



***Information for  
Delegation Chairs And Delegates***

**2020 LIBERTARIAN PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION**



**JW MARRIOTT, AUSTIN, TX  
FRIDAY, MAY 22 – MONDAY, MAY 25**

Written and Prepared By  
**Alicia Mattson**  
former 3-term LNC Secretary  
(with many thanks to Bob Sullentrup, who created the original version)

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## **INTRODUCTION**



This booklet is presented to help ensure the 2020 convention in Austin, TX, proceeds smoothly for you and your delegation, as well as for the speakers, candidates, officers, volunteers and assistants. It attempts to convey:

- Delegation and delegation chairs' responsibilities
- Convention structure and organization
- Information about delegates, delegations, and regions
- Special convention procedures

It is important we convey the best image possible to the country through the assembled media, so let's put our best foot forward.

Accordingly, please ensure that you and your delegation understand the main points and procedures presented within this document.

***ALTHOUGH EVERY EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO ACCURATELY REFLECT THE BYLAWS AND CONVENTION RULES, THIS DOCUMENT IS NOT THE FINAL AUTHORITY FOR RULES DISPUTES.***

In addition to our bylaws and convention rules, Bylaws Article 16 establishes that the current edition (11<sup>th</sup>) of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) is our organization's parliamentary authority, and this document makes various references to it as well.

## **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DELEGATION CHAIR**

- See that your affiliate submits initial delegation list to the Credentials Committee by the deadline, one month before the convention. The Credentials Committee typically prepares a separate instruction document for delegation chairs about how to enter your delegation list into their credentialing database. The convention starts May 22, 2020, making the deadline April 22, 2020. Failure to provide a delegate list by the deadline shall cause no delegation to be registered from your affiliate. The list may be amended through the close of the Credentials Committee meeting preceding the convention. (Bylaws Article 10.4.c and 10.4.d)
- Submit to the Credentials Committee ([credentials@lp.org](mailto:credentials@lp.org)) a copy of your affiliate party's rules (if any) governing alternates substituting for delegates. (LP Bylaws Article 10.6.b) These rules may be contained in your affiliate's bylaws. If your affiliate has not adopted any such rules, or if you do not provide a copy of your rules, the alternate substitution for your affiliate will be governed by LP Bylaws Article 10.6.c and 10.6.d. Those default rules are that if a delegate has not yet arrived and registered with the Credentials

Committee, an alternate from that affiliate will be chosen by drawing lots to fill in until the delegate arrives. If a delegate has arrived and registered, but is temporarily absent from the convention floor, an alternate may temporarily vote in place of that delegate only with the written consent of that delegate.

- Turn in your region formation paperwork by the deadline. See the later section titled “Regions of the National Committee”.
- Convention Rule 3.1 requires that the Secretary ([secretary@lp.org](mailto:secretary@lp.org)) be notified if an affiliate's delegation has chosen someone besides the affiliate chair to serve as the delegation chair.
- During the convention, ensure your delegation submits written votes to the Secretary whenever written votes are required.
- Ensure your delegation understands and abides by the Party Bylaws and Convention Rules. See the later “Voting Rules” section.
- During the convention, encourage your delegation to submit motions to the Secretary legibly in writing on the form provided by the Secretary before seeking recognition to address the convention.
- Be prepared to participate in delegation-roll-call vote reporting (see later section titled “Roll Call Votes by Delegation”)

## **CONVENTION STRUCTURE**

### **Order of Business**

The order of business conducted at this convention is prescribed by Convention Rule 1 to 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. Election of Judicial Committee (in appropriate years)
8. Election of Party Officers and At-Large members of the National Committee
9. Platform Committee report
10. Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)
11. Resolutions
12. Other business

## Secretary's Table

There is typically an extra table beside the stage to:

- Distribute motion, region formation, and other forms
- Receive written motions, region formation agreements, and other items required to be submitted to the Secretary
- Create, distribute, and collect ballots for state-by-state reporting on presidential/vice-presidential nominations and elections to party office
- Serve as the operations base for convention tellers
- Get written messages to the people on stage

## Quorum

The Bylaws in Article 10.8 state:

*"A quorum shall consist of 40% of the total number of delegates registered in attendance at the Convention."*

Frequently at our conventions, delegates start departing before the convention is over, and historically that has created difficulties achieving quorum on the final day to complete all of the necessary business of party elections. In several years it has been necessary to recess and round up delegates remaining in the hotel to come into the convention hall to meet quorum and to finish the remaining business items. A quorum shortage on the final day of the 2016 convention caused a 1 hour delay in the start time. Please encourage your delegates to stay through the end of the business agenda.

Rules establishing quorum cannot be suspended even by a unanimous vote (RONR p. 263), as the entire point of quorum "is a protection against totally unrepresentative action in the name of the body by an unduly small number of persons." (RONR p. 21)

## Convention Hall Seating

Convention Rule 3.2 requires that each state affiliate's delegation sit together in the convention hall. This makes it more efficient for state chairs to conduct delegation votes and also for the convention to process any challenges to a delegation vote by polling the individual members of that delegation. Signage in the convention hall will designate where each state is to sit.



## **DELEGATES AND ALTERNATES**

### **Delegate Allocations**

LP Bylaws Article 10.3 establishes the methodology for calculating the number of delegates your affiliate is entitled to. It states:

*"Affiliate Party Delegate Entitlements:*

*Each affiliate party shall be entitled to send delegates to each Regular Convention on the following basis:*

- a. One delegate for each 0.14 percent, or fraction thereof, of the total Party sustaining membership in that affiliate; provided that at least one such delegate must be a resident of that State or District.*
- b. One delegate for each 0.35 percent, or fraction thereof, of the votes cast nationwide for the Libertarian Party candidate in the most recent presidential election, cast in that affiliate's state."*

Since there are approximately 714 slices of a whole at 0.14% each and 286 at 0.35% each, a Libertarian Party convention will have slots for at least 1000 delegates. Since affiliates are credited for 'fractions thereof', the result is approximately 1051 possible delegates.

See the Delegate Allocation Table at the end of this document for the delegate allocations for each affiliate in 2020.

### **Sustaining Members Counted in Delegate Apportionment**

Delegate allocations are based on sustaining membership. Bylaws Article 4.4 defines a sustaining member:

*"Sustaining members" are members of the Party who:*

- a. During the prior twelve months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$25; or*
- b. Are Life members.*



### **Alternate Allocations**

Each affiliate may also name alternates who can fill in for a delegate in accordance with the conditions and procedures in LP Bylaws Article 10.6. The number of alternates your state can name is determined by LP Bylaws Article 10.4.c, which states:

*"The number of alternates' names submitted shall not exceed the greater of 50 or the number of delegates allocated."*

If you have fewer than 50 delegates, you may name up to 50 alternates. If you have more than 50 delegates, you may name as many alternates as you have delegates.

