

**BYLAWS OF THE \_\_\_\_\_**

*[E.g. UTOPIA COUNTY LIBERTARIAN PARTY]*

*As adopted at the organizing convention on \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_*

*[if later amended, this should be changed to, e.g. "As amended at the 20\_\_ annual convention" or whatever]*

*[This template is a suggestion to help new county organizations with the difficult task of preparing bylaws. While it has been vetted for internal consistency and comportment with sound parliamentary principles, there are many sections which purely reflect policy decisions which the organization may reasonably decide for itself. Anything herein may be modified by the local organization as it sees fit, so long as it does not violate the bylaws of the LPNY.]*

**Article I. Organization**

The name of this organization shall be the \_\_\_\_\_ (“\_\_\_\_\_”).  
*[E.g. Utopia County Libertarian Party (“UCLP”). “\_\_LP” will be used in the remainder of this document to indicate where to substitute the name alias.]* The \_\_LP is a County Organization, as defined in the bylaws of the Libertarian Party of New York (“LPNY”), covering \_\_\_\_\_ County *[or Counties]* (hereinafter referred to as “the covered region”).

**Article II. Object**

The \_\_\_\_\_ is a political organization that has as its primary objective the extension of individual freedom to its furthest limits. In recognition of the fact that the initiation of force by government has been the chief instrument for the expropriation of individual rights and freedom, the \_\_LP enters the political arena for the avowed purpose of eliminating the intervention of government in moral, social and economic affairs by functioning as a libertarian political entity separate and distinct from all other political parties or movements and moving public policy in a libertarian direction by building a political party that elects Libertarians to public office.

**Article III. Members**

- A. **Eligibility.** Membership in the \_\_LP shall be open to any individual *[or “resident of the covered region” or “LPNY member” or “individual who subscribes to the Principles and Objectives of the LPNY” etc., if desired, but note that any other exclusions may not be applied to individuals who are LPNY members who reside in the covered region, as they may not be prevented from joining, per the LPNY bylaws]* who submits an application and pays dues as determined by the County Committee. *[Note that the application form, which must be approved by the County Committee, may contain the above exclusions instead of including them in this section; however, LPNY members who live in the covered region must still be allowed to join.]*
- B. **Permanent Ineligibility.** Any person whose membership has been terminated by the \_\_LP or the LPNY for conduct injurious to the Party or its purposes is forever ineligible

to be a member of the \_\_LP. This section may be amended only by unanimous vote at two consecutive \_\_LP annual conventions at which every \_\_LP member is present. Any amendment to this section shall take effect ninety-nine (99) years following adoption.

- C. **Dues.** Dues for membership shall be set by the County Committee. Annual dues shall apply to the remainder of the calendar year in which they are paid and, if paid on the day of or after the annual convention held that calendar year, shall also apply to the following calendar year. Any member who has been in arrears for more than one year may be dropped from membership at the discretion of the County Committee.
- D. **Discipline.** Members who engage in conduct injurious to the \_\_LP or its purposes or to the LPNY or its purposes may be disciplined per the parliamentary authority.

#### **Article IV. Officers**

- A. **Officers.** The officers of the \_\_LP shall be the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer.
- B. **Duties**
  - 1. The Chair shall preside at all meetings and conventions, shall act as administrator and spokesperson of the \_\_LP, and shall have such other authority as granted by the County Committee or as normally pertain to the office of chair per the parliamentary authority. The Chair shall also serve as the representative to the state committee of the LPNY, or may appoint another eligible individual to serve.
  - 2. The Vice Chair shall act as associate to the Chair and shall preside at all meetings and conventions in the Chair's absence.
  - 3. The Secretary shall create and keep an accurate and complete record of the proceedings of all meetings and conventions and shall have such authority and perform all other duties as prescribed by the parliamentary authority. At each meeting, the Secretary shall present the minutes of the previous meeting or convention for approval. The Secretary shall call the roll whenever necessary and shall keep an accurate tally of votes at all roll call votes and elections.
  - 4. The Treasurer shall collect, hold, and disburse funds as authorized by the County Committee, maintain records of all financial transactions, maintain records of membership and dues payments, and have such authority and perform all other duties as prescribed by the parliamentary authority. The Treasurer shall submit reports of financial status annually and at meetings as directed by the County Committee. The Treasurer shall be responsible to perform all functions with regard to the collection of dues, as directed by the County Committee.

