (2/3).

Brian Irving moved, Susan Hogarth seconding, that in accordance with the LPNC Bylaws Article XI, Section 4, the convention designate any LPNC member present as a delegate. The motion carried.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Tom Howe moved, Lonnie Holcomb seconding, to add consideration of a bylaws amendment to the agenda at 10:00-10:15. The motion carried.

The convention adopted the following agenda:

	Reading of Resolutions
9:00 am	State of the LPNC
9:15 am	The Libertarian Party: Where We Are, Where We Are Going
10:00 am	Bylaws Amendment
10:15 am.	Platform Committee Report
11:30 am	GOTV (Get Out the Vote)
12:00	Recess
1:00 pm	1976 to Now: Origin and History of the LPNC
2:00 pm	Presidential Candidates Forum
3:15 pm	Libertarianism and the African-American Community
4:00 pm	Lend Me Your Ears
5:30 pm	Recess
9:00 am	NC Candidate Stump Speeches
10:00 am	Secretary's Report
	Resolutions
	Election to fill Vacant Executive Committee positions
	Election of Delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention
	Election of Presidential Electors
	Other Business

Noon Convention Adjourns

READING OF MOTIONS

Nic Haag moved adoption of a resolution calling for the repeal of House Bill 2. Brad Hessel seconded. Mr. Haag read the motion into the record:

Whereas House Bill 2 unduly intrudes state authority into local decision-making and unreasonably limits the ability of the citizens of North Carolina to govern themselves;

Whereas House Bill 2 declares an individual's gender based on their birth certificate, which if issued in another state, where North Carolina laws do not reach, potentially impose undue burdens on citizens entrapping them in a web of conflicting state's laws;

Whereas the state does not have the authority to give itself the power to determine an individual's gender, as in the case of transgender and hermaphroditic individuals; and

Whereas House Bill 2 bans citizens from using North Carolina state courts to remedy discrimination the bill itself purportedly outlaws, thus materially reducing protections for individual rights; so, therefore, be it

Resolved, that the Libertarian Party of North Carolina,

1. urges the North Carolina General Assembly to cease seizing more powers for the state;
2. end the practice of determining gender bureaucratically; and,
3. repeal House Bill 2.

BYLAWS AMENDMENT

Mr. Howe moved, Tim Cole seconding, that LPNC Bylaws Article XIII Parliamentary Authority be amended to add the sentence "The rules of procedure may be suspended for a specific purpose if approved by two-thirds of those present and voting, provided a quorum is present."

Tom Bailed moved, Ray Ubinger seconding, to amend the motion by changing "two-thirds" to "three fifths. The amendment motion passed 18-2.

The convention then voted on the main motion which carried 29-1. As amended, Article XIII now reads:

The Democratic Rules of Order (Francis & Francis, 9th ed.) shall be the parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by these Bylaws. The rules of procedure may be suspended for a specific purpose, if approved by three-fifths (3/5) of those present and voting, provided a quorum is

present.

PLATFORM COMMITTEE REPORT

Susan Hogarth presented the platform committee report. She moved to suspend the rules so that the revised platform could be adopted as a whole new document, rather than the usual plank-by-plank method. Mr. Hessel seconded. The motion to suspend the rules carried. [Vote?]

The motion to approve the committee's report and adopt the new platform as a whole document passed 30-1.

Tom Howe moved, Brian Lewis seconding, to change the wording of the new platform plank labeled "Free Association" to add the phrase "in any commercial or social circumstances" after "The LPNC supports the right of individuals."

The motion carried unanimously. The plank as amended now reads:

The LPNC supports the right of individuals, in any commercial or social circumstance, to associate, or not to associate, with others as they see fit.

Tom Rose moved. Mr. Lewis seconding, to amend the plank labeled "War on Drugs" by adding "and industrial" after "recreational." The motion passed 26-1. The new plank now reads:

We call for the immediate legalization of marijuana production and use for medical, recreational, and industrial purposes in North Carolina

David Lamonte moved, Mr. Holcomb seconding, to amend the platform plank labeled "The Police" to add the phrase "We call for the addition of body cameras and citizens oversight committees independent of the government." The motion failed 9-16.

Ray Ubinger moved, Barbara Howe seconding, to amend the platform plank labeled "Fair Campaigns" to 1) change the title from "Fair Campaigns" to "Fair Elections," 2) change the word "candidate" to "constitutionally eligible person," and; 3) add the sentence "The state-wide general ban on write-in voting (GS163-123) should be repealed."

Tom Howe moved, Mr. Hessel seconding, to divide the question into three separate motions. This motion to divide the question carried.

The convention then proceeded to debate and vote on the three motions:

The motion to change the title from "Fair Campaigns" to "Fair Elections" passed 27-0.

The motion to change "candidate" to "constitutionally eligible person" passed 26-4.