### **Who Can Be a Delegate?**

Bylaws Article 10.2.a specifies who can be a delegate:

*“Delegates shall be required to be members of either the Party or an affiliate party. At all Regular Conventions delegates shall be those so accredited who have registered at the Convention.”*

Membership in the Party is defined by Bylaws Article 4.1 which states:

*“Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals.”*

### **How Are Delegates Chosen?**

Bylaws Article 10.2.b, specifies how delegates are chosen:

*“Any federal or state law to the contrary notwithstanding, delegates to a Regular Convention shall be selected by a method adopted by each affiliate party; provided however, that only members of the Party as defined in these Bylaws, or members of the affiliate party as defined in the constitution or bylaws of such affiliate party, shall be eligible to vote for the selection of delegates to a Regular Convention.”*

In other words, affiliates choose their delegates provided that the choosing is done by only national party or affiliate party members.

### **Credentialing Delegates and Alternates**

See Bylaws Article 10.4.b – 10.4.e in addition to the comments below.

By one month before the convention, your delegation must have submitted a delegate listing to the Credentials Committee by entering at least one delegate name and address into the Credentials Committee database. The Credentials Committee will provide you with a login username/password and a separate instruction document explaining how to do this. You may amend your list, including adding delegates, by making your changes directly in the Credentials Committee database. However, you have the amendment power only until the final Credentials Committee meeting before the convention begins. (This meeting usually happens very early in the morning on the first day of the convention.)

Once the convention begins, you may submit requested delegate list changes to the Credentials Committee, but you must then earn permission of the convention delegates to approve those last-minute changes to the list of delegates. The Credentials Committee reports to the convention at the beginning of each meeting any proposed changes to the delegate lists. Proposed changes must then be approved by the convention by a 7/8ths vote.

The substitution of alternates for delegates is described by Bylaws Article 10.6, which states:

*"Voting Eligibility:*

- a. Use of the unit rule or unit voting is prohibited at national conventions.*
- b. Duly selected alternates may be freely substituted for any members of their delegation who are temporarily or permanently absent from the floor, provided the procedure has been clearly specified by the affiliate party in advance of the Convention, and the Credentials Committee has been provided with lists of the affiliate party's delegates and alternates as well as a copy of the affiliate party's rules governing substitutions..*
- c. An alternate, upon certification by the Credentials Committee, may function as a delegate whenever a delegate of the same state has not been registered in attendance. This status shall continue until the absent delegate registers in attendance. If the affiliate party has made no provision for filling delegate vacancies, the alternate substitute shall be decided by drawing lots.*
- d. If the affiliate party has made no other provision, an alternate may temporarily vote in place of a delegate from the same state while he or she has the written consent of that delegate; however, no delegate may cast more than one vote on a question.*
- e. All members must wear the identification badge issued upon registration in order to be admitted to the Convention hall."*

## **DELEGATION VOTING**

Most voting during a convention is done with voice votes, but if the outcome is not clear, delegates may be asked to vote by standing or even by individually counting off. A few votes (election of our presidential/vice-presidential nominees and elections to internal party positions) are taken with a written ballot turned in by each affiliate's delegation chair.

When these written votes are required, the Secretary will make available a form on which your delegation will submit its votes. See a sample form from past years at the end of this document.

It is the responsibility of the delegation chair to oversee the delegates casting their votes, ensure the integrity of the process, see that it is done in accordance with the rules, and report your state's results. The delegation chair totals the votes from your affiliate, writes them on the provided form, and submits to the Secretary's tellers. **Before you turn in your form, make a copy of the numbers for yourself** so that when the Secretary's tally spreadsheet is projected overhead for review (per Convention Rule 10), you can verify your state's numbers were recorded accurately.



The forms typically will show both the maximum number of delegates your affiliate is entitled to send to the convention, as well as the count of your affiliate's delegates registered as being in attendance at the time of the vote. Your vote total cannot exceed either of these numbers, nor may it exceed the number of delegates your affiliate has present on the convention floor at the time of the vote.

## Voting Rules

It cannot be over-emphasized that your delegation must abide by the rules of delegation voting:

- One person, one vote (RONR, p. 407)
- No unit voting (casting all your affiliate's votes for the candidate who received a majority vote of your affiliate's delegates) – Bylaws Article 10.6.a
- No proxy voting (RONR, p. 423, 428-9)
- No absentee voting (RONR, p. 263, 423)
- **Votes are only permitted by credentialed delegates physically present in the room at the time of the vote. Even if your affiliate is allocated up to 20 delegates, and 15 attended and were credentialed at the convention, but only 8 are in the room at the time of the vote, you may only submit 8 votes. Even if the 7 people who are out of the room told a friend how they wanted to vote, you may not submit votes for them. (RONR, p. 4)**

As has been documented in the appendices of the 2014, 2016, and 2018 conventions, because our convention votes are manually tallied by humans under time pressures, errors occur even when people are trying hard to be accurate. As a delegation chair, your conscientious effort while overseeing your affiliate's vote can prevent or catch these errors.

Vote-for-one elections seem to be less prone to error because the ballots can be sorted into a separate pile for each candidate and then counted. **Vote-for-multiple elections are particularly prone to human error, so it's worth taking a little extra time to double-check on these races.** In 2016, an after-the-fact audit found that 13 of the 46 reporting state delegations in the At-Large election (28.26%) had errors on their tally sheets. 12 of the 46 reporting state delegations in the Judicial Committee election (26.09%) had errors on their tally sheets. In a close race, these errors could result in the wrong person being declared elected, so it's important.

If you have a question about how to handle a questionable ballot or vote cast in your delegation, **ASK for assistance** from the parliamentarian. There are rules to govern those odd situations, and help is available so that you don't have to guess.

Here are some suggestions and things to watch for:

- Use the ballots provided by the Secretary's team of tellers, rather than using random scraps of paper of all different sizes. Uniformity makes it easier to manage and count a stack of ballots.

- When a delegate is allowed to vote for multiple candidates, watch for names on the back of the ballot in case the voter ran out of space on the front
- When a delegate is allowed to vote for multiple candidates, they are still only allowed to cast one vote per candidate. Watch for the same candidate's name receiving more than one vote on a single ballot, and do not count the duplicates.

