

# **Libertarian Party of Wisconsin BY-LAWS**

Amended in Convention April 28, 2001

## **ARTICLE I -- Affiliate Parties**

1. Organizations applying for a charter as an affiliate party shall make such application on a standard petition form as adopted by the Executive Committee, which petition shall be signed by at least one party member in that geographical area.
  2. The Executive Committee shall have power to set the geographical area.
3. All Party membership dues are to be remitted to the Party Treasurer, who shall return a percentage of the moneys collected to that member's affiliate party. The Executive Committee shall have the sole power to determine the percentage of each membership fee that is returned to each affiliate party. The percentage rate shall be applied at the same rate to all of the affiliate parties. The Party Treasurer shall not remit moneys to any affiliate party that is not in compliance with the filing requirements established by the State Elections Board.

## **ARTICLE II -- Duties of Officers**

1. The Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Party, holding the powers of administration pertaining to the ordinary business affairs of the Party and such other powers as may be delegated by the Executive Committee.
2. The Vice-Chair shall be the chief assistant to the Chair, performing such duties as the Chair may prescribe and having such powers as the Chair may delegate. The Vice-Chair shall serve as Acting Chair upon death, disability, resignation, or absence of the Chair until the Executive Committee appoints a new Chair.
3. The Secretary shall assist the Chair and Executive Committee. The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Executive Committee and keep such minutes and records as are necessary. The Secretary shall make an annual report to the Executive Committee containing such information as the Executive Committee may require.
4. The Treasurer shall receive all moneys paid to the Party and shall deposit same in such banks or bank as designated by the Executive Committee. The Treasurer shall make an annual report to the Executive Committee and to the membership at large and any other reports as the Executive Committee shall request with respect to the finances of the Party. The Treasurer shall file all reports required by the State and National authorities.

## **ARTICLE III -- Executive Committee**

1. The Executive Committee shall meet at least quarterly and each newly elected Executive Committee shall determine the times and places of their quarterly meetings and announce them to the Convention in which they are elected; and by call of the Chair, or by the written request of one-third (1/3) or more of the committee.

2. More than one-half (1/2) of the membership thereof shall constitute a quorum at all meetings for the transaction of business, except where a larger vote is required by Constitution. The Executive Committee by majority vote may agree to allow absentee ballots by mail or telephone.
3. Except as otherwise provided in the Constitution and By-laws a majority vote of those present at a meeting shall rule.

#### **ARTICLE IV -- Finance and Accounting**

1. The Executive Committee shall cause an efficient system of accounts to be installed and maintained.
2. The Executive Committee shall have the power to designate the depository of all funds of the Party and shall appoint such officers and employees as in its judgment may seem advisable to deposit and withdraw from said depository.
3. The Executive Committee shall designate an annual audit.

#### **ARTICLE V -- Parliamentary Authority**

1. Robert's Rules of Order shall be parliamentary authority for all matters of procedure not specifically covered by the Constitution or By-Laws of the Party.
2. The Executive Committee may suspend Robert's Rules of order to suit the Party's needs.

#### **ARTICLE VI -- Membership**

1. Applicants for membership in the Party shall make application by payment of at least the minimum fee set by the Executive Committee. Upon payment of such fees, they will become members in good standing.
2. If any candidate, officer, or holder of public office who is a member of the Party should substantially misrepresent or violate the statement of principles or platform of the Party, such person may be censured at the next annual Convention by a 3/4 majority of voting members present.

#### **ARTICLE VII -- Amendments**

1. Amendments to the Constitution or By-Laws must be provided to the chair of the Judiciary Committee in printed form at least four months before the Annual Convention. Such amendments must be considered by the Judiciary Committee for proposal at the Annual Convention. The chair of the Judiciary Committee shall notify the author(s) of such an amendment of the final status of the amendment no later than two months prior to the Annual Convention.

2. Any amendment submitted to the Judiciary Committee under paragraph 1 of this article that is rejected by the Judiciary Committee may be proposed to the convention by the author(s) of that amendment. The author(s) of such an amendment shall provide the chair of the Judiciary Committee or the Party Chair a printed copy of the proposed amendment at least one month before the Annual Convention. No changes may be made to the proposed amendment after this deadline.
3. The Judiciary Committee Chair will insure that printed copies of all proposed amendments are made available to all Convention attendees at the registration and sign-in desk.
4. Amendments shall be discussed and voted on under the following rules:
  - Amendments may be identified as "replacement amendments" when introduced. Approval of a replacement amendment removes the replaced verbiage from the appropriate document.
    - Amendments may not be amended before being voted on.
    - Discussion shall be limited to 5 minutes per person per amendment.
5. Amendments shall take effect after the close of the convention in which they are enacted.

