

BYLAWS OF THE LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS  
As Amended Through November 13, 2005

**BYLAW I. NAME**

The name of this organization shall be the “LIBERTARIAN PARTY OF ILLINOIS,” hereinafter referred to as the “Party.”

**BYLAW II. PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Party shall be to promote the ideals specified in the National Libertarian Party Statement of Principles by any means consistent with those Principles.

**BYLAW III. MEMBERSHIP**

Section 1. A member shall be any person who requests membership and provides a current mailing address or a current phone number and whose LPI dues, if any, are current.

Section 2. A member’s membership shall lapse when their address and phone number are not current or their dues lapse. They shall become current upon providing a current address or phone number or by making their dues current, whichever is applicable.

Section 3. The name and address of Party officers, State Organizing Committee members, and Judicial Committee members shall be made available by print and electronic means within one month of each State Convention. Members shall have access to minutes of the past two years’ State Organizing Committee meetings and State Convention business sessions.

Section 4. A member, upon joining the Libertarian Party of Illinois, must sign a statement that says, “I have read and agree with the following statement: We hold that all individuals have the right to exercise *sole dominion* over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the *equal right* of others to live in whatever manner they choose.”

**BYLAW IV. STATE ORGANIZING COMMITTEE**

Section 1. There shall be a State Organizing Committee consisting of representatives of affiliated chapters and elected Party officers to oversee the Party’s affairs.

## Section 2. Officers

- (a) The officers of the Party shall be a Chair; a Vice-Chair, Campaigns and Electoral Organizations; a Vice-Chair, Membership and Development; a Vice-Chair, Media and Communications; a Secretary; and a Treasurer.
- (b) All officers shall be residents of Illinois and Party members.  
No Party Officer shall be an officer in any other political party. Disputes arising under this Section shall be settled by the Judicial Committee by a four-fifths vote.
- (c) No Party offices shall combine.
- (d) Starting with the 1995 Convention, terms of offices shall be two years from the close of the State Convention at which the Officers were elected until the close of the next State Convention.

## Section 3. Election and Replacement

- (a) Each Party Officer shall be elected by a majority vote at the State Convention.
- (b) In the event of a vacancy of the Chair, the State Organizing Committee shall appoint an interim Chair from among the SOC officers by a majority vote of the State Organizing Committee. This interim appointment shall extend until the next State Convention. Officers elected by the convention to serve for the remainder of the term shall serve out only the remainder of the that term before being required to step down or stand for reelection for a full term.
- (c) The State Organizing Committee shall fill vacancies in the offices.
- (d) Any LPI State Organizing Committee officer may be removed by a three-fourths vote of the State Organizing Committee. Affiliate representatives to the State Organizing Committee may only be removed by their respective affiliates according to the affiliates' bylaws.

## Section 4. Duties

- (a) The State Organizing Committee shall:
  - (1) Hold meetings at least quarterly.
  - (2) On written request of any Party member, consider convening the Judicial Committee.
  - (3) Determine the date, location, and agenda of the State Convention.
  - (4) Choose or replace a Newsletter Editor, whose term shall be one year beginning one month after the State Convention.
  - (5) Choose or replace a Data Base Coordinator, whose term shall be one year beginning after the State Convention.
  - (6) Determine whether any Party office is vacant.
  - (7) Determine membership dues and period of membership.
  - (8) Perform such other duties as may from time to time be necessary.
  - (9) The Quorum shall be five, at least three of whom shall be State Party Officers; the others shall be local chapter representatives.
  - (10) The State Organizing Committee may meet by any means which allows simultaneous aural communication among all participants.

- (b) The Executive Board shall:
  - (1) Consist of all elected officers.
  - (2) Call emergency meetings of the State Organizing Committee if necessary.
  - (3) Perform such other duties as may from time to time be necessary.
  - (4) The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the Chair or at the request of any two members of the Executive Board.
  
- (c) Officers' duties shall include but not be limited to the following:
  - (1) Chair
    - (i) Preside over Executive Board and State Organizing Committee and State Convention Business Sessions.
    - (ii) Serve ex-officio on all committees formed by the State Organizing Committee.
    - (iii) Set the agenda for State Organizing Committee meetings.
    - (iv) Supervise the activities of all paid employees and independent contractors of the Party.
  - (2) Vice-Chair, Campaigns and Electoral Organizations
    - (i) Chair State Organizing Committee meetings in the absence of the Chair if appointed by the State Organizing Committee.
    - (ii) Act as liaison for the Party to all local campaign organizations.
    - (iii) Coordinate all statewide campaign petitioning efforts.
    - (iv) Develop and recruit candidates for statewide public office.
  - (3) Vice-Chair, Membership and Development
    - (i) Chair State Organizing Committee meetings in the absence of the Chair if appointed by the State Organizing Committee.
    - (ii) Oversee the maintenance of the membership database.
    - (iii) Coordinate the preparation and mailing of fund-raising letters.
    - (iv) Coordinate all other fund-raising activities for the party.
    - (v) Develop and keep current recruiting literature.
    - (vi) Develop programs to recruit new and retain current members.
  - (4) Vice-Chair, Media and Communications
    - (i) Chair State Organizing Committee meetings in the absence of the Chair if appointed by the State Organizing Committee.
    - (ii) Oversee the maintenance of the media database.
    - (iii) Oversee the maintenance of the party's website.
    - (iv) Conduct all official correspondence between the Party and other bodies and individuals.
    - (v) Issue official Party press releases.
  - (5) Secretary
    - (i) Keep all official Party records
    - (ii) Take accurate minutes and submit them in writing for State Organizing Committee approval.
    - (iii) Distribute the proposed agenda of the upcoming State Organizing Committee meeting and the Minutes of the most recent meeting to State Organizing Committee members, committee