Under RONR, only ballots on which the voter has indicated a preference for one of the candidates are counted towards the total votes cast for purposes of computing a majority (RONR, p. 415 lines 28-35). The typical sample ballot at the end of this document has blanks for you to fill in "Total Votes" and "Total Ballots Cast". Here are some important notes and situations that sometimes occur and how to handle them:

- If it is a vote-for-one election, then Total Votes should equal Total Ballots Cast because there should be one vote on each ballot.
- If the ballot is blank, it is not a vote, and you should not count that as a vote in Total Votes, nor as a ballot in Total Ballots Cast. It is the same as if they had not turned in a ballot at all.
- If the delegate writes "abstain" on their ballot, it is not a vote, and you should not count that as a vote in Total Votes, nor as a ballot in the Total Ballots Cast. The word "abstain" literally means to not vote, thus it is not counted as a vote. It is the same as if they had not turned in a ballot at all.
- A campaign flyer for a candidate is not a properly cast ballot. The delegate must take some action to mark a ballot to indicate their preferred candidate, not just hand in pre-printed material from which you are left to infer their preference. A campaign flyer does not count as a vote in Total Votes, nor as a ballot in the Total Ballots Cast.
- A ballot which says "not Person X" is not a properly cast ballot, as it does not indicate a preference for any of the other candidates, just a disapproval of Person X. Such a ballot does not count as a vote in Total Votes, nor as a ballot in the Total Ballots Cast.
- When a delegate is allowed to vote for multiple candidates, a ballot which says "All candidates except Person X" is valid since it does indicate a preference, and it may be counted as votes for each of the other candidates besides Person X, and as a ballot cast.
- Some delegates refuse to do the normal thing and just write a candidate's name on their ballot. Some will write a nickname, an acronym, an inside joke, etc. to be clever. This can cause confusion and waste time while tellers try to discern the intent. If they cannot determine the intent, it will not be credited to the candidate the delegate intended to support, but it will be included in the Total Ballots Cast. Please clear up any such ballots within your delegation before turning them in to the Secretary, if possible.

To help with other questions that may arise, the following is from RONR:

## TABLE OF RULES FOR COUNTING ELECTION BALLOTS

TYPE OF BALLOT	CREDITED TO CANDIDATE(S)	COUNTED TOWARD NUMBER OF VOTES CAST
<b>Ballots That Indicate Preference, Cast by Member</b>		
—if meaning of ballot is clear, and ballot indicates eligible candidate	Yes	Yes
—if ballot indicates ineligible candidate	No	Yes
—if meaning of ballot is unclear, but can't affect result	No	Yes
—if meaning of ballot is unclear, and may affect result	Submit to assembly for decision	Yes
—two or more filled-out ballots, folded together	No	Yes, but counted as one vote
—one filled-out ballot, folded together with one or more blank ballots	Yes	Yes
<b>Blank Ballots, Ballots That Indicate No Preference</b>		
<b>Ballots Cast by Nonmember</b>		
<b>Ballots for Multiple Positions on a Board or Committee</b>		
—with votes for full number of positions to fill	Yes	Yes (one vote) <sup>2</sup>
—with votes for less than full number	Yes	Yes (one vote) <sup>2</sup>
—with votes for too many candidates	No	Yes (one vote) <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> If there is evidence that any ballots were cast by persons not entitled to vote but those ballots cannot be identified, and if there is any possibility that such ballots might affect the result, the entire ballot vote is null and void and a new ballot vote must be taken.

<sup>2</sup> When votes are cast in one section of the ballot for multiple positions on a board or committee, every ballot with a vote in that section for one or more candidates is counted as one vote cast.

### **Roll Call Votes by Delegation**

Convention Rules provide that votes for President and Vice-President will include announcements by delegation chairs of their affiliate's vote totals in addition to the written ballots submitted to the Secretary. Convention Rules 7.3 and 7.4 state that the order shall be alphabetical by state starting with a randomly selected delegation.

For those who haven't been to presidential nominating conventions before, many state chairs prepare a **BRIEF** (a couple of phrases) interesting factoid or humorous reference to promote their state when they announce their affiliate's vote totals. For instance, "From a state with no

income tax, and where, unlike Congress, the drunks gamble with their own money, the state of Nevada proudly casts its 13 votes as follows:...”

This procedure makes for interesting TV, but it is quite time consuming, so the convention often opts to suspend this rule for everything except the first ballot for the Presidential nominee.

### **Multiple-Round Ballots**

For LNC Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary and Treasurer elections, each delegate may cast one vote for one candidate, and a majority is required for election (Convention Rule 8.1.a, also RONR p. 404). If no candidate attains a majority on the first ballot, Convention Rule 8.1.c prescribes that the candidate with the fewest votes on the latest ballot shall be struck from subsequent ballots, and the delegates vote again on the remaining candidates.

For LNC At-Large and for Judicial Committee elections, we use an approval voting process governed by Convention Rule 8.2 and Rule 9. A majority is still required for election, but because delegates may vote for as many candidates as they wish, the chances are greater for these multi-seat elections to be completed with a single round of balloting. Any ties affecting the outcome are decided by lot.

### **None-of-the-Above (NOTA)**

LP Bylaws Article 10.7 states:

*“Votes cast for ‘None of the Above’ in voting on the Party’s nominees for President and Vice-President, the Party Officers, and at-large members of the National Committee, shall be considered valid.”*

The rule doesn’t require that NOTA be pre-printed on the tally sheet with the nominated candidates, just that votes for NOTA be considered valid though it’s not a person. If any of your delegates cast a vote for NOTA, and if there’s not a pre-printed line for it, you can list it on the tally sheet in the section for write-in votes for other candidates who were not specifically nominated.

By the way, the rest of that bylaw article provides that if “None of the Above” wins a majority for President or Vice-President, then no candidate shall be nominated for that office. If “None of the Above” wins for any Party office, then the position is considered vacant, subject to being later filled, but none of the candidates defeated by NOTA may be appointed to that vacancy during the term.

## **PRESIDENTIAL, VICE-PRESIDENTIAL AND PLATFORM TOKENS**

### **Signature Tokens for Presidential or Vice-Presidential Nominations**

Convention Rule 7 lays out the methodology for nominating and selecting the Libertarian Party presidential ticket. Section 1 states:

*“No person shall be nominated for President or Vice-President unless at least 30 registered delegates join in the nomination in writing submitted to the Chair. No delegate may join in nominating more than one candidate for each office. The affixing of signatures to a nominating petition per this requirement shall be effected by a transfer of signature tokens issued by the Credentials Committee.”*

Accordingly, delegates will receive these signature tokens as they are credentialed. Delegates wishing to use their tokens must fill them out completely and placing them in a ballot box in a designated location. A candidate who receives 30 such tokens will be granted 16 minutes (president) or 11 (vice-president) of convention time for nominating and seconding speeches.

