

Whig Party of Virginia
Party Plan
As adopted Jan. 28, 2018

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ARTICLE 1. Preamble

We, the citizens of Virginia and of the United States of America, in order to better serve our communities, state, and nation, put forth and create the Whig Party of Virginia. We will strive to serve Virginians and our nation with honesty, steadfastness, common sense, and open minds and hearts.

ARTICLE 2. Name, Purpose, Principles, and Membership

SECTION 1. The name of this organization shall be "The Whig Party of Virginia" (hereinafter referred to as "the Party").

SECTION 2. The Party shall be affiliated with the Modern Whig Party of America, and through the national Party, the Whig Parties in sister states. The Party shall adhere to that organization's "Values and Principles".

SECTION 3. The Name of the Party as placed on the ballot shall be "Whig."

SECTION 4. The Whig Party of Virginia exists is to move public policy in a progressive direction by building a political party which elects Whigs to public office in Virginia at the federal, state, county and local levels. The Party shall also foster working relationships with organizations and individuals whose goals align with the Party's for the common good.

SECTION 5. This Party Plan shall govern the organization, operation, and functions of the Party.

SECTION 6. The members of the Whig Party of Virginia, form this party in support of, and to advance, the following principles;

- A. that liberty and individual responsibility is the foundation of civilized and productive society;
- B. that government is only the instrument of the citizens it serves;
- C. that any action of the government must respect the principle of public accountability;
- D. that constitutional liberty is based upon the principle of separation of powers;

- E. that government control of the economy and private monopolies both threaten political liberty;
- F. that our rights as citizens of Virginia and of the United States of America come with duty and responsibility;
- G. that civil society is constituted of free citizens living within a framework of established law, with individual rights guaranteed, with the powers of government limited and subject to public accountability;
- H. that an economy based on free market rules, with adequate oversight, leads to the most efficient distribution of wealth and resources, encourages innovation, and promotes flexibility;
- I. that everyone should have equal access to full and varied education;
- J. that there are times when action on the part of the government for the common good is more beneficial than individual efforts;
- K. that the rights afforded to citizens by the U.S. Constitution are not to be infringed upon;
- L. that service members and veterans shall be respected for their service; accordingly, government has a responsibility to provide reasonable care for those who are wounded in battle, for their widow or widower, and for their orphans;
- M. that government works better when it is at a closer level to the citizens it serves;
- N. that no government or private entity shall favor one person over another based on race, sex, creed, religion, national origin, age, sexual orientation, or handicap; and
- O. that all areas of government should be transparent and that elected officials are held to a higher standard of accountability.

SECTION 7. Membership is open to anyone who:

- A. is a qualified Virginia voter;
- B. supports the Party; and
- C. is not a member of another political party.
- D. Any member in good standing shall have party voting rights where applicable and may be eligible to hold party office.

ARTICLE 3. State Central Committee

SECTION 1.1. The officers of the Party shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.

SECTION 1.2. The officers of the Party shall be elected by a majority vote of the delegates to the State Convention held in a gubernatorial election year; or, in the case of a vacancy in any office, as elsewhere provided in this Plan. The officers shall serve from the closing of the Convention at which they are elected until the closing of the following relative State Convention in four years, except as elsewhere provided in this Plan. No person who is currently holding membership in another party may serve as an officer of the WPVA.

SECTION 1.3. The Chair's duties shall include, but not be limited to, acting as primary spokesman for the Party, chairing meetings of the State Central Committee and all Party conventions, and, when deemed necessary, appointing, with the consent of the State Central Committee, an Executive Director, Legal Advisor, and all coordinators of standing and ad hoc committees. The Chairman shall also perform such other duties as may be assigned by the State Central Committee.

SECTION 1.4. The Vice Chair shall chair meetings of the State Central Committee and all Party conventions in the absence of the Chairman. Should the office of Chair become vacant for any reason, the Vice Chairman shall assume the Chair. The Vice Chairman shall also carry out such other duties as may be assigned by the Chair or State Central Committee.

SECTION 1.5. The Secretary shall take and distribute minutes of all State Central Committee meetings and of all Party conventions. In addition, the Secretary shall be responsible for official Party correspondence as required and for insuring the accuracy and completeness of all Party membership and mailing lists. The Secretary shall also carry out such other duties as may be assigned by the State Central Committee.

SECTION 1.6. The Treasurer of the Party shall establish and maintain all Party bank accounts and manage all Party investments, collect and disburse Party funds at the direction of the State Central Committee, keep records and receipts for all such transactions, and prepare and file any Party financial reports required under Virginia and federal law. The Treasurer shall also prepare and distribute a written financial report at each meeting of the State Central Committee and at all Party conventions, and shall perform such other duties of a fiduciary nature as the State Central Committee may assign.

SECTION 1.7. Any officer of the Party may be removed for just cause from office upon a vote of two thirds (2/3) of the entire membership of the State Central Committee. All members of the State Central Committee must be given written notice at least seven days in advance of a meeting that such a motion will be presented.