chairs, local chapter chairs, and the Newsletter Editor prior to each meeting.

- (6) Treasurer
  - (i) Receive, record, and disburse all party funds.
  - (ii) Prepare a budget for the calendar year, to be approved by the State Organizing Committee, and transmitted to the next treasurer at the term's conclusion.
  - (iii) Get Executive Board approval for any non-budgeted item exceeding \$50.
  - (iv) Distribute written monthly financial reports to the State Organizing Committee.
  - (v) Manage preparation of required FEC reports and other governmental financial reports for the Party as required.
  - (vi) Present a detailed annual income statement at the state convention, with copies to be made available to all Party members.

## **BYLAW V. JUDICIAL COMMITTEE**

Section 1. There shall be a Judicial Committee whose purpose shall be:

- (a) To hold trials in those cases in which a Party member has been accused of violating a Party rule or engaging in wrongdoing;
- (b) To hold hearings in those cases in which a procedure followed, a policy adopted or a decision made by a Party member or members is thought to be in violation of a Bylaw of the Party.

Section 2. The Judicial Committee shall consist of five members. Members must be elected at the State Convention. Each member may serve on the committee for up to three years, after which he or she must be reelected by the State Convention. Any vacancy occurring between State Conventions because of resignation, disqualification or any other reason may be filled by majority vote of the State Organizing Committee. If a member is disqualified or is unable to attend a trial or hearing, any person chosen to fill the vacancy shall serve on the Judicial Committee only with regard to that single case. If a vacancy is filled by the State Organizing Committee, that person shall serve on the Judicial Committee only until the next State Convention, at which time that person's membership shall end unless he or she is elected to be a member by the State Convention.

Section 3. In those cases in which a Party member is accused of violating a Party rule or law, the Judicial Committee shall hold a trial. The accusers and the accused shall be given the opportunity to present evidence before the Judicial Committee, and after the evidence has been heard, the Judicial Committee shall decide whether the accused is guilty or innocent. If the Party member is found guilty, the Judicial Committee will decide what penalty, if any, should be imposed. The trial will be open to all Party members unless the accused desires a closed proceeding.

Section 4. In those cases which the Judicial Committee is serving as an appellate body, the Judicial Committee will accept a written brief or argument from any party wishing to present one and will consider the arguments presented therein in rendering a decision. The briefs may be presented before or at the beginning of the hearing. The Judicial Committee will hold a hearing at which it will discuss the issues presented. All Party members shall be entitled to be present at this meeting, and the Judicial Committee may, if it so desires, allow the presentation of oral argument from any person attending the meeting.

Section 5. The Judicial Committee must hold a trial or hearing upon receiving a written request to do so signed or supported by at least three Party members. A written request for a trial should state the name of the accused, the action taken by the accused, and which rule of rules the action supposedly violated. A written request for a hearing should state the action taken and describe how this action allegedly violates a bylaw or bylaws. The written request for a trial or hearing should be mailed, delivered in person or e-mailed to any member of the Judicial Committee, who must then notify the other members of the Judicial Committee of the request. The Judicial Committee must hold a trial or hearing within sixty days after receiving a written request to do so by any Party member. The Judicial Committee shall render a decision on any question within thirty days after the conclusion of a trial or hearing. The decision must be in writing and must be submitted to the editor of the newsletter for publication.

Section 6. No person may serve simultaneously on the State Organizing Committee and the Judicial Committee. Qualifications for serving on the Judicial Committee are the same as those for Party officers. No person may serve on the Judicial Committee during a particular trial or hearing if that person is the person who submitted the written request for trial or hearing.

Section 7. Any decision of the Judicial Committee may be appealed to the general membership at a State Convention, which may overrule the decision of the Judicial Committee, by two-thirds vote.

Section 8. All Party members shall be notified of the time, date and place of any trial or hearing before the Judicial Committee at least thirty days prior to the trial or hearing.

