

2024 LIBERTARIAN PARTY BYLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF TOWN HALL APRIL 20, 2023

Town Hall segment called to order at 8:49 PM ET.

MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
SYLVIA ARROWWOOD	ROGER ROOTS (A5)
PAUL BRACCO	DEAN RODGERS (A7)
NICKOLAS CIESIELSKI	
CARYN ANN HARLOS	
FRANK MARTIN	
KEN MOELLMAN	
TOM ROWLETTE	
MIKE SEEBECK	
CHUCK MOULTON (A1)	
DAVID ROBERSON (A3)	

ABSENT LATHAM-ARRIVED LATE (9:00 PM), RUFO

GUESTS

BRIAN ALLEN	STEPHANIE BLACK	MACK CARTER	DUSTIN COFFELL
BURTON CULLEN	J.J. JACOBS	NATHAN MADDEN	JEFF MILLER
BRODIE MOWER	RYAN SCHOLLEN	BILL SCHULT	LARRY SILVER
MARRION SKINNER	MATTHEW SMITH	JESSICA TEWKSBURY	ERIC THRAEN

PUBLIC COMMENT-OPEN FORUM-TO INCLUDE COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Total of Proposals drafted on this date, A thru N, furnished on line for viewing. This Town Hall is opportunity for LP member-guests to comment, inquire or to make suggestions as to said Proposals. Input from guest-members and committee members solicited. Request by chair that this Town Hall be member-guest driven.

BILL SCHULT LP KENTUCKY: Inquired as to possibility of deciding the LP's candidates for President and Vice President earlier, starting with 2028. Suggested a date closer to GOP and DNC National Conventions as would draw more publicity and attention to the LP candidates. **RESPONSE- BY HARLOS:** Presently set out in Bylaws which are flexible. The date is chosen by LNC. Any major change would be decided by LNC. Another factor is the dates of State-Affiliate conventions could cause a problem.

LATHAM ENTERED TOWN HALL AND MOELLMAN DEPARTED AT APPROXIMATELY 9:00 PM. ROBERSON MOVED FROM ALTERNATE FOR LATHAM TO ALTERNATE TO REPLACE MOELLMAN AT APPROXIMATELY 9:00 PM.

NATHAN MADDEN LP ARIZONA: Inquired as to Proposal E, Platform, ARTICLE 3: STATEMENT OF PRICIPLES AND PLATFORM-HARLOS dealing with platform deletion threshold. If this passes, it will cause a lot of grief. Opposes Proposal E.

RESPONSE-BY HARLOS: A deletion is an amendment. Some members have expressed their desire for a higher protection. Current fear is that immigration plank will get deleted with a majority vote and we will become a closed-border party. A majority threshold is what allowed the massacre. The culture today prefers shorter rather than longer. We, an as ideological party, should be changing our platform with a 2/3 vote and not a majority for a deletion. **RESPONSE BY MOULTON:** Disagreed. If and when a full-voting member, will file minority report.

ERIC THRAEN: Would like to address Bylaw Proposals G, I, L and P.

PROPOSAL G-ARTICLE 8, Section 3-LATHAM Judicial Committee Rules of Appellate Procedure.

RESPONSE BY LATHAM: Seebeck and I both serve on the Judicial Committee and both are members of the Bylaws Committee. As such were tasked with amending the rules of appellate procedure to amend the Bylaws to authorize explicitly the Judicial Committee's right to amend its rules of appellate procedure more than once in the now four-year term. There is only 90 days after election to do so. Seeking an amendment to be able to amend appellate procedure more than once in the four-year term. The LNC would have to approve any change by a 2/3 vote. **RESPONSE BY SEEBECK:** There was lots of animated debate on this issue and this proposal is a compromise. This is a pretty good proposal, not perfect, but good. If this passes, there can be changes as often as needed. The 60 day submission is still intact. The LNC still retains the right to say "no". **RESPONSE BY HARLOS:** While a case is pending, the existing rules remain in effect. These are special rules of order. Appeals are usually rare.

NATHAN MADDEN: Brought up **PROPOSAL I-RULE 5: RAISE THRESHOLD-DEBATE & VOTING – PLATFORM-HARLOS.** Believe it changes percentage of tokens to a fraction and changing five tokens to three. Feels increases will not pass.