The signature token for the president will look similar to the image below. Delegates will receive one of these for president and a similar one for vice-president.

<b>Presidential Petition Signature Token</b>	
<b>I WISH TO NOMINATE:</b>	_____
<b>DELEGATE NAME (PRINT):</b>	_____
<b>DELEGATE SIGNATURE:</b>	_____
<small>TO HELP NOMINATE YOUR FAVORITE CANDIDATE, FILL IN THE CANDIDATE’S NAME, PRINT YOUR NAME, SIGN YOUR NAME, AND PLACE IT IN THE DESIGNATED BALLOT BOX. CANDIDATES NEED 30 TOKENS TO BE NOMINATED. SEE CONVENTION RULE 7 FOR MORE INFORMATION.</small>	

### **Signature Tokens and Debate Inclusion**

The LNC’s Convention Oversight Committee has set the parameters for inclusion in the Presidential Debate. The presidential debate is typically broadcast nationally on C-SPAN, as is the presidential nomination process.

For the 2020 Presidential Candidate and Vice-Presidential Candidate (time permitting) debates, tentatively scheduled for the evening of May 23 at the Libertarian National Convention:

Participation in the Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidate debates will be open to the top 5 candidates who receive nomination tokens from 10% or more of the number of

delegates accepted in the first Credentials Committee report on May 23. These tokens must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on May 23.

Even after the debate qualification deadline, delegates may still continue to submit nomination tokens to qualify candidates for the party's nomination process which happens later.

The Convention Oversight Committee has also opted to use a token system in the parameters for inclusion in the LNC Chair and LNC Vice-Chair (time permitting) debates, tentatively scheduled for the evening of May 22 at the Libertarian National Convention. The rule is essentially the same as for president and vice-president, just with different dates/times:

Participation in the LNC Chair and LNC Vice-Chair candidate debates will be open to the top 5 candidates who receive debate tokens from 10% or more of the number of delegates accepted in the Credentials Committee immediately following lunch on May 22. These tokens must be submitted by 4:00 p.m. on May 22.

### **Tokens for Platform Plank Retention Vote**

The Platform Committee will present proposals for making amendments to our existing platform, but Convention Rule 5.1 provides a special procedure by which delegates have the option to delete planks from the existing platform:

- a. The Credentials Committee shall issue five signature tokens to each delegate.*
- b. Tokens shall only be issued to delegates. Delegates are responsible for transferring possession of unused tokens to their alternates if necessary.*
- c. Each delegate may cast each token as a recommendation for deletion of one plank by noting on the token the plank to be deleted and signing the token.*
- d. A delegate may cumulate recommendations by casting any number of tokens for deletion of the same plank.*
- e. Delegates will be given until one hour prior to the scheduled start of the platform report to mark their tokens and deliver them to the Secretary.*
- f. Prior to the scheduled start of the platform report, the Secretary shall review the tokens received and tabulate and report the tokens submitted for deletion of each plank.*
- g. As its first item of platform business, the convention shall vote whether to delete each of those planks that received a number of tokens for deletion equal to 20% or more of the number of credentialed delegates. Such votes shall be cast without amendment or debate.*

Tokens in the past have looked similar to the image below and each delegate will receive five of them from the Credentials Committee.

Any platform plank that reaches the threshold – a number of tokens equivalent to 20% of credentialed delegates – will be brought before the convention for a yes/no deletion vote at the beginning of the Platform Committee report.



Per Convention Rule 5, platform token collection ends one hour before the Platform Committee report (order of business item #9).

Also note that each delegate has five platform tokens and that the threshold to recall a platform plank for an up/down vote is 20%. Thus it follows that 4% of delegates casting all 5 of their tokens on a single plank could bring that plank up for a deletion vote.

<b>2020 Libertarian Party Platform Plank Signature Token</b>		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.0 Personal Liberty	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.2 Environment	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.13 Health Care
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.1 Self-Ownership	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.3 Energy and Resources	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.14 Retirement and Income Security
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.2 Expression and Communication	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.4 Government Finance and Spending	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.0 Securing Liberty
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.3 Privacy	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.5 Government Debt	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.1 National Defense
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.4 Personal Relationships	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.6 Government Employees	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.2 Internal Security and Individual Rights
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.5 Abortion	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.7 Money and Financial Markets	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.3 International Affairs
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.6 Parental Rights	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.8 Marketplace Freedom	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.4 Free Trade and Migration
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.7 Crime and Justice	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.9 Licensing	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.5 Rights and Discrimination
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.8 Death Penalty	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.10 Sex Work	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.6 Representative Government
<input type="checkbox"/> 1.9 Self-Defense	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.11 Labor Markets	<input type="checkbox"/> 3.7 Self-Determination
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.0 Economic Liberty	<input type="checkbox"/> 2.12 Education	<input type="checkbox"/> 4.0 Omissions
<input type="checkbox"/> 2.1 Property and Contract		

**DELEGATE (SIGNATURE REQUIRED):** \_\_\_\_\_

**COMMON ABUSES AND MISUNDERSTANDINGS OF PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE**

We routinely have many delegates who are attending their first national convention, and the structured system of Robert’s Rules may not be very familiar to them. Naturally, if a person doesn’t know the protocol for what they want to do, they will watch other people and then mimic the terminology they hear. This leads to certain parliamentary motions being often misused in ways that cause interruptions, delays, confusion, and frustration for others.

If you are unsure how or when to do something you want to do, there are people you can ask. One good option is the convention parliamentarian. The parliamentarian’s primary job is to advise the convention chair on procedure, but when the convention is on a break, the parliamentarian may be able to help you with your question. We often have other delegates who are credentialed parliamentarians or are just experienced with the rules. If you can’t find someone to help in a side conversation, you may also seek recognition from the chair and make a “Parliamentary Inquiry” to ask the chair for procedural guidance on when/how to do something.

Some of the most commonly abused parliamentary motions are discussed briefly below. A better understanding of these motions and the limitations on their use will help us get convention business completed more efficiently.

### **Point of Order**

New delegates quickly notice that if a person at a microphone says “Point of Order”, they get recognized to speak immediately, so this phrase is very frequently misused.

You should only say “Point of Order” at a microphone if you think that the rules of the assembly are being violated, and you are calling upon the chair for enforcement of the rules. After you are recognized to make a Point of Order, you should explain how you think the rules are being violated so that the chair can consider your point and make a correction if warranted.

