

(Amended by the State Committee on May 9, 2000)
(Amended by the State Committee on October 25, 2003)
(Amended by the State Committee on November 19, 2005)
(Amended by the State Committee on April 22, 2006)
(Amended by the State Committee on September 26, 2014)
(Amended by the State Committee on August 14, 2019)
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(Amended by the State Committee on April 11, 2020)

Preamble & Statement of Principles:

“We the members of the Vermont Libertarian Party do declare and affirm the following to be a faithful and true recounting of our core values and principles; and is to be used to guide us in politics and in life:

We hold that all people share equal and inalienable rights; that these are natural rights based upon the principles of consent, moral agency, and self ownership; that these rights are neither granted nor annulled by the state; that these rights are not contingent upon majority nor other vote; that these rights shall not be limited by government fiat or whim, but only limited by the equal rights of another person.

We reject the cult of collectivism in all its varieties. Collectivism being the root of tyranny and the destruction of self ownership. The root of collectivism is slavery, and we stand forever as abolitionists.

We affirm individualism throughout all peaceable expressions of individuality. Every person is their own rightful self owner, their conscience and consent being both sacred and sovereign. The only social contract we recognize as preexisting is the reciprocal obligation of non aggression, and that, when any person violates this basic trust, self defense is morally permissible. We affirm consent in all things; in conscience and private affairs, in economics and trade, and in social associations and institutions.

We champion all of these principles by upholding our one fundamental touchstone, the non-aggression principle, which states: “it is immoral to initiate force or fraud against a non-consenting person.” It is through means of this compass we will guide ourselves in politics – and in life – to be better stewards of human rights, and better neighbors.”

The Statement of Principles may not be amended without a 7/8ths vote of all members in good standing assembled in convention.

I. Purpose

A.The Vermont Libertarian Party is the Vermont state affiliate of the Libertarian National Committee, Inc.

Our stated mission is:

- 1.To recruit and run candidates for local, state and federal offices in Vermont under the Libertarian Party banner.
- 1.To promote libertarian ideas and policies in Vermont.
- 2.To recruit activists and donors for the Vermont Libertarian Party.

II. Structure

A. The Vermont Libertarian Party will comprise of the following elements:

1. The Executive Committee
2. The State Committee
3. Town Committees

III. Committee Functions and Operations

A.The Executive Committee

- 1.The purpose of this committee is to oversee the day-to-day operations of the Vermont Libertarian Party.
- 2.The Executive Committee is comprised of:
 - i. Chairperson of the State Committee

- ii. Vice-Chairperson of the State Committee; if the office of Vice-Chairperson be vacant it shall automatically be filled by the Secretary of the State Committee
 - iii. Secretary of the State Committee
 - iv. Treasurer of The State Committee
 - v. Assistant-Treasurer of the State Committee; if the office of Assistant-Treasurer be vacant it shall automatically be filled by the Chairperson of the State Committee
3. The Executive Committee shall have the authority to undertake the following duties:
- i. Draft an annual budget for approval by the State Committee
 - ii. Set the date and time of State Committee meetings
 - iii. Propose changes and amendments to the by-laws for approval by the State Committee
 - iv. Propose a date and place for a biennial state convention.
 - v. Issue news releases, policy statements and commentary to the press
 - vi. Issue newsletters, or delegate this task to a newsletter editor.
 - vii. Undertake any other functions that are deemed by the State Committee to be necessary for the day-to-day function of the Vermont Libertarian Party

B. The State Committee

1. This committee shall serve as the ruling body of the Vermont Libertarian Party.
- i. The Committee shall meet a minimum of once per calendar quarter
 - ii. The State Chair may call an extraordinary meeting of the Committee provided he gives at least 72 hours notice orally or in writing to each Committee member, stating the place, time, and purpose of the meeting
2. The State Committee is comprised of:
- i. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and Assistant Treasurer of each Town Committee
 - ii. The Delegates and Alternate Delegates to the national Libertarian Party convention elected at the prior bi-annual Vermont Libertarian Party Convention
 - iii. The members of the Executive Committee who are not Chairpersons of a Town Committee or Delegates or Alternate Delegates to the national Libertarian Party convention elected at the prior bi-annual Vermont Libertarian Party Convention
 - iv. Any Libertarian Party member holding a statewide office, the office of Vermont Representative or Senator, or the office of U.S. Representative or U.S. Senator.
3. The State Committee shall have the authority to undertake the following duties:
- i. Approve an annual budget submitted by the Executive Committee
 - ii. Set the date and time of a bi-annual state convention, and to set the agenda for the convention.
 - iii. Propose a platform to be approved at the bi-annual state convention.
 - iv. Approve changes and amendments to the by-laws.
 - v. Name candidates for local, state and federal office
 - vi. Call an ad-hoc state nominating convention at the request of a Libertarian candidate for state and local office. Provided that the request is made 30 days prior to the filing deadline for candidates.
 - vii. Set requirements for membership of the Vermont Libertarian Party.
 - viii. Delegate to the Executive Committee any other functions that are deemed by the State Committee to be necessary for the day-to-day function of the Vermont Libertarian Party.
4. Five committee members present shall constitute a quorum.
5. Attendance Via Conference Telephone or Similar Communications Equipment. A member may attend and participate in a meeting of members via a conference telephone, computer "chat room" or similar communications equipment by which all persons participating in the meeting may communicate with each other; provided that all participants are advised of the communications equipment and the names of the participants in the conference are divulged to all participants. Such participation by a member in a meeting shall constitute presence in person at the meeting.

C. Town Committees

1. The purpose of the Town committees is to provide for the local organization of Libertarian activists and to comply with Vermont statutes regarding organization of political parties.

2. The Town Committees are comprised of any voter in each organized town who wishes to serve on the Libertarian Town Committee.
3. Each Town Committee shall:
 - i. Elect a Chairperson to serve on the State Committee
 - ii. Further organize themselves bi-annually according to Vermont state law.

IV. Conventions

- A. A convention of the Vermont Libertarian Party shall be held of every even numbered election year prior to nomination of candidates.
 1. The purpose of the convention is to:
 - i. Approve a party platform for the next general election
 - ii. Elect delegates to the next national Libertarian Party convention
 2. Delegates to the State convention are:
 - i. Members of the Vermont Libertarian Party in good standing as of the day of the convention
 3. The Chairperson of the State Committee shall serve as the President of the convention and preside over the orderly conduct of convention business.

V. Parliamentary Authority

- A. The rules contained in the 2011 edition of Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised, shall govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with applicable Federal or State law, these bylaws, and any special rules of order adopted by the Party.

When a new edition is published, the state committee shall consider adopting that edition not later than six months after the new publication date. In no instance shall the new edition take authoritative effect without a vote by the state committee.