SECTION 1.8. Any vacancy in an elected Party office, except that of Chairman, may be filled by majority vote of the entire membership of the State Central Committee. Notice of such vacancy must be provided in writing to all members of the State Central Committee at least seven (7) days in advance of a meeting at which any such vote is to be taken.

SECTION 2.1 The policy making and administrative authority of the Party shall be vested in a State Central Committee. Voting members of the State Central Committee shall be the officers of the Party and the Chair of the Committee in each Congressional District of the Commonwealth. Non-voting members may be appointed to fill CD representative seats for the purpose of meeting statute requirements. Any voting member of the State Central Committee may proxy his or her vote to any member of the Party, provided that such proxy is in writing, dated, and signed. No person may cast more than one vote. Persons holding more than one voting State Central Committee position shall be entitled to one vote only

SECTION 2.2 The Central Committee shall meet at least four times a year. Under extraordinary circumstances (e.g. weather), meetings may be held by teleconference. However, at least three Central Committee meetings a year must be held in person and assembled Central Committee meetings must occur at least once every six months. In years of a State Convention, the State Convention shall be counted as one of the four meetings of the Central Committee. Meetings may be called as follows:

- J By the State chair; or
- K By written call signed by any five (5) Congressional District chairs if the signed call is filed with the secretary of the Central Committee at least fifteen (15) days before the proposed meeting date; or
- L By written call signed by twenty percent (20%) of the membership of the Central Committee if the signed call is filed fifteen (15) days before the proposed meeting date; or
- M By a vote of the Central Committee at a properly convened meeting of the Committee.

SECTION 2.3 The Central Committee shall have entire charge and full control of all party matters arising throughout the Commonwealth. All powers that inhere in the Whig Party of Virginia or in a State Convention shall be vested in the Central Committee at such times as the State Convention is not in session. It shall be the duty of the Central Committee, as well as each officer and member thereof, to perfect the organization of the Whig Party throughout the Commonwealth and to do all within its power to aid in the victory of the Whig Party's nominees in all elections.

SECTION 2.3 A quorum to conduct business at any meeting of the State Central Committee shall be a majority of its voting members or their proxies.

SECTION 3.1 There shall be a Party District Committee in and for each Congressional District of the Commonwealth of Virginia. The District Committee shall be responsible for the selection and support of a Candidate for the US House of Representatives. All members of the Party residing within a given Congressional District shall be eligible for participation in the affairs of the Party in that District.

SECTION 3.2 Each district committee shall organize by electing from its membership a chair, a secretary and such officers, as it deems appropriate.

SECTION 3.3 District committees shall hold periodic meetings at publicized locations and times. Notice of such meetings shall be provided to all members within the Congressional District. Meetings of the congressional district committee may be called as follows:

By the chair; or

By any five (5) members of the congressional district committee, if a signed call is filed with the secretary of the district committee at least ten (10) days before the proposed meeting date; or

By a vote of the district committee as a properly convened meeting of the committee.

SECTION 3.4 Due to geographical sizes of the several districts within the commonwealth, district committees shall urge the formation of regional, county, and city committees.

SECTION 3.5 Each district committee shall have entire charge and full control of all matters relating to congressional nominations and elections within its district. It shall be the duty of each district committee to perfect the Whig organization within its district, and see to the proper discharge of duties by any regional county and city committees or other constituent committees within the congressional district.

SECTION 3.6 Any Party business to be conducted within a district lacking a committee shall be done by the Central Committee, or its designee.

SECTION 3.7 The members of the Central and district committees elected shall be equally divided between men and women, where practical.

ARTICLE 4. The State Party Convention

SECTION 4.1. The Party shall be empowered to hold Regular, Special, and General State Conventions.

SECTION 4.2 Only those persons who are currently members of the Whig Party of Virginia, and who have been members of the Party for at least thirty days within the previous twelve months, shall be granted the right to vote at conventions.

SECTION 4.3 Regular State Conventions shall be held at least forty five (45) days, but not more than six (6) months, prior to the Convention of the Modern Whig Party of America. They shall be called by the State Central Committee in accordance with the Laws of Virginia. At least thirty days prior to the date of such convention, the Party Secretary shall mail to all members, a notice of such convention. Business for a Regular State Convention shall include the election of Party officers, and may include changes in the Party Constitution, election of delegates to regional or national Whig Party conventions, passage of resolutions, adoption of a Party platform, and nomination of, or endorsement of, candidates for statewide offices.

SECTION 4.4 Special State Conventions may be called by the State Central Committee at any time in accordance with the Laws of Virginia.. At least twenty one days prior to the date of such Special State Convention, the Party (Secretary) shall mail to all members, a notice of such convention. Business for a Special State Convention may include the election of Party officers where vacancies have occurred, changes to the Party Constitution, or such special matter or matters as defined by the State Central Committee in its call and publication of an agenda for said Special State Convention.