It is improper for you to say “Point of Order” just to get first-preference recognition to speak, and then use your microphone time for some purpose other than a discussion of adherence to the rules. If you do so, expect the chair to disallow it. It is not a method for you to introduce a motion for subject B during an agenda item for subject A. It is not a short-cut to the front of the line for debate of the current topic. Points of order get priority because there are strict time limits on when you can complain about certain types of rules violations, but please do not delay convention business and frustrate your fellow delegates by abusing the phrase for things other than rules violations.

### **Appeal the Ruling of the Chair**

If a point of order is raised, the chair is obligated to issue a decision (a “ruling”) about whether the rules are being violated or not. If a delegate believes the chair’s ruling is incorrect, he and a seconder may at times appeal the ruling of the chair. When a ruling is appealed, it allows the assembly by a majority vote to make the final decision on whether or not the assembly’s rules are being correctly applied. When an assembly is reasonably familiar with its own rules, the option of appeal prevents a chair from playing the dictator because the membership can counter and overturn an erroneous ruling.

Just as we don’t want a chair to be a dictator, neither must an assembly abuse an appeal of a chair’s ruling to effectively ignore a rule that they simply don’t wish to follow. For this reason, RONR p. 256 sets forth a limitation on appeals. **If a chair’s ruling is aligned with a rule which is very clear and unambiguous, an appeal of the chair’s ruling is dilatory, and the chair has a duty to disallow an appeal on it.**

Perhaps nothing at a convention challenges a delegate’s personal integrity as much as casting votes on an appeal of the ruling of the chair. It’s very tempting to vote for what you WANT the rule to say, rather than making an intellectually honest decision about what you believe is required by the rule as it is written.



Our own delegates established the rules, and they constitute a voluntary agreement about how the group will collectively operate. If Libertarians won't honor their own voluntary agreements, we lose the public argument that more of the world should operate that way rather than having government involved.

### **Point of Information / Request for Information**

The classic parliamentary term “Point of Information” has been so commonly misunderstood that the current edition of RONR renamed it to instead be “Request for Information” to more precisely reflect its purpose.

A “Request for Information” is a **request** -- a **question** -- directed to the chair, or through the chair to another person, for information **relevant to the business at hand** but not related to parliamentary procedure. For example, “This motion calls for a large expenditure. Could the treasurer tell us what our cash balance is?”

It does not mean that you have information to provide to others. That's just called “debate.” It's not a free pass for “Hey, I have something off-topic that I want to say now because I think it is important.” It's not an announcement. It means you are asking for someone else to provide information to you about the current item of business so that you can make an informed decision.

Request for Information is **not** a “privileged” motion, such that it can interrupt other pending business and demand urgent attention. Request for Information does **not** entitle you to preference in recognition such that you get to skip the line of people waiting to debate a motion.

### **Point of Personal Privilege / Privilege of the Assembly**

Some mistakenly believe that a “Point of Personal Privilege” is a way to ask the assembly to grant them a personal favor, to allow them to introduce a motion that would not normally be in order, but to allow it anyway because it's a social nicety like a compliment or a resolution of thanks. That is an improper use of a parliamentary procedure which grants **privileged** recognition for particularly nuanced urgent matters, and can at times be used even to interrupt a speaker. If you're asking the body to indulge you to introduce an otherwise currently out-of-order motion, you should instead move to “suspend the rules” to allow introduction of such a motion.

There are two types of questions of privilege, a “privilege of the assembly” and a “personal privilege”. A “privilege of the assembly” allows someone to get urgent attention for something interfering with the ability of the assembly to conduct business. Examples include poor lighting that prevent delegates from seeing their printed reference materials, or construction noises coming in through open windows and making it hard to hear the matters at hand, etc. Such things may need to be addressed urgently so that delegates can cast informed votes. A point of “personal privilege” rarely occurs and even more rarely warrants urgent interruption. It can

cover topics like an incorrect record of that person's participation in minutes which were approved in his absence, or charges circulated against the member's character.

### **Suspend the Rules To... / Suspend the Rules And...**

This is a subject that often causes confusion at a convention, and sloppy wording can make other delegates feel like they were snookered. Choosing words very precisely helps a lot when a person moves to suspend the rules. Not all rules can be suspended, but there are some rules which by a (usually) 2/3 vote can be set aside in order to do something which would otherwise be a violation of the rules at that time.

Once an agenda has been adopted, business must by rule proceed in the order prescribed by that agenda. If delegates wish to take up a subject at a time different from that prescribed on the agenda, or take up a subject not on the agenda, it requires a suspension of the rules.

Suspensions of the rules are not debatable, and a lot of confusion happens when the maker of a motion does not clearly distinguish between, "I move to suspend the rules **to take up** Motion X at this time," as opposed to "I move to suspend the rules **and adopt** Motion X."

The first one is a request that the assembly take two steps:

- 1) without debate, by a 2/3 vote agree to allow introduction of Motion X, and then
- 2) introduce Motion X, debate Motion X (if it is debatable by its nature), and vote on Motion X which may only require a majority vote to adopt.

The second phrasing is a request that the assembly only take one step: without debate, only take a single vote which simultaneously suspends the rules and adopts Motion X, and a 2/3 vote is required to do them both together even if Motion X would otherwise only require a majority vote. Motion X is never debated in this situation.

In a noisy convention hall, the chair and other delegates often may not notice subtle word distinctions in the middle of a motion, particularly if (as happens to us all) our words at the microphone don't come out as eloquently as we hoped they would. even if you're sure what you said, others may still think you said something different. If delegates thought you were moving the two-step process, they'll get very upset after the vote when they now think they'll get an opportunity to debate Motion X, and you argue that Motion X was already adopted without debate.

To avoid such confusion, which can burn a lot of time and make delegates think they got tricked, it helps if you use extra words to specify to the chair very clearly which you are asking to do.

If you say, "I move to suspend the rules in order to allow us to then take up Motion X for a separate vote," that will help the chair and your fellow delegates a lot. Or for the other case, "I move that we both suspend the rules and adopt Motion X in a single vote."

## **PRE-PRINTED FORM FOR MAKING MOTIONS FROM THE CONVENTION FLOOR**

Convention Rule 2.2 authorizes the Chair to require “any motion offered from the Convention floor to be in writing, signed by the mover and submitted to the Secretary.” Just as in prior years, you should expect the Chair to make use of this in 2020. In particular, this is typically applied to main motions that are to be displayed on the overhead screens. This is not usually required for very simple motions or secondary or incidental motions (e.g., recess/adjourn/point of order).