The motion to add the sentence "The state-wide general ban on write-in voting (GS163-123) should be repealed" failed 12-20

Dick Potthoff moved, Mr. Lewis seconding, to amend the platform plank labeled “Self Defense” to add the phrase “or not choose” after “right to choose.” Motion failed 5-22.

This concluded the business session portion of the convention for the day (April 24).

Mr. Summerell called the convention back into session at 10:30 a.m. April 25.

RESOLUTIONS

The convention debated the resolution to repeal House Bill 2. It passed 35-1.

Mr. Ubinger moved, Phil Jacobsen seconding, to suspend the rules for the purpose of considering consider a resolution on write-in voting. The motion passed 32-2.

Mr. Ubinger's moved adoption of the following resolution, seconded by James Hines:

Whereas “All political power is vested in and derived from the people; all government of right originates from the people, is founded upon their will only” (North Carolina Constitution, Article I, Section 2)

Whereas “The people of this State have the inherent, sole, and exclusive right of regulating the internal government thereof” (North Carolina Constitution, Article I, Section 3)

Whereas “All elections shall be free” (North Carolina Constitution Article I, Section 10)

Whereas “Every qualified voter in North Carolina who is 21 years of age, except as in this Constitution disqualified, shall be eligible for election by the people to office” (North Carolina Constitution, Article VI, Section 6);

Whereas North Carolina General Statute 163-123 stipulates that some votes cast by legally registered voters for constitutionally eligible persons – write-in votes for persons the legislature disapproves of – “shall not be counted for any purpose”

Whereas that statute thus amounts to the legislature picking and choosing which votes to count, sometimes yielding suspicious results like unanimous vote tallies in our statewide elections; so, therefore, be it

Resolved, that North Carolina General Statute 163-123, a statewide general ban on write-in voting without prior legislative permission, should be repealed immediately, restoring free elections to North Carolina this year, and ending the open falsification of North Carolina vote tallies this year.

Mr. Howe moved, second by Mr. Irving, to reword the resolution [how?]. The motion failed 25-2.

Mrs. Howe called the question. The motion passed.

The motion to adopt the resolution passed 29-3

ELECTION TO FILL VACANT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE POSITIONS

Mr. Hessel nominated Sandra Mood.

Mr. Hines nominated himself.

Mr. Irving moved to close nominations. Seconded by Mr. Hessel. The motion carried.
Tom Howe moved to suspend the rules and elect the at-large members by acclamation.
The motion passed unanimously.

ELECTION OF DELEGATES TO THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION

The following persons were nominated and elected unanimously as national convention delegates: Barbara Howe, Tom Howe, Craig DuTremble, Brad Hessel, Christopher Dooley, Rachel Mills, Joy Elliott, Erik Raudsep, Brian Lewis, Lonnie Holcomb, David Lamont, Phil Jacobson, David Hoesly, Tim Cole, James Hines, Pam Adams, Sean Haugh, J.J.Summerell, Tom Hohman, Bobby Emory, Susan Hogarth, Doug Schell, Jackie Cole and Chris Spruyt.

Tom Howe moved, Mr. Raudsep seconding, to appoint Barbara Howe as the national convention delegate chair. The motion carried unanimously.

Sean Haugh moved, Mr. Lewis seconding, that the convention direct the delegation chair to fill vacant positions with members of the LPNC who will be in attendance at the national convention.

Mr. Howe raised a point of order that the motion contradicts the bylaws.

Article XI, Section 7. National Convention Delegates.
National Convention Delegates and Alternates will be selected by the State Convention. If vacancies occur, the State Chair or the Delegation Chair may fill such vacancies.

The chair ruled the motion out of order. Mr. Haugh challenged the ruling of the chair. The convention upheld the ruling of the chair 18-11.

Brian Lewis moved to authorize the delegation chair to fill vacant positions with members of the LPNC who will be in attendance at the national convention.

Mr. Howe raised a point of order that this motion also contradicts the bylaws. The chair ruled the motion out of order.

David Lamont nominated Amy Lamont as a national convention delegate. Mrs. Howe said she would add her to the list.

ELECTION OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTORS

Mr. Hessel presented a list of nominees for Presidential Electors compiled on request of

the Executive Committee. Mr. Haugh moved, Mr. Lewis seconding, to accept the proposed list and authorize the Executive Committee to appoint first and second alternates for the Electoral College. The motion carried unanimously.

ELECTION OF JUDICIAL COMMITTEE

Mrs. Howe noted that this was not on the agenda, but is required by the Convention Rules. The chair opened the floor for nominations. The following persons were nominated: Barbara Howe, Sean Haugh, Ray Ubinger, Bobby Emory and Joy Elliott

Mr. Howe moved, Mrs. Howe seconding, to close the nominations. Mr. Howe moved to suspend the rules and elect the Judicial Committee slate as nominated. Mr. Hessel seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The convention adjourned at 12:01 p.m.