## **ARTICLE VIII – Platform**

1. The Executive Committee shall appoint a Platform Committee at least twelve months prior to the Annual Convention. All Platform Committee meetings shall be open to any party member wishing to attend. A schedule of Platform Committee meetings shall be published in the party newsletter.
2. Planks may be provided to the chair of the Platform Committee in printed form at least six months before the Annual Convention. Such planks must be considered by the Platform Committee at its next meeting for proposal at the Annual Convention. The chair of the Platform Committee shall notify the author(s) of such a plank of the final status of the plank no later than two months prior to the Annual Convention.
3. Any plank submitted to the Platform Committee under paragraph 3 of this article that is rejected by the Platform Committee may be proposed to the convention by the author(s) of that plank. The author(s) of such a plank shall provide the chair of the Platform Committee or the Party Chair a printed copy of the proposed plank at least one month before the Annual Convention. No changes may be made to the proposed plank after this deadline.
4. The Platform Committee Chair will insure that printed copies of all proposed planks are made available to all convention attendees at the registration and sign-in desk.
5. Platform planks shall be discussed and voted on by the Convention in the following order:
  - Planks currently in the platform.
  - Planks proposed by the Platform Committee.
  - Planks proposed under paragraph 4 of this article.
6. Platform planks shall be discussed and voted on under the following rules:
  - Planks may be identified as replacement planks when introduced. Approval of a replacement plank removes the existing plank from the platform.
    - Planks may not be amended before being voted on.
    - Discussion shall be limited to 5 minutes per person per plank.

- A 2/3 majority of the members present and voting is required to approve each plank.
- Any plank in the previous platform that is not approved will not be in the new platform.

## **ARTICLE IX-- Endorsement of Candidates for Statewide Offices**

1. All voting shall be done by secret ballot.
2. The endorsed candidate for Governor shall have the power to veto any candidate for Lieutenant Governor with whom he/she does not wish to run before balloting for Lt. Governor.
3. The support of the Party may be granted or withdrawn from a candidate for statewide office after the Convention by a three-fourths (3/4) vote of the Executive Committee.

## **ARTICLE X -- Election of Delegates to Regular National Libertarian Party Functions**

1. Persons seeking delegate or alternate status must be members in good standing of the Libertarian Party of Wisconsin.
2. Election of delegates and alternates to national Libertarian Party Conventions shall be by majority vote of Party members registered at the Annual Convention held during the year of the national Convention.
 

.Election of Delegates:

  - Party members attending the convention may nominate any number of candidates for delegate.
  - The Convention shall vote by secret ballot for up to as many delegates as are allotted by the national Libertarian Party Secretary. All candidates receiving more votes than does None of the Above shall be eligible to be delegates.
  - Candidates are ranked in descending order by number of votes received. The ranked list of delegates shall then be used to fill the delegate slots available as reported by the national Libertarian Party Secretary.

### Election of Alternates

- Party members attending the convention may nominate any number of candidates for alternate.
- The Convention shall vote by secret ballot for up to as many alternates as there are delegates allotted by the national Libertarian Party Secretary. All candidates receiving more votes than does None of the Above shall be eligible to be alternates.
- Candidates are ranked in descending order by number of votes received. In the event that there are open delegate positions the top ranking alternates shall be delegates. Those remaining on the ranked list shall be alternates (subject to any limitations imposed by the national Libertarian Party).

#### Election of the Delegation Leaders:

- The chair of the delegation shall be nominated and elected from among and by the persons who have been elected as delegates.
  - A vice-chair of the delegation shall also be elected by the same method.
- The persons selected for these positions shall be announced before the close of the Convention.

#### Ranking of Alternate Delegates:

- Alternates shall substitute in rank order for delegates absent from the convention floor.
    - Any disputes about substitutions shall be settled by the delegation chair, if present, or the delegation vice-chair.
3. If the Party is eligible to elect a national Libertarian Party Platform Committee member under the Constitution, by-laws and Rules of the national Libertarian Party, election of this committee member shall be done at the Annual Convention held during the applicable year. Voting shall be done by secret ballot and a majority vote will be required. An alternate shall also be elected for this position using the same method.