

**Bylaws of the Libertarian Party of Illinois**  
**April 8,2017**

**ARTICLE I.** STATEMENT OF ORGANIZATION

A. The Libertarian Party of Illinois (referred to herein as the "Party") is established. The governing entity of the Party shall be the Libertarian Party of Illinois State Central Committee (referred to herein as "Central Committee").

B. The mission of the Party shall be to elect Libertarians to office and move public policy in a Libertarian direction.

**ARTICLE II:** MEMBERSHIP AND PARTY STRUCTURE.

A. Anyone who applies to be a member of the Libertarian Party of Illinois must take the following Libertarian Oath (or pledge):

*"I promise to never initiate force or use fraud to achieve personal or political advantage."*

Any elected Committeemen who refuses to take the oath may be denied support of the party. In such a case, the Chair may make it publicly known that the Party does not support the Committeeman in question.

B. The Libertarian Party of Illinois shall have the following types of membership.

1. Open Membership.

Anyone who applies to be a member of the Libertarian Party of Illinois may be an Open Member if he/she takes the Libertarian Oath (or pledge).

2. Sustaining Membership.

A sustaining member is anyone who is an Open Member of the Libertarian Party of Illinois, and donates a minimum contribution of \$25.00 in any year.

3. Committeemen.

In those counties or districts within the State of Illinois where the Party is established according to Illinois law, Precinct, Ward and Township Committeemen shall be elected in primary elections or appointed by their county central committee chair as provided by law. In all other counties and districts, Committeemen will be appointed by the Central Committee as provided by these Bylaws. The Committeemen shall be Governing Members, which means they have the rights to be elected to executive office in their county central committees, to be elected to the Central Committee, to hold office in the Executive Committee of the Central Committee, and/or hold office in any other political district committees as provided by law. It shall be the right and duty

of Committeemen to vote on amendments to the Bylaws, and to vote in elections for the statutory officers of the Party.

C. The Central Committee shall be composed of the Libertarian Committeemen who are elected or appointed chair of their Congressional Committee as provided by Illinois law and these Bylaws.

D. The State Organizing Committee (referred to herein as the "SOC") shall be those members of the party elected or appointed to the Board of Directors, or any of its committees, as provided by these Bylaws.

E. A Congressional Committee shall be composed of the chairs of the County Central Committees of the counties composing the congressional district, except that in congressional districts wholly within the territorial limits of one county, the precinct, township and ward committeemen, if any, of the party representing the precincts within the limits of the congressional district, shall compose the congressional committee.

F. A State Central Committeeman shall be a member and the chair of the Congressional Committee for the Congressional District in which he resides. The State Central Committeeman, as chair of the Congressional Committee, shall not have the right to vote in the affairs of the Congressional Committee, except in the case of a tie.

G. Election. The members of the State Central Committee shall be the Libertarian Committeemen, and the Officers and other officials who are elected or appointed as provided by law and these Bylaws.

H. State Central Committeemen shall be elected in the same manner as provided by law for the election of officers of the County Central Committee and such election shall follow the election of officers of the County Central Committee. Each elected committeeman who is present at the county convention shall cast their vote for State Central Committeemen. If the Party is established in the Congressional District, each vote cast shall equal the number of Libertarian ballots voted in the precinct for the last preceding primary election. If the Party is not established in the Congressional District, each vote cast shall equal the number of Libertarian ballots voted in the precinct for the last preceding general election. The weighted vote for vacant precincts, and precincts not represented at the county convention, shall be allocated to each candidate based on the proportion of weighted votes they received from the elected precinct committeemen.

I. Term limits. No member of the State Central Committee nor the State Party Chair shall serve more than eight consecutive years in the same office. This section is effective January 1, 2016 but shall not apply to terms that are the result of vacancies or terms that have commenced prior to the effective date.

J. Vacancy. A vacancy in the office of State Central Committeemen shall exist upon the Committeeman's death, resignation, removal or disqualification by law.