The Secretary will likely provide a standard form for submitting the text of motions. Using this form will help:

- Prepare video displays with the motion’s text
- Eliminate delays so the convention does not have to wait while motions are crafted and edited on the fly
- Accurately document convention proceedings for the minutes
- Ensure motions are presented in the appropriate order

**Make sure to write legibly, else the Convention has to wait while sloppy writing is clarified. There is no point in writing it down if someone else can’t read it.**

## **REGIONS OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE**

LP Bylaws Article 7.2.c describes how your affiliate party can band together with others to form a "representative region" to gain representation on the Libertarian National Committee.

This bylaw provision states:

*“Any affiliate party with 10% or more of the total national party sustaining membership within affiliate parties (as determined for delegate allocation) shall be entitled to one National Committee representative and one alternate for each 10% of national sustaining membership. Affiliate parties may, by mutual consent, band together to form "representative regions," and each such "region" with an aggregate national party sustaining membership of 10% or more shall be entitled to one National Committee representative and one alternate for each 10% of national party sustaining membership. "Representative regions" may be formed or dissolved once every two years during a period beginning 90 days before the beginning of and ending on the second day of the National Convention, and notice of new formations or dissolutions must be given in writing to the national Secretary prior to the close of the Convention at which they take place.”*

See the Delegate Allocations Table at the end of this document for your affiliate’s sustaining membership as determined for delegate allocation (as published by the LNC Secretary) as well as the percentage of national membership that it represents.

The region formation period begins 90 days before the start of the convention (February 22, 2020) and ends the second day of the convention (May 23, 2020). The region has until the close

of the convention to submit a notice of region formation to the Secretary, and the Secretary will provide a standard form for this.

The Convention Oversight Committee has built designated times into the convention schedule to facilitate region formation caucuses. These are tentatively scheduled for the evening of Friday, May 22, but once you're onsite you should double-check the final schedule.

Some regions opt to use written regional agreements to document mutually agreed upon rules for their region before any future procedural disputes arise. A recommended basic regional agreement is included at the end of this document, though you are not required to use this particular one or any one at all.

Below are two default rules that are in effect for your region unless you have a regional agreement stating otherwise.

LP Bylaws Article 7.8: *“A National Committee Regional Representative or Alternate may be removed and replaced only by the act of the affiliate parties that constitute the subject region. The voting procedure for the removal and replacement of regional representatives or alternates shall be determined by the regions. In the absence of any such procedures, a majority vote of the state chairs comprising the region shall prevail.”*

Convention Rule 8.4: *“In the event a region has not otherwise provided for the election of its National Committee representation then the delegates from the region shall elect its regional representative and alternate, provided there are at least five delegates present. Each Region's delegates may elect their representative and alternate in whatever manner they choose, provided all delegates present from that region are given equal voice in the selection.”*

Please note that under RONR, it is a bylaw violation to elect someone who is ineligible for the position. Please ensure that candidates for your regional representative and alternate position are eligible **PRIOR** to the election. If in doubt, eligibility can be confirmed by emailing or phoning our Operations Director Robert Kraus ([Robert.Kraus@lp.org](mailto:Robert.Kraus@lp.org)) in advance of convention, or at the registration desk during the convention. Eligibility is defined in the bylaws:

LP Bylaws Article 7.4: *“A National Committee member shall be a sustaining member of the Party, and shall not be the candidate of any party except the Party or an affiliate.”*

LP Bylaws Article 14.2: *“No candidate may be nominated for President or Vice-President who is ineligible under the United States Constitution, who has not expressed a willingness to accept the nomination of the Party, who served as a stand-in candidate during the current election cycle, or who is not a sustaining member of the Party.”*

If your region is large enough to have more than one LNC alternate, your region should also agree to and document a ranking of those alternates or some clear procedure whereby the LNC Secretary can determine the ranking. The ranking is relevant for application of Bylaws Article 13 which states:

*“Boards and committees may transact business by electronic mail. The chair or secretary shall send out electronic mail ballots on any question submitted by the chair or cosponsored by at least 1/5 of the members of the board or committee. The period for voting on a question shall remain open for seven days, unless all members have cast votes, or have stated an intention to abstain or be absent during the voting period, by electronic mail to the entire board or committee. Votes from alternates will be counted, in accordance with previously defined ranked order, in the absence of the corresponding committee member(s). The outcome of each motion shall be announced promptly and recorded in the minutes of the next meeting. The number of votes required for passage of any motion shall be the same as that required during a meeting. Motions dispensed through electronic mail ballots satisfy the requirement of giving previous notice.”*

## **CONVENTION COMMITTEES**

There are three committees which report to the convention according to LP Bylaws Article 11. These committees are the Bylaws and Rules Committee, the Platform Committee and the Credentials Committee. The committee members listed below reflect the information available at the time of publication, however more updated information may be available here on the LP website: [www.lp.org/lp-committees](http://www.lp.org/lp-committees)

### **Bylaws and Rules Committee**

The Bylaws and Rules Committee makes recommendations to the delegates for amendments to our Bylaws and to our Convention Rules. Then the delegates vote whether or not to adopt those recommendations.

The current LP Bylaws are online at: [www.lp.org/bylaws-and-convention-rules/](http://www.lp.org/bylaws-and-convention-rules/)

The committee's report of recommended changes is typically posted in advance on the convention website (<https://libertarianconvention.org/>).

LP Bylaws Article 11.2 states: *“The Bylaws and Rules Committee shall consist of ten Party members appointed by the National Committee no later than twelve months before a Regular Convention. No more than five of these members shall be members of the current National Committee.”*

The LNC selected the following Bylaws and Rules Committee members for 2020:

- |                        |                          |
|------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Joe Bishop-Henchman | 6. Chuck Moulton         |
| 2. Andy Craig          | 7. Kenneth Brent Olsen   |
| 3. Cris Crawford       | 8. Mark Rutherford       |
| 4. Richard Longstreth  | 9. Victoria Paige Sexton |
| 5. Alicia Mattson      | 10. Christopher Thrasher |

Ranked alternates: (1) Chris Wiest, (2) David Blau, (3) Alex DiBenedetto, (4) Shawn Levasseur

## **Platform Committee**

The Platform Committee makes recommendations to the delegates for amendments to our party platform. Then the delegates vote whether or not to adopt those recommendations.

The current LP Platform is online at: [www.lp.org/platform](http://www.lp.org/platform)

The committee's report of recommended changes is typically posted in advance on the convention website (<https://libertarianconvention.org/>).