Section 9. No decision may be made by the Judicial Committee unless five members participate. Decisions need not be unanimous; decisions will be made by majority rule. If one or more members cannot attend a trial or hearing the State Organizing Committee must appoint temporary replacements.

Section 10. If a Party member is found guilty of having violated a rule of the Party, the Judicial Committee may impose the following punishments:

- (a) The guilty party may be expelled from the Party.
- (b) The guilty party may be required to engage in an action, refrain from engaging in an action, or pay a fine, or, if he or she refuses, may be expelled from the Party.

## **BYLAW VI. LOCAL CHAPTERS**

Section 1. Any five members who wish to form a local chapter and affiliate with the Party in the sense of these Bylaws may so petition the State Organizing Committee. Each affiliated chapter shall have one representative on the State Organizing Committee. No Party member shall be listed for purposes of State Organizing Committee voting representation as a member of more than one chapter.

Section 2. Each local chapter shall, prior to recognition by the State Organizing Committee, and annually within thirty (30) days following each State Convention, submit credentials to the Secretary consisting of the following:

- (a) The local chapter's bylaws.
- (b) A list of current local chapter officers and State Organizing Committee Representative.

Section 3. Any changes in or additions to a local chapter's bylaws, officers, or State Organizing Committee Representative shall be communicated to the Secretary.

Section 4. Geographically defined local chapters that are located where the Party is an established political party under the laws of Illinois shall function as an authorized political committee. These local chapters, when affiliated with the Party, shall have all the rights and privileges in all functions which are generally permitted to local political organizations by the state of Illinois.

## **BYLAW VII. STATE CONVENTION**

The annual State Convention will be held at a time and place to be determined by the State Organizing Committee. Announcement will be made to all Party members no fewer than sixty (60) days before the convention.

## **BYLAW VIII. MAILING LIST**

Section I. The State Organizing Committee shall maintain a mailing list of those people that have expressed an interest in the Party. Such list, and all future additions, shall be the sole property of the Party.

Section 2. Any uses of the mailing list, other than for official Party business, must be approved by a three-fifths vote of the State Organizing Committee. The Mailing list shall be coded so that any person may request to have his or her name removed from any part of the mailing list released to other organizations. Official Party business includes the use of mailing lists to develop local chapters at the discretion of the Vice-Chair, Membership and Development.

Section 3. All authorized political committees will, as a condition of authorization, make all names of persons interested in campaigns available to the Party for inclusion in the Party mailing list.

**BYLAW IX                    ENDORSEMENT OF OTHER PARTIES OR CANDIDATES**

The Party shall not fund or advocate the election of a candidate of any other political party.

**BYLAW X.                    AUTHORIZED POLITICAL COMMITTEES**

Section 1 An “authorized political committee” is one which is permitted access to the Party mailing list only during the period of authorization and only on behalf of such candidate, candidates, or activities as represented by the committee at the time of its authorization, otherwise provided by the State Organizing Committee.

Section 2. An authorized committee for political campaigns must be endorsed by the State Organizing Committee.

Section 3. All authorized political committees shall meet the following conditions:

- (a) A committee can finance only candidates endorsed by the Party.
- (b) All officers of the committee shall be current Party members, except the Treasurer, who may be a Certified Public Accountant or accounting firm.
- (c) The committee shall make financial reports available to the State Organizing Committee upon request.

**BYLAW XI.                    PARLIAMENTARY AUTHORITY**

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern the conduct of State Organizing Committee meetings unless inconsistent with these Bylaws.

**BYLAW XII.                    AMENDMENT**

Section 1. Except as provided in Section 1 (a) and (b) and Section 2 of this Bylaw, these bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of a State Convention. Proposed amendments shall be submitted to the Secretary no fewer than forty five (45) days before the State Convention business session, and the proposed amendments shall be published and mailed to the Party membership no fewer than thirty (30) days before the business session.

- (a) During debate of a proposed amendment a member may offer an amendment that in effect corrects the spelling or grammar of a proposed amendment; this amendment shall be made and voted on as a separate amendment to the proposed amendment.
- (b) During debate of a proposed amendment the individual having originally submitted the proposed amendment to the Secretary may offer an amendment to their own proposed amendment that has the effect of correcting conflicts with existing bylaws, or changing the content of their own proposed amendment.
- (c) Amendments to the proposed amendment may be submitted by any voting member at the Annual Meeting within the guidelines of Robert's Rules of Order, as long as it is within the spirit and direction of the proposed amendment. For example, if a proposed bylaw change proposes a change in the bylaws to prohibit proxy voting, an amendment to this would be permitted if it proposed a restriction but not an outright ban on proxy voting.

Section 2. When the Party becomes an established political party, as determined by the State Board of Elections under the laws of Illinois, the Judicial Committee, with the approval of the State Organizing Committee, shall amend these Bylaws only in order to conform to law.