1. Notice of Vacancy.

Upon receiving notice that a vacancy in the office of State Central Committeeman exists, the State Chair shall issue a notice of vacancy to members of the Libertarian Congressional

Committee for the congressional district where the vacancy exists, namely, as the case may be, the Libertarian County Chairmen outside Cook County, Libertarian Township Committeemen within the County of Cook outside the City of Chicago and Libertarian Ward Committeemen within the City of Chicago. The notice of vacancy shall state that a vacancy exists, and announce a time when the votes of the Libertarian Congressional Committee shall be cast to elect a successor State Central Committeeman.

2. Election of Successor.

In the case of a vacancy in the office of State Central Committeeman, the State Chair shall call to order and chair a meeting of the individuals identified in Article II (D)(1), or shall optionally call for an electronic vote as provided by these bylaws. Each person identified shall cast the weighted vote of that portion of the congressional district represented by each member for a successor State Central Committeeman. The Chair shall declare a winner, and shall certify the winner as the new State Central Committeeman to the Central Committee and if the party is established in the affected Congressional District, to the Illinois State Board of Elections.

## **ARTICLE III.** OFFICERS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE

A. Terms. The elected officers of the Central Committee shall include a Chair (also referred to in these Bylaws as "State Chair"), Vice Chair, Secretary and a Treasurer, who shall be elected to four-year terms at the quadrennial organizational meeting of the Central Committee. An Executive Director and other officers deemed necessary by the Central Committee may be appointed. Such officers are appointed to one year terms, to expire on each anniversary of the quadrennial organizational meeting. Appointed officers are not required to be Central Committee members, but shall be members of the Party as defined in Article II (B).

B. State Chair. The State Chair shall be elected pursuant to law or if the party is not established, in a manner described in law, shall be the Chief Executive Officer of the Central Committee, and have all powers and authorities as provided by law and these Bylaws. The State Chair shall have authority to make officer, committee and temporary task force appointments except as otherwise provided by law or in these Bylaws. The State Chair shall preside over all meetings and other proceedings of the Central Committee, and shall determine points of parliamentary procedure or law as necessary. The State Chair shall be a member ex-officio with the right to vote of all standing committees, committees, and temporary task forces except as otherwise provided in these Bylaws.

C. Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall be elected from within the membership of the Central Committee and continue to serve as a member of the Central Committee. The Vice Chair shall preside at meetings of the Central Committee in the absence of the State Chair. The Vice Chair shall perform all duties of the State Chair in the event of the State Chair's death, removal, resignation, inability to act, permanent absence, or other vacancy of the office until a new State Chair is elected and qualified. In such case, the Secretary shall within fourteen (14) days after the vacancy arises, call a meeting of the Central Committee to be held within sixty (60) days, but not less than seven (7) days, after the vacancy arises for the purpose of electing a new State Chair to fill the unexpired term arising from the vacancy. The Vice Chair shall be a member ex-officio with the right to vote of all standing committees, committees, and temporary task forces. The Vice Chair may have additional powers as assigned by the State Chair.

D. Treasurer. The Treasurer shall be elected by the Central Committee membership pursuant to law. The Treasurer shall retain the funds of the Central Committee, report to the Central Committee with regard to receipts and expenditures, present an annual budget and fund-raising plan, serve as Chair of the Budget Committee, and except as otherwise provided by these Bylaws, prepare and file all financial disclosure documents which may be required by State or Federal law. With the advice and consent of the State Chair, the Treasurer may appoint one or more deputy treasurers for the purpose of preparing or executing financial disclosure documents. The Treasurer may have additional powers as assigned by the State Chair.

E. Secretary. The Secretary shall be elected by the Central Committee membership. The Secretary shall keep minutes of meetings of the Central Committee and distribute the minutes to Central Committee members. With the advice and consent of the State Chair, the Secretary may appoint one or more deputy secretaries. The Secretary may have additional powers as assigned by the State Chair.

F. Executive Committee. The State Chair, Vice Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, all Deputy Secretaries and all Deputy Treasurers shall constitute the standing Executive Committee. At least two-thirds (2/3) of the individuals who serve on the Executive Committee shall be State Central Committeemen. The Executive Committee shall have general supervision of the affairs of the Central Committee between its meetings and shall have the authority to undertake any and all necessary actions to accomplish the goals and purposes of the Central Committee and the mission of the Party. Expenditures of \$1000 or more shall require the advice and consent of the Executive Committee or the State Central committee.