RESPONSE BY HARLOS: Thank you, Mr. Madden. Believes Delegates have an appetite to get rid of this section entirely. Delegates should be able to delete a platform plank without it coming from a committee. However, there is still

another proposal we have not heard yet. As Bylaws stand right now, this is a powerful tool. Bracco is to produce chart showing present and what proposed numbers will be to be attached to Proposal I. **REBUTTAL BY MADDEN:** That is over double the current number.

ERIC THRAEN: Let's go to Proposal L and then P.

PROPOSAL L – BYLAWS ARTICLE 10.3 CONVENTIONS-DELEGATE ENTITLEMENT-

BRACCO. RESPONSE BY BRACCO: Given the current formula we can be hampered or helped on ballot access for the presidential race. It removes that from the playing field and we will not be punishing states for their legislation being terrible. This will simplify the process.

MOELLMAN RETURNS.ROBERSON BACK TO ALTERNATE APPROXIMATELY 9:25 PM.

RESPONSE BY LATHAM: Not strongly against but did vote against it. **RESPONSE BY HARLOS:** Like simplicity of it for secretaries and affiliate chairs. Ballot access in some states is terrible. We need to incentivize membership.

PROPOSAL P – BYLAWS ARTICLE 10.7, 8, 9, 10, 11 CONVENTIONS-ELECTRONIC BALLOTING FOR PARTY OFFICERS AND AT-LARGE MEMBERS OF LNC-LATHAM

RESPONSE BY HARLOS: That has not passed out of committee yet but we can talk about it. Proposal P is to allow electronic balloting. It is not productive to discuss the particular language here. It most likely will be amended greatly in committee but it would be productive to discuss the concept. Latham is a huge proponent of this. This has not been vetted by the committee. Latham would like to discuss in general his proposal, what you hope to accomplish, and see if there is any feedback. **RESPONSE BY LATHAM:** To build capacity in our Bylaws in case we ever want to use electronic voting to give us the capacity. Have two other proposals, ranked choice voting and single transferrable voting but will put those in the Rules rather than the Bylaws.

MOELLMAN DEPARTED APPROXIMATELY 9:50. ROBERSON REPLACED AT 9:50 PM.

HARLOS: Are there any other proposals anyone wants to discuss? Again, would like this to be member driven as much as possible. (No Response). Will go through the proposals in order. If you have anything, speak up. Proposal A specifically allows for Vice Chair to take over automatically for Chair. Proposal B to raise dues from \$25 to \$50. Proposal C clarifies membership. Proposal D was

withdrawn. Proposal E we discussed. Proposal F clarify procedure on dropping candidates. Proposal G we talked about. Proposal H relates to standardize convention committees, Bylaws and Rules and Platform. Proposal I we talked about. Proposal J provides for a standing second of a doable number. Proposal K to lengthen Platform Committee's time for appointments to coincide with Bylaws & Rules. Proposal L we went through, delegate allocations. Proposal M appoint the Credentials Committee earlier. Proposal N Number of ranked alternates. (No Response)

NATHAN MADDEN: Would like to see the LNC move to a Central Committee Model. Would like to see a Bylaws Proposal to facilitate that.

HARLOS: Moellman has talked about or suggested that. Will give my feedback but of course that will be a committee decision. Major changes must have a groundswell of support and we have not seen a groundswell of support. Major structural changes should come from the bottom up not from committees down particularly with the structure we have now where proposals from the committee are privileged as opposed to proposals from the floor. This not something I would personally support but we will see if the committee does. If decision of the committee were a tie, would break tie to fail.

Bracco and I are working on a proposal to deal with proposals from the floor. Believe that committees should have knowledge of a problem or situation that is believed to be a problem. That is part of how I guide this committee. Changes need to address really apparent problems of things that have been swelling up in the Party. Radical changes can be an existential threat if not done properly. To radically change the structure of the LNC I don't think should be done by a committee of ten. That is something a larger group should get together and be vetting. It would be a multi-year process to get things right. I do not trust just the ten committee members and perhaps some alternates to take 50 years of history and radically change the structure of the party. That is my particular view.

Would add if the party were to go that route, people would probably not go to the off-year convention. People go to the off year to vote for the LNC. Tend to think coming together every couple years is good for the Party. Anything further from our guests or the committee members? (No Response) Is there any further feedback? (No Response). Hearing none, looks like we can get to about a half hour of our usual business.

Town Hall segment concluded at 10:15 PM ET.