- C. **Elections.** An election shall be held at the annual convention for each office above, in which those elected must receive a majority of the votes cast. Nominations shall be from the floor; nominating committees shall not be permitted.
- D. **Incomplete Elections.** In the event that an election to fill any party office cannot be held due to the inability to convene a convention or gather a quorum to vote at any convention, a special convention shall be called for the purpose of electing a new officer as soon as practicable.
- E. **Terms and Vacancy.** Party officers shall serve until the close of the convention at which their successor is elected or until such time as they resign or are removed from office or are no longer able to serve. Officers may be removed from office as provided in the parliamentary authority. A vacancy in the office of Chair shall be filled by succession of the Vice Chair. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled by the County Committee.
- F. **Eligibility.** Party officers shall be current members in good standing of the \_\_LP, the LPNY, and the national Libertarian Party. *[Membership in the national LP is not, technically, required, but membership in the LPNY is required by the LPNY bylaws.] [Here add any other desired requirements for all or specific officers, such as residency in the covered region, restrictions on party enrollment with the Board of Elections, etc. (E.g., "Party officers shall not be enrolled appurtenant to voter registration in any party other than the "Libertarian Party".) Note that, while the requirements in this section would render an individual who does not meet them ineligible to be elected, once elected, per the previous section, he will remain in office even if he later no longer meets them, although his failure to continue to meet them may provide the basis for his removal from office.]*

## Article V. Conventions

- A. **Annual Convention.** The \_\_LP shall hold an annual convention between January 1 and June 30 of each year, the location and precise hour of which shall be determined by the County Committee
- B. **Special Conventions.** Special conventions may be called at any time for any particular purpose by either (1) the County Committee, or (2) anyone who makes a written request to the Chair or Secretary which specifies who is calling the special convention and for what purpose and is signed by twenty-five percent (25%) of the current members in good standing. Only subjects which directly relate to the purpose for which the special convention is called may be considered at any special convention.

- C. **Notice.** Written notice shall be sent to each current member in good standing not less than ten (10) nor more than sixty (60) days in advance of any convention. Such notice shall include the date, time and location of the convention, and, for special conventions, shall also include who is calling the special convention and for what purpose. Attendance without protest at any convention by any member shall constitute a waiver of notice, as shall the signing of a waiver of notice before or after the convention.
- D. **Location.** Conventions shall be held within the covered region, except annual conventions held jointly with the LPNY or with any County Organization as defined in the bylaws of the LPNY may be held in any county adjacent by road to the covered region.
- E. **Eligibility.** To be entitled to be credentialed to vote at any convention, a current member in good standing must have been a member as of the previous annual convention. Any or all of the other current members in good standing may also be credentialed to vote if fewer than three (3) members of the voting body object. Each voting member shall be entitled to one vote. The presiding officer shall not vote except on ballots and when his vote will change the outcome. No voting by proxy will be permitted.
- F. **Ballot Voting.** In any ballot vote in which the required number of candidates do not receive the requisite number of votes, another round of voting shall be held in which the candidates who received the lowest vote totals and whose combined vote totals could not have changed the outcome shall be dropped from the ballot. If there are no such candidates, then the candidate who received the lowest vote total shall be dropped from the ballot, unless there is a tie for lowest vote total, in which case no candidate shall be dropped from the ballot. Any voting member may demand that any election or endorsement be held by ballot vote.
- G. **Voting, NOTA.** In every election and endorsement vote, “none of the above” (NOTA) shall be a valid choice. Any nominee out polled by NOTA on any round of voting shall be ineligible for the position for the remainder of the convention.
- H. **Committees.** The convention shall have the authority to appoint special committees as necessary to carry out its intent.
- I. **Quorum.** Quorum at any convention shall consist of the greater of:
1. twenty percent (20%) of the number of current members in good standing registered for the convention and
  2. fifty percent (50%) of voting body.