G. Executive Director. The State Central Committee may hire or appoint an Executive Director to be the Chief Operating Officer of the Central Committee, with authority to manage the daily operations of the Central Committee upon the advice and consent of the State Central Committee.

H. Other Officers. Other Officers appointed by the State Chair shall have only those powers and privileges assigned by the State Chair.

I. Secretary, Treasurer, or Vice Chair Vacancy. If the position of Secretary, Treasurer, or Vice Chair becomes vacant, the State Chair shall appoint an acting secretary, treasurer, or vice Chair until the Central Committee elects a successor to complete the term.

J. Continuation of Officers. If these bylaws are approved prior to the year 2018, all officers of the Executive Committee, previously elected or appointed, shall continue to serve until elections are held in 2018.

## **ARTICLE IV**. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE, OTHER COMMITTEES AND TEMPORARY TASK FORCES

A. State Organizing Committee, or SOC, shall exist to complement activities of the Central Committee and to accomplish the Party's mission. The Executive Committee of the Central Committee will also serve as the Executive Committee of the SOC. Additionally the SOC will have a Board of Directors and a

Board of Directors Manual will be maintained by the SOC. Amendments to the Board of Directors Manual shall be made with the advice and consent of the Executive Committee.

B. Budget Committee. The State Chair, Treasurer, the Division Directors as defined in the SOC Board of Directors Manual, if any, and such additional persons as the State Chair may appoint, shall constitute the standing Finance Committee. The Finance Committee shall assist in the preparation of an annual budget and fund raising plan for the Central Committee and the SOC.

C. Other Committees and Temporary Task Forces. The State Chair may establish committees or temporary task forces to accomplish tasks beyond the capabilities of the Central Committee or the SOC. The State Chair shall appoint a member of the Central Committee or a member of the SOC to chair any committee or temporary task force. No Committee or Temporary Task Force shall infringe upon the duties and responsibilities of any SOC Division, unless the SOC Division has no members. The term of appointment shall be at the pleasure of the State Chair, to expire on the anniversary of the quadrennial organizational meeting. The State Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and the Treasurer shall be members ex-officio with the right to vote of all committees and temporary task forces established pursuant to Article IV(C). Committees and temporary task forces shall meet at the call of the appointed Chair. Committees and temporary task forces shall disband upon the conclusion of the task assigned or as otherwise directed by the State Chair.

D. Replacement of Members. A member of a committee, or temporary task force may be temporarily replaced by appointment of the State Chair.

## **ARTICLE V.** MEETINGS

A. Quadrennial Organization Meeting. The Central Committee shall hold a quadrennial organization meeting in Springfield pursuant to law. The Quadrennial Organization Meeting will be held within 41 days of the election of Central Committee members. Whenever possible, the Quadrennial Organization Meeting should immediately precede the Illinois Libertarian State Convention held in the Primary Convention Year.

B. Meeting Frequency and Notice. The Central Committee shall meet at least three times each calendar year. Meetings shall be called by the State Chair. Written or electronic notice of the time and place of Central Committee meetings shall be sent to all Central Committee members and officers. Notice shall be delivered at least seven (7) days before the meeting date. However, oral or written notice may be given by telephone or electronic means upon shorter notice when the State Chair certifies that an emergency exists.

C. Special Meetings. Pursuant to law, a special meeting of the Central Committee may be called by the State Chair, or by not less than 25% of the Central Committee members. Written or electronic notice of the time and place of Central Committee meetings shall be sent to all Central Committee members and officers. Notice shall be delivered at least five (5) days before the meeting date.

D. Meeting Notice List. The Secretary shall maintain a meeting notification list, which shall include for each Central Committee member and officer a current U.S. Mail address, telephone number, email address and if available, electronic facsimile number. Timely notices given to the addresses or numbers

on the meeting notification list are deemed to have been given to the proper location. It shall be the responsibility of members and officers to update meeting notification list information.

E. Participation by Teleconference. Meetings may be held by telephone, online conferencing or teleconference, providing that all members of the Central Committee have access to the means used. The Chair will announce the method used, and provide access instructions to all Central Committee members.