LP Bylaws Article 11.3 states:

- “The Platform Committee shall consist of 20 members selected as follows:*
- a. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the greatest per capita sustaining membership as determined for Convention delegate allocations at the most recent Regular Convention.*
  - b. One member by each of the ten affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships, excluding those affiliates from (a), as determined for Convention delegate allocations at the most recent Regular Convention.*
  - c. Five members selected by the National Committee.*
  - d. These members shall be selected no later than the last day of the fifth month prior to the Regular Convention.”*

At its November 16-17, 2019 meeting in Miami, the LNC selected the following Platform Committee members for 2020.

1. Laura Ebke
2. Richard Fast
3. Caryn Ann Harlos
4. Thomas Knapp
5. Duke Van Horn

LNC-appointed alternate: Richard Longstreth

The top five sustaining-membership-per-capita states are determined based on sustaining membership for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention. The most recent regular convention was the 2018 convention in New Orleans, LA. Delegate allocation for that convention was based on sustaining membership counts as of 12/31/2017, making the top five states as shown below:

Rank	State	Sustaining Members as of 12/31/2017	Population as of 2010 Census	Sustaining Members per 10k Population	Platform Committee Representative
1	Alaska	93	710,231	1.30943	Joshua McHoes
2	New Hampshire	169	1,316,470	1.28374	Darryl Perry
3	Colorado	483	5,029,196	0.96039	Kat Martin
4	Montana	85	989,415	0.85909	Roger Roots
5	Virginia	659	8,001,024	0.82364	Matt Cholko

The top ten sustaining membership states for the Platform Committee are determined based on sustaining membership for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention. The most recent regular convention was the 2018 convention in New Orleans, LA. Delegate allocation for that convention was based on sustaining membership counts as of 12/31/2017, making the top ten states as shown below (excluding #4-ranked Virginia and #10-ranked Colorado because they are already included in the top-five-per-capita list above):

Rank	State	Sustaining Members as of 10/31/2015	Platform Committee Representative
1	California	1585	Aaron Starr
2	Texas	1098	John Wilford
3	Florida	798	Omar Recuero
5	New York	649	Paul Grindle
6	Pennsylvania	589	Gus Tatlas
7	Ohio	584	Helen Gilson
8	Illinois	517	Bennett Morris
9	Michigan	500	Jim Fulner
11	Washington	478	Randy Glenn
12	Georgia	436	Brian Slowinski

State-appointed alternates are: Jon Watts (AK 1st Alternate), Matthew Maxiner (AK 2nd Alternate), Alicia Mattson (CA), Bette Rose Ryan (CO), Julie Fox (IL), Jeff Wood (MI 1<sup>st</sup> Alternate), Lisa Gioia (MI 2nd Alternate), Spencer Dias (NH 1st Alternate), A.J. Olding (NH 2nd Alternate), Fred Cole (NY), Jim Cavoli (OH 1st Alternate), John Fockler (OH 2nd Alternate). Al Meckely (PA 1st Alternate), Luke Ensor (PA 2nd Alternate), Tiffany Diaz Deleon (WA)

### Credentials Committee

The Credentials Committee is responsible for compiling and managing the list of delegates who are eligible to register and vote at the convention. The committee works before the convention to

verify delegate lists sent in by the states. When the Credentials Committee begins its work, an assigned representative of the committee will contact each state chair about the process of submitting delegate lists. The committee will presumably meet in Austin the day before the convention opens, and its work continues throughout the convention until the very last session.

LP Bylaws Article 11.4 states:

- “The Credentials Committee, composed of ten members, shall be selected as follows.*
- a. Five members chosen by the National Committee no later than six months before a Regular Convention.*
  - b. One member by each of the five affiliate parties having the largest sustaining memberships as determined for Convention delegate allocations at the most recent Regular Convention. These shall be selected by each of the affiliate parties no later than three months prior to the Regular Convention.”*

At its November 16-17, 2019 meeting in Miami, the LNC selected the following Credentials Committee members for 2020:

1. Nathan Gall
2. Susan Hogarth
3. Leigh Lachine
4. Emily Salvette
5. Bo Zimmerman

LNC-appointed alternates are: Peter Moulds, Mark Potwora

The top five sustaining membership states for the Credentials Committee are determined based on sustaining membership for convention delegate allocations at the most recent regular convention. The most recent regular convention was the 2018 convention in New Orleans, LA. Delegate allocation for that convention was based on sustaining membership counts as of 12/31/2017, making the top five states as shown below:

	<b>State</b>	<b>Sustaining Members as of 12/31/2017</b>	<b>Credentials Committee Representative</b>
1	California	1585	Andrew Forrester
2	Texas	1098	TBA
3	Florida	798	TBA
4	Virginia	659	TBA
5	New York	649	TBA

State-appointed alternates are: Susan Aquino (CA)



## **TIME ALLOTMENTS**



The Convention Rules stipulate the number of minutes allowed for certain events at the convention. The following tables summarize those allotments. While some years are not presidential nominating conventions, the tables are listed here for completeness.

### **President and Vice-President**

16	Total time for nominating and seconding speeches for presidential candidate (Convention Rule 7.5.a)
11	Total time for nominating and seconding speeches for a vice-presidential candidates (Convention Rule 7.5.b)
5	Time allowed for presidential nominee to address the convention for the purpose of endorsing or objecting to any of the Vice-Presidential nominees (Convention Rule 7.4)
5	Time allowed for a delegate collecting the required number of nominating tokens for None Of The Above to address the convention (Convention Rule 7.5)

### **Platform Committee Report**

2	When no minority position on a Platform Committee recommendation exists on an item, the committee chair or designee explains a recommendation (Convention Rule 5.3)
2	When a minority position on a platform plank exists, both spokespersons have two minutes to present and explain their positions (Convention Rule 5.4)
5	When a minority position on a platform plank exists, delegates have a total of five minutes to debate without offering amendments before voting on committee recommendation vs. minority recommendation (Convention Rule 5.4)
15	Discussion without amendment of a main motion platform proposal before voting (Convention Rule 5.3.b)
10	Discussion with amendment of a main motion platform proposal if it failed to be adopted after the 15 minutes of no-amendment debate (Convention Rule 5.3.b)
2	Delegate to present and explain a platform amendment proposed from the convention floor rather than from the Platform Committee Report (Convention Rule 5.5)

### **Bylaws and Rules Committee Report**

2	The committee chair or designee explains a recommendation (Convention Rule 4)
8	Discussion without amendment of a main motion bylaws/rules proposal before voting (Convention Rule 4)
10	Discussion with amendment of a main motion bylaws/rule proposal if it failed to be adopted after the 8 minutes of no-amendment debate (Convention Rule 4)