## Article VI. County Committee

- A. **Powers and Duties.** All executive authority to which a private organization is entitled, and which is not limited by these bylaws, the bylaws of the LPNY, or applicable law, shall be vested in the County Committee, subject to the direction of the membership as expressed at conventions.
- B. **Members.** The County Committee shall consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. Each member of the County Committee shall be entitled to a single vote, including the presiding officer. A quorum shall consist of a majority of the members of the County Committee.
- C. **Meetings.** The County Committee shall meet at least once annually, at the close of the annual convention. Meetings of the County Committee held in person must be held in the covered region, except for the meeting held at the close of the annual convention. Meetings may be held by telephone or other electronic means.
- D. **Notice.** Meetings may be called by (1) the Chair, (2) the County Committee, or (3) a written request submitted to the Chair or Secretary signed by one-third (1/3) of the members of the County Committee. The Secretary shall notify each member of the County Committee of any meeting at least five (5) days in advance, unless emergency circumstances dictate otherwise. Attendance without protest at any meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice, as shall the signing of a waiver of notice before or after the meeting.
- E. **Candidate Support.** The County Committee shall not have the authority to expend any funds in support of any candidate for public office not endorsed in accordance with these bylaws.
- F. **Conflict of Interest.** The County Committee shall not have the authority to lend money to any officer or to otherwise engage in a material commercial transaction with any officer without approval in each case of two-thirds (2/3), but no fewer than three (3), of the disinterested members of the County Committee, after full disclosure of all material facts pertaining to the transaction.
- G. **Committees.** The County Committee shall have the authority to appoint officers and standing or special committees as necessary to carry out its functions.
- H. **Transparency.** All meetings of the County Committee shall be open to observation by all current members in good standing, limited only by the need for orderly meetings. Any such member who expresses interest must be informed of meetings held by telephone or other electronic means.

## Article VII. Endorsements

- A. **Jurisdiction.** Candidates for public office whose jurisdiction lies partly or entirely within the covered region may be endorsed by two-thirds (2/3) vote of a convention.
- B. **By State Committee.** Such candidates may also be endorsed by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the County Committee, except that candidates running for offices to be voted on at the general election may not be endorsed by the County Committee prior to that year's annual convention.
- C. **Withdrawal.** The \_\_LP may withdraw its endorsement of any candidate for public office by special convention or for cause by three-fourths (3/4) vote of the County Committee.
- D. **Eligibility.** Any candidate for public office must be a current member in good standing of the \_\_LP and the LPNY and must assert that he will not publicly advocate any position that is contrary to the platform of the LPNY. *[These conditions are not required by the LPNY bylaws.] [Here add any other desired requirements for candidates, such as restrictions on nominations by other parties or party enrollment with the Board of Elections, etc.]*

## Article VIII. Resolutions

Resolutions of the \_\_LP may be made by two-thirds (2/3) vote of a convention.

## Article IX. Secession

In the event that any portion of the covered region shall secede from the \_\_LP, the seceding organization shall be entitled to the portion of pooled resources of the \_\_LP that is in proportion to the number of LPNY members residing in the seceding portion as of the date the seceding organization is chartered by the LPNY.

## Article X. Parliamentary Authority

The rules contained in the current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised shall govern in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with these bylaws and any special rules of order the \_\_LP may adopt.

## **Article XI. Amendment of Bylaws**

These bylaws may be amended by either of the following procedures:

- A. **By Annual Convention.** The County Committee may propose amendments to the bylaws for consideration at the annual convention. Written notice including the text of the proposed amendments and the provisions of the bylaws to be amended shall be sent to each current member in good standing not less than ten (10) nor more than sixty (60) days in advance of the annual convention. Amendments shall be adopted upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of the convention. Amendments shall take effect at the end of the convention unless accompanied by a proviso to the contrary.
  
- B. **By Special Convention.** A special convention may be called to amend the bylaws, the notice of which shall include the text of the proposed amendments and the provisions of the bylaws to be amended. Amendments shall be adopted upon two-thirds (2/3) vote of the convention. Amendments shall take effect at the end of the convention unless accompanied by a proviso to the contrary.