

Libertarian Party of Ohio

Directive 2018-04-11



April 11, 2017

DIRECTIVE from the Executive Committee of the Libertarian Party of Ohio - Scott Pettigrew, Chair

Re: Voter Affiliation and eligibility to attend State or National Convention

The Party Constitution states in Article III, Section 4:

"All delegates to any state or national party convention, regular or otherwise, must be members of the Party as ruled by the Chair of the Central Committee if primary voting results are not available, on the date of such Convention."

The best definition we have of voter party affiliation in the Ohio Revised Code is in paragraph seven of ORC 3513.05,

"For purposes of signing or circulating a petition of candidacy for party nomination or election, an elector is considered to be a member of a political party if the elector voted in that party's primary election within the preceding two calendar years, or if the elector did not vote in any other party's primary election within the preceding two calendar years."

However, since this definition only refers to signing and circulating petitions of candidacy, it does not apply to our definition of party membership.

Our own bylaws state the following in Bylaw 100, Section 2:

"...membership in the Party shall consist of registered Ohio voters not affiliated with another political party who demonstrate an interest in the State or National Party, and have affirmed the pledge "...", or who have participated in a Libertarian Primary within the past two calendar years or otherwise caused their voter affiliation in the State voter database to be 'Libertarian'".

We are now in the process of holding a Libertarian Primary, and the voters choosing to vote in our primary should gain party access by so doing, so long as they do not also vote in any other partisan Primary Election.

Finally, in Article III, Section 3 of the Party Constitution we allow membership in the State Executive and Central Committees for any person UNLESS *"that person voted as a member of a different political party at the most recent statewide Ohio primary election."* Since the members of these committees are required by the ORC and our Constitution to be given elevated priority as delegates to the various Conventions, it would be contradictory to bar them from attending as delegates, or to apply different standards to other would-be members of the Party.

It is therefore the opinion and the Directive of the Chair of the Executive Committee, also serving as the Chair of the Convention Credentials Committee, that **any voter meeting the other requirements of Bylaw 100, Section 2, and who votes in the LPO's Private Primary election (and not in another partisan primary election), who votes "issues only" in the public Primary Election, or who does not vote in the public Primary Election shall be allowed as delegates to the State and/or National Conventions.**