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Called to order at 10:15 PM

COMMITTEE BUSINESS SEGMENT 10:15 PM

MEMBERS	ALTERNATES
SYLVIA ARROWWOOD	ROGER ROOTS (A5)
PAUL BRACCO	DEAN RODGERS (A7)
NICHOLAS CIESIELSKI	
CARYN ANN HARLOS	
ROB LATHAM	
FRANK MARTIN	
DAVID ROBERSON (A3)	
CHUCK MOULTON (A1)	
TOM ROWLETTE	
MIKE SEEBECK	
Absent Moellman, Rufo	

RESULTS OF EVOTE 4-19-23 – PROPOSAL N – HARLOS

BYLAWS ARTICLE 11 – OTHER COMMITTEES (ALTERNATES)

6. Ranked alternates [up to the number of entitled primary](#) appointees may be named by the appointing bodies to fill any vacancies or absences in the convention committees.

ARROWWOOD	YES
BRACCO	YES
CIESIELSKI	YES
HARLOS	YES
LATHAM	YES
MARTIN	YES
MOULTON (A1)	YES
RODGERS (A7)	YES
ROWLETTE	YES
SEEBECK	YES

10 YES 0 NO 0 ABSTAIN – ADOPTED BY EVOTE 4-19-23

KEN MOELLMAN RETURN AT 10:25. ROBERSON RETURN TO ALTERNATE.

MINUTES: 4-6-23 Minutes approved after correction of typo. Without Objection.

PROPOSAL O-BYLAWS-HARLOS ARTICLES 3.3, 11.(C) & (d), ARTICLE 17.1 ADD NOTICE REQUIREMENTS

HARLOS: Most likely will not reach a vote on Proposal O tonight. Only 20, 25 minutes left but we will start discussion. Short title is Add Notice Requirements. Suggest we take BRACCO'S proposals as amendments to mine if we get to that place but we can start by looking at primary advocacy and start debate. Will read aloud.

ARTICLE 3: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND PLATFORM. 3. The current platform shall serve as the basis of all future platforms. ~~The existing platform may be amended only at regular conventions. A platform plank may be deleted by majority vote. New planks or amendments to existing planks require a 2/3 vote.~~

ARTICLE 11: OTHER COMMITTEES. 3. Committee Procedures (...). c. The Platform Committee and the Bylaws and Rules Committee must provide reports of their recommendations along with minority reports to the Party Secretary at least thirty-five days prior to the regular convention which shall then be published on the Party website within five days of receipt. d. Any Party sustaining member may submit proposals to the Platform and Bylaws and Rules Committee for consideration provided they are signed by twenty-five sustaining members at the time of proposal submission and provided to the Party Secretary within sixty days prior to the regular convention. These proposals shall be forwarded to the respective committee chairs and published on the Party website within five days of receipt. The committees may include recommendations on these proposals in their reports. Proposals submitted in this manner shall be heard beginning with the proposal of sustaining member signatures and continuing in descending order.

ARTICLE 17: Amendment. 1. The Party platform and these bylaws may be amended by a 2/3 vote of the delegates at any regular convention as follows: a. ~~With~~By a 2/3 vote provided they were included in the published report or minority reports of the Platform or Bylaws and Rules Committee, or in b. By a 2/3 vote or any timely valid submissions from the Party membership. c. ~~b.~~ By a

3/4 vote from the floor without prior notice. d. ~~Any platform plank may be deleted by a majority vote.~~ (...)

PROPOSAL O-Add Notice Requirements with Rules for Member-Submitted Proposals-BRACCO Article 11 & 17, Rules 1 & 4 (adding two rules) – Rules for Member-Submitted Proposals.

ARTICLE 11: OTHER COMMITTEES (...) 6. Committee Procedures a. A majority vote of those Committee members present is necessary for a “do pass” recommendation, and in the case of the Platform Committee, a majority must approve each specific plank separately. b. Four or more members of the Platform Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding any plank reported to the floor of the convention. Two or more members of the Bylaws and Rules Committee or of the Credentials Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding their business. c. The Platform Committee and the Bylaws and Rules Committee must provide reports of their recommendations along with minority reports to the Party Secretary at least thirty-five days prior to the regular convention which shall then be published on the Party website within five days of receipt. d. Any Party sustaining member may submit to the Party Secretary proposals to amend either the Platform or these bylaws, provided they are signed by twenty-five sustaining members and provided to the Party Secretary no later than sixty days prior to the regular convention. These proposals shall be forwarded to the respective committee chairs and published on the Party website within five days of receipt. The committees may include recommendations on these proposals in their reports.