SECTION 4.5. District and regional conventions may be held in order to further the growth of the Party.

ARTICLE 5. Candidate Nomination

SECTION 1. In order to comply with the requirements of state law, these procedures are adopted by the Whig Party of Virginia for the nomination of candidates for partisan political office. They shall apply only to nominations for political office.

SECTION 2. Candidates for President and Vice President shall hereafter be nominated by a national convention.

SECTION 3. Candidates for U.S. Senator, U.S. Representative in Congress and all statewide offices shall be nominated by the State Convention of the Whig Party of Virginia for any office in which one or more candidates have declared their intention to run. Declared candidates must be members of the Whig Party of Virginia to receive the Party's nomination.

SECTION 4. Candidates for offices other than national or statewide offices shall be nominated by the Whig Party of Virginia's affiliate(s) in the district the office represents. The State Central Committee may nominate candidates for offices where no affiliate has been established.

SECTION 5. A pre-approved method of Ranked Choice Voting will be employed in all party elections. The name "None of the above" (NOTA) shall appear on all nomination ballots. If NOTA should be the winner of a nomination, then nominations for the office in question shall be re-opened, and a second ballot shall be taken. If NOTA wins a second time, no candidate shall be selected for the office. The Central Committee cannot nominate a candidate for an office when the responsible affiliate(s) has declared NOTA to be the winner of a nomination ballot.

SECTION 6. A candidate for office who is not a Whig Party member may seek endorsement from the State Party and shall apply to the Party Chair for such endorsement. District committees may initiate the process and guide the candidate through the process and/or act as an advocate. There shall be a predetermined list of qualifications for such endorsements established by the Central Committee.

SECTION 7. A list of the nominated candidates shall be delivered to the Virginia Department of Elections by the state chair on or before the day required by state law.

SECTION 8. Under no circumstances shall more than one person be nominated for any particular office.

ARTICLE 6. Membership Dues

The operations of the Central Committee shall be supported by membership dues. The recommended annual dues contribution for each member shall be \$25 with reductions for seniors at \$15, and students at \$5. If a member is not able to pay the full amount, dues contribution in any amount will be accepted.

ARTICLE 7. Amendments to this Party Plan

This Party Plan may be amended at any Regular State Convention of the Party by a two thirds vote, provided that at least 1/15 of the state Party membership have registered at the Convention.

ARTICLE 8. Party Caucuses

SECTION 1. Members of the Central Committee may form caucuses within the Central Committee. Such caucuses may provide an organizational focus for members of a constituency group who are members of the Central Committee; present issues and act as an advocate for members of the group within the Virginia Whig Party; provide contacts to members of the public who are not yet active in party affairs; assist in the Whig Party's commitment to outreach to members of the group and encourage them to participate in party affairs at the local, state and national levels; assist in the Whig Party's commitment to encourage persons who are members of the group to register to vote and become informed about public issues; assist in the Whig Party's efforts to energize and mobilize members of the group to vote for and support Whig and Party supported candidates; encourage the development of group members who may be candidates for public office; raise money to be used for outreach, party building and election activities.

Members of the Central Committee may organize recognized caucuses that shall: (1) be comprised of members of the Central Committee; (2) represent a minimum of three percent of the Central Committee general membership, with members from at least four Congressional Districts; (3) represent an identifiable constituency of the Whig Party; (4) adopt bylaws that are consistent with the party plan, and that shall include (a) a statement of the purpose of the caucus, (b) membership qualifications that include an affirmative act by the Central Committee member to join the caucus, and (c) procedure for the regular election of officers; and (5) be approved by a majority present and voting at a Central Committee meeting. Notice of such vote shall be mailed to Central Committee members 10 days prior to the meeting.

SECTION 2 Constituency Group Organizations

Virginia Whigs may organize constituency group organizations that may be entitled to one representative as a member of the Central Committee. To be a recognized constituency group organization, the organization shall meet the following criteria: (1) the members of the organization must be Whigs (2) the members of the organization must share an inherent and/or immutable traits, not a concern about an issue or a cause; (3) the organization must represent a significant constituency that is not represented or has been historically underrepresented on the Central Committee; (4) the organization must submit its current bylaws, membership list, and officers list to the Whig Party of Virginia; (5) the organization must maintain an action plan for mobilizing its constituency for elections, which must include evidence of recent past activity in Whig organizations or campaigns; (6) the organization must provide to the Whig Party of Virginia a list of current outreach events, organizations, and

events within Virginia related to its constituency; and (7) the organization's membership must include residents of at least four Congressional Districts, and at least 15 members who are also members of any local Whig committee from across the state.

To qualify for representation on the Central Committee, each constituency group organization must be approved by a majority of the Central Committee members present and voting. Notice of such vote shall be mailed to Central Committee members 10 days prior to the meeting. Each constituency group organization must be reviewed every two years to determine if it remains a viable organization. Each constituency group organization must re-apply for recognition by January 31 of each even numbered year, and will be reviewed for approval within six months.