F. Central Committee Quorum. The presence of a majority in statutory weighted vote of the Central Committee shall be necessary to constitute a quorum to conduct Central Committee business. A person is present for purposes of determining a quorum if physically present or if participating by telephone or video conference device. The Central Committee may establish rules for the conduct of such meetings.

G. Central Committee Votes. At meetings of the Central Committee, a member shall cast a statutory weighted vote except as otherwise provided by law or in these Bylaws. All questions shall be determined by a majority of weighted votes cast on the question.

H. Electronic Voting. In the case of a vacancy, or in matters of urgency, the Chair may choose to use electronic voting. The State Chair will electronically present the ballot to the appropriate voting body within 3 business days of receiving the proposal, and call the vote. Once a vote has been called voting will be open for 6 business days (a business day is a day when the US Stock Market (NYSE) is open, even if it is a partial day) or until all members have voted. As long as voting is open, discussion via electronic communication to the entire voting body may take place. Voting will be electronic and require a simple majority vote to pass. The electronic vote of each identified individual shall be weighted in the manner described in Article II(D)(2) unless otherwise provided for by Illinois law. Members will submit publicly through electronic communication to the Chair their vote by stating their full name and clearly noting their ballot selection. During open voting members may update or change their vote at any time. The vote concludes at the expiration of the 6th business day to the minute the proposal was called to a vote or all members having cast their vote. Once concluded the Chair will report the vote results along with the name and vote of each voting member via electronic communication to the State Central Committee and the appropriate voting body.

I. State Organizing Committee, Sub-Committee, or Task Force Quorum. The presence of a majority of the members of the SOC, any sub-committee, or temporary task force shall be necessary to constitute a quorum to conduct business. A person is present for purposes of determining a quorum if physically present or if participating by telephone or video conference device.

J. State Organizing Committee, Sub-Committee, or Task Force Votes. At meetings of the SOC, any subcommittee, or temporary task force, a member shall have one vote. Except as otherwise provided by law or in these Bylaws, all questions shall be determined by a majority of votes cast on the question.

## **ARTICLE VI.** STATE CONVENTION

A. Convention Types and the Convention Cycle. The convention cycle is established for the purpose of

scheduling conventions and to comply with Illinois law. The Primary Convention Year is established at the year 2014, and occurs every 4 years thereafter. The Secondary Convention Year is established at the year 2016 and occurs every 4 years thereafter. The Central Committee shall call for a Convention in each Primary or Secondary Convention Year. Such conventions shall comply with Illinois law if applicable. The SOC may only call for a Membership Meeting in years that are not Primary or Secondary Convention Years.

B. Call. The Libertarian Party of Illinois shall meet in Primary and Secondary Convention Years as the Illinois Libertarian State Convention (referred to as “Convention” in these Bylaws). The Central Committee Chair shall issue a call for the Convention pursuant to law and shall chair such Convention. The Convention shall be called to order on the day specified by law.

C. Delegates. Convention delegates shall be selected pursuant to law and rules adopted by the Central Committee and spelled out in a Convention Rules Handbook, or included in the SOC Board of Directors Manual.

D. Convention Officers. Officers of the Convention shall include a Chair and Secretary. The Central Committee Chair shall serve as Chair of the Convention. The Chair, with the advice and consent of the Central Committee, shall appoint the Convention Secretary and such other officers or aides as are necessary for the efficient conduct of the Convention.

E. Convention Quorum. A quorum of the Convention must be present to conduct any substantive business. A quorum shall consist of one more than one-half of all delegates to the Convention approved and reported by the Convention Credentials Committee.

F. Majority. When any business or motion is presented to the Convention for consideration and passage, the affirmative vote of an absolute majority of the total number of delegates as prescribed by law shall be required for adoption, unless a greater number is provided for in these Bylaws.

G. Roll Call and Proxies. Roll call voting shall not be required except at the direction of the State Chair or at the request in writing of a majority of attending delegates. No proxy voting or appearance by telephone or video device shall be allowed during any meeting of the Convention. Any person who is not a party member in good standing for the 120 days immediately preceding the State Convention may neither vote in person or vote by proxy if not present.

H. Convention Committees. The Convention shall have the following committees and such other committees as may, from time to time, be required in the judgment of the State Chair.