ARTICLE 17: AMENDMENT 1. The Party platform and ~~these~~ these bylaws may be amended by ~~a 2/3 vote of~~ the delegates at any regular convention as follows: a. With a 2/3 vote provided they were included in the published report or minority reports of the Platform Committee or the Bylaws and Rules Committee or in timely valid submissions from Party membership. b. By a 3/4 vote from the floor without prior notice. c. Any platform plank may be deleted by a majority vote.
2. Article 3, Section 1, or this Section, shall not be amended by vote of less than 7/8 of all registered delegates at a regular convention.

RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS, The standing order of business for a regular convention shall be as follows:

1. Call to order

2. Credentials Committee report
3. Adoption of agenda
4. Treasurer's report
5. Audit Committee report
6. Bylaws and Rules Committee report
7. Member-submitted amendment proposals with notice – Bylaws and Rules
8. ~~7.~~ Election of Judicial Committee (in appropriate years)
9. ~~8.~~ Election of Party officers and at-large members of National Committee
10. ~~9.~~ Platform Committee report
11. Member-submitted amendment proposals with notice – Platform
12. ~~10.~~ Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)
13. ~~11.~~ Resolutions
14. ~~12.~~ Other business

RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING – PLATFORM (...) ~~5. After all committee recommendations have received initial consideration, any delegate may propose amendments to the bylaws and rules or the platform. The delegate may take up to two minutes to state and explain the proposal, with debating and voting to proceed as described in Section 3b. (...)~~

RULE 6: DEBATING AND VOTING – MEMBER-SUBMITTED AMENDMENT PROPOSALS WITH NOTICE – BYLAWS AND RULES, PLATFORM, 1. Member-submitted proposals shall be heard beginning with the proposal with the greatest number of sustaining member signatures and continuing in descending order. A. Sustaining members may sign on to member proposals after they have been submitted, provided that no signatures shall be accepted after the convention has been called to order. 2. The member who submitted the proposal, or their designee, may take up to two minutes to state and explain the proposal. 3. The Convention Chair shall then open the proposal t debate without amendment for a period of up to ten minutes before bringing the matter to a vote. a. If the recommendation fails, the Convention Chair shall inquire if any amendments are proposed from the floor. b. If there are such proposals, the Convention Chair shall request a vote on whether to consider amendments, and without majority approval may consider amendments for a period of up to ten minutes.

HARLOS: There needs to be opportunity for reflection. Bracco has submitted certain suggestions also. Some sections may be deleted or added depending upon what is adopted or not. "c." may be deleted or left in. There may be a new Rule 6 (Proposal N-Passed 4-19 evote) and Probably will be 5 if we delete Rule 4. (Rule 6 Read Aloud as if Adopted). It all depends on how the voting will go or if something like Covid turns up. There were some changes to the order of business which will be put on the agenda. We may need to address scope of notice. Rule 7 is withdrawn. Rule 7 is now deleted.

ROWLETTE: Generally like but does not like ambush that says you need 3/4 to make a change to the platform or bylaws if they do not give proper notice.

HARLOS: It is 3/4 of delegates voting. It is 3/4 of those present and voting.

MOULTON: Time is very important. Last convention did not get to Bylaws even though scheduled early on.

HARLOS: Just for information. Coming convention will be four days. That will most likely be standard in future – or at least three and a half.

MOELLMAN: Supports notice on floor amendments. Floor language can cause problems.

HARLOS: It is coming up on end time. We will continue this Proposal at the next meeting. We are at 10:45. Please put strike-thru and exact language in an email because I'm lost and we could go another ten or 15 minutes and it will not get voted on because we are at time unless someone moves to extend time. Bracco has a pending amendment. He will be called upon first. He will be putting all of this in an email so I can post it and have it for the meeting. If he wants to give any argument he can do that as well in emails to prepare people. Bracco will be on deck first. We have started some initial discussion going. Would ask Moulton to look at the language and see if it could be less words. That's always good. Others can do that also. That would be great. After this proposal will be the electronic voting. Next, make preamble part of the platform and then RCV. Hope to conduct survey January through April of 2024 to find what members may think or suggest.

Meeting adjourned at 10:50 PM ET. [DRAFT 4-28-23](#)