1. The Convention Committee on Credentials
2. The Convention Committee on Rules and Procedures
3. The Convention Committee on Resolutions

During Secondary Year Conventions, the Convention shall have the following additional committees. Each State Central Committeeman may appoint one person from their Congressional District to serve on:

1. The Convention Committee Delegates and Alternates to the National Convention
2. The Convention Committee on Presidential Electors

The State Chair shall appoint members to serve on each. Each State Central Committeeman may appoint one person from their Congressional District to serve on each.

The State Chair shall appoint a committee Chair for each Convention Committee. The State Chair may also appoint one or more committee co-Chairs who shall sit *ex-officio* without vote. Committee members may be appointed by, and serve at the pleasure of, their respective Member of the State Central Committee. Committee members may be appointed, removed, and/or replaced at any time at the sole discretion of their respective Member of the State Central Committee.

Only an individual who is a registered voter of the congressional district from which he or she is appointed shall be eligible to serve as a convention committee member. The State Chair shall be member *ex-officio* with the right to vote of each convention committee. The committee Chair may vote only to break a tie. The committee Chair shall be appointed from among members of the State Central Committee by the State Chair.

Each State Central Committeeman or their assigned representative on the Committee on Presidential Electors shall appoint one (1) individual from his or her Congressional District to serve as a Presidential Elector for the purpose of casting a vote for the Libertarian Presidential nominee. The State Chair shall appoint two (2) additional electors.

Each convention committee shall meet upon the call of the committee Chair, or the State Chair, or upon the written request of a majority of the members of the committee submitted to the committee Chair within forty-eight (48) hours' notice. The convention committees may adopt rules, including the right to limit debates in committee, upon the affirmative vote of a majority of committee members, so long as the committee rules are consistent with these Bylaws. Convention Rules and Procedures shall be published on the Libertarian Party of Illinois' website and made available in printed form to the chair of each delegation 48 hours prior to the opening of the convention.

No minority report of any convention committee will be accepted by the Convention unless the subject matter is discussed in committee and such minority report is in writing, signed by a majority of members of such committee and submitted to the Convention Secretary prior to or at the time the majority report is submitted to the Convention.

All committees of the Convention disband upon adjournment of the Convention or as otherwise directed by the State Chair.

I. Debate. No delegate will be permitted to speak to any question for more than three (3) minutes nor more than once on any subject unless by special leave of the State Chair, except that the maker of a motion or resolution, if debatable, shall have an additional three (3) minutes to close the debate.

J. Resolutions. All resolutions shall be submitted to the Convention by the Committee on Platform and Resolutions. No resolution or any amendment thereto shall be reported out or made a part of any report of the Convention Committee on Resolutions unless it has been submitted to the committee in



writing prior to its report to the Convention and shall have received the affirmative support of seven (7) members of that committee.

K. Motions. No motion or resolution from the floor shall be in order unless submitted in writing to the Convention Secretary and signed by at least ten (10) delegates, unless otherwise provided for in these Bylaws. Any motion or resolution so submitted shall be placed in the appropriate place on the agenda for consideration by the Convention.

L. Appeals. In any appeal taken from a ruling of the State Chair or other presiding officer of the Convention, the State Chair shall be sustained unless a majority of delegates votes to overrule the State Chair.

M. Convention Voting. All roll call votes shall be taken in the following manner by the Convention Secretary: First, all county delegations (except Cook) shall be called alphabetically. Second, all Cook County Township delegations shall be called alphabetically. Third, all City of Chicago Ward delegations shall be called in numerical ascending order beginning with the First Ward. When a delegation is called by the Convention Secretary for its vote, the Chair of the delegation shall announce the weighted vote of the delegation, as provided by state law. The unit rule shall be in effect for all delegations. No proxy voting of delegations shall be allowed. In the event of a dispute within a delegation as to how its vote shall be cast, that delegation shall be passed and an Assistant Secretary shall poll the delegation and report the results to the Secretary of the Convention for recording. The report of such Assistant Secretary shall be final. Following a roll call vote for election of a candidate to any position, the State Chair, before reporting the final tally, shall ask "Shall the vote be declared unanimous?" If answered in the affirmative, the vote shall be so recorded.

N. Convention Committee Meetings. No convention committee shall meet during the time the Convention is in session unless at the call of the State Chair.

O. Open Meetings. The proceedings of the Convention shall be open to the public. No votes either in committee or on the floor shall be taken by secret ballot. Meetings, however, may be closed if executive session is provided in Robert's Rules of Order.

P. Suspension of Bylaws. These Bylaws may be suspended by the Convention only on proper motion, and the affirmative vote of three-fifths (3/5) of the delegates.

Q. Convention Minutes. The minutes of the Convention, together with convention committee reports, shall be maintained by the Central Committee.

R. Appointments to Fill Vacancies in the National Delegation. The manner of filling Vacancies in the National Delegation shall be outlined in the Convention Rules Handbook or in the Board of Directors Manual.

## **ARTICLE VII.** PROPER REPRESENTATION AND REMOVAL

A. All officers of the Party and members the Central Committee are representatives of this Central Committee, the Libertarian Party of Illinois, the national Libertarian Party and the cause of Liberty. As

such, all are expected to maintain standards of action and appearance that reflect favorably on all of us.

B. Removal of Officers. Any elected officer, including the State Chair, may be removed for cause by the Central Committee upon the affirmative weighted vote of three-fifths (3/5th) of the Central Committee.

C. In case of a vacancy in the Executive Committee due to resignation, death or removal, Executive Officer vacancies shall be filled by special election at the next scheduled meeting following the vacancy or the resignation of Executive Officer. If no member at said meeting fills the vacancy of the Executive Officer then the Executive Committee shall fill the Office. If the office remains open, the Chair shall perform the duties of the office until a successor is found.

D. Any person shall have their membership terminated when:

- 1) The person requests their membership to be terminated by notifying an Executive Officer of their request.
- 2) Member can be expelled for cause, such as action inconsistent with the mission of the Party. A call for expulsion must be brought by 3/4ths of the members of the accused member's county to the State Chair. Within 45 days of a call, the State Chair shall call a special meeting of the Central Committee to hear the case. So long as a quorum exists, the member may be expelled upon a 3/4ths vote. Members will be notified 15 days prior to expulsion vote.

E. A Candidate running for office may be denied support if deemed appropriate by the Executive Committee. Any member of the Party may file a complaint with the Central Committee or one of its officers if that member feels that the candidate does not properly represent the Party because of moral, ethical or extremist views or because that candidate supports policies in contradiction to the established platform of the Libertarian Party. Any person must make such complaint in writing to a member of the Central Committee. Such a complaint may be made at any time after an individual publicly declares, by statement or by circulating nominating petitions, his or her candidacy for the Libertarian nomination for any office. Upon receiving the written complaint, the Chair shall appoint an ad hoc Committee, and name a Chairman of same, to investigate the complaint, consisting, at a minimum, of two (2) members of the Executive Committee and three (3) Central Committeemen not serving on the Executive Committee. The ad hoc Committee shall investigate the claims and, within 14 days, submit recommendations to the Executive Committee, said report to be mailed to all members of the Central Committee at least seven (7) days before the next scheduled Central Committee meeting. If the Executive Committee concurs with the ad hoc committee's recommendations by a two-thirds (2/3) vote that, because of moral, ethical, or extremist views, or because that candidate is not representing the Libertarian Party appropriately, the Chair shall make it publicly known that the Party does not support the candidate in question.

## **ARTICLE VIII.** PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY

A. The rules contained in the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the

Central Committee, standing committees, committees, temporary task forces and State Convention in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these Bylaws, state statute, and any special rules of order the Central Committee or State Convention may adopt.

## **ARTICLE IX.** AMENDMENT AND SUSPENSION

A. Amendments. Amendments to these Bylaws, unless otherwise provided herein, may be adopted by the Central Committee upon receiving two-thirds (2/3) of the weighted vote of those present on the question, or upon receiving a majority of the weighted votes of those present if a copy of the proposed amendment is received by each member 30 days prior to the vote thereon.

B. Suspension. Any provision of these Bylaws, with the exception of Article IX may be suspended by the Central Committee upon the vote of three-fourths (3/4) of the weighted vote.