## National Committee Elections

10	Nominating speeches for National Committee Chair (Convention Rule 8.3.a)
5	Nominating speeches for National Committee Vice-Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, At-Large members, Judicial Committee members (Convention Rule 8.3.b)

### VOTE REQUIRED FOR ELECTION/ADOPTION

The Bylaws and Convention Rules state the vote thresholds required for election/adoption of the following:

#### Candidates

President, Vice-President, LNC Officers, LNC At-Large, Judicial Committee (Convention Rules 7.2, 7.4, 8.1.a, 8.2.c, 9)	Majority
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#### Resolutions

Adopt a resolution (Convention Rule 6.1)	2/3
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#### Amendments

Amend the Convention Special Rules of Order (RONR p. 17, lines 28-31) - only permitted at a Regular Convention (Bylaws Article 10.10)	2/3 with previous notice or majority of all registered delegates
Adopt new platform planks, or amend existing platform plank (Bylaws Article 3.3)	2/3
Delete a platform plank (Bylaws Article 3.3)	Majority
Amend Bylaws (Bylaws Article 17.1) – only permitted at a Regular Convention	2/3
Amend Statement of Principles (Article 3.1, also see Article 17.2)	7/8 of registered delegates

#### Challenges

Percentage of delegates needed to challenge an adopted platform plank or resolution believing it to be in conflict with the Statement of Principles (Convention Rule 5.7 and 6.2)	10%
Number of delegates needed to object to the chair's determination of a voice vote in order to bring about a counted vote (Convention Rule 2.1)	20

## Reinstatements

Fraction needed to reinstate a platform plank or resolution which the Judicial Committee has vetoed (Convention Rule 5.7 and 6.2)	$\frac{3}{4}$
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## Procedures

Decide whether to hear amendments to platform plank proposals if they have failed to be adopted after 15 minutes of no-amendment debate (Convention Rule 5.3.b)	Majority
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## Quorum

Convention quorum (Bylaws Article 10.8)	40% of delegates registered in attendance
Convention Committee quorum (RONR, 11 <sup>th</sup> ed., p. 347)	Majority

## Signatures

Number of signature tokens needed for a candidate to be nominated for President or Vice-President (Convention Rule 7.1)	30
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## LNC POLICIES

The LNC has established the two policies shown below to keep delegates and candidates on an even playing field.

### **Delegate Compensation**

The following LNC policy forbids using party funds or hotel contract perks to help any delegates fund their convention trips. Please note this only applies to delegates, and it would not forbid compensation of a guest speaker who is not a delegate.

*“The Party shall not directly or indirectly compensate or otherwise underwrite or subsidize the convention travel, lodging (excepting room upgrades which the Party received at no cost), entertainment costs or speaker fees/honorariums of any Convention delegates. This policy shall not prohibit the Party from underwriting organized convention events offered to all donors of a particular level. Nor shall it prohibit delegates from receiving complementary meals or access to convention events in rough proportion to their level of volunteer work. All volunteer compensation must be approved by the Convention Oversight Committee, and contemporaneously published when actual compensation is received.”*

## Convention Speakers

The following LNC policy requires that the Convention Oversight Committee obtain a commitment from major convention speakers prior to scheduling them:

*“No person shall be scheduled as a convention speaker unless that person has signed this statement:*

*‘As a condition of my being scheduled to speak, I agree to neither seek nor accept nomination for any office to be selected by delegates at the upcoming Libertarian Party convention if the voting for that office occurs after my speech.’*

*This policy shall not apply to participation in a scheduled candidate debate or breakout session or panel discussion or similar non-major event. This policy shall not apply in the case where someone is exercising official duties (e.g. such as when the Treasurer presents his official report).”*

## DELEGATE ALLOCATION TABLE

The following table lists the number of delegates each affiliate is entitled to at the 2020 convention (blue column). These delegate allocations have been published by the LNC Secretary. See Bylaws Articles 10.3 and 10.4 for the allocation methodology.

Use the ‘Percent of Members’ column (yellow) of this table to form representative regions for the Libertarian National Committee. One LNC representative is authorized for each 10% of total party membership that is contained within the affiliates. There is an important note at the end of this table regarding the nuances of the calculation.

State	2020 Delegate Allocation	Sustaining Membership				Presidential Vote		
		Sustaining Members	LNC Region Formation	Delegate Allocation	Delegates Based on	Johnson 2016 Vote	Percent Of 2016 Vote	Delegates Based on 2016 Vote
		As of 10/31/2019	Percent of Members	Percent of Members	Based on Members			
AL	13	197	1.364%	1.357%	10	44,467	0.991%	3
AK	6	69	0.478%	0.475%	4	18,725	0.417%	2
AZ	24	338	2.340%	2.329%	17	106,327	2.368%	7
AR	7	99	0.685%	0.682%	5	29,829	0.664%	2
CA	107	1529	10.586%	10.535%	76	478,500	10.659%	31
CO	35	501	3.469%	3.452%	25	144,121	3.210%	10
CT	13	176	1.219%	1.213%	9	48,676	1.084%	4
DE	4	47	0.325%	0.324%	3	14,757	0.329%	1
DC	3	40	0.277%	0.276%	2	4,906	0.109%	1
FL	54	806	5.581%	5.553%	40	207,043	4.612%	14
GA	29	414	2.866%	2.852%	21	125,306	2.791%	8
HI	5	51	0.353%	0.351%	3	15,954	0.355%	2
ID	6	63	0.436%	0.434%	4	28,331	0.631%	2

State	2020 Delegate Allocation	Sustaining Membership				Presidential Vote		
		Sustaining Members	LNC Region Formation	Delegate Allocation	Delegates	Johnson	Percent	Delegates
		As of	Percent of	Percent of	Based on	2016	Of	Based on
		10/31/2019	Members	Members	Members	Vote	2016 Vote	2016 Vote
IL	37	466	3.226%	3.211%	23	209,596	4.669%	14
IN	30	419	2.901%	2.887%	21	133,993	2.985%	9
IA	11	122	0.845%	0.841%	7	59,186	1.318%	4
KS	10	118	0.817%	0.813%	6	55,406	1.234%	4
KY	11	130	0.900%	0.896%	7	53,752	1.197%	4
LA	13	193	1.336%	1.330%	10	37,978	0.846%	3
ME	8	83	0.575%	0.572%	5	38,105	0.849%	3
MD	20	275	1.904%	1.895%	14	79,605	1.773%	6
MA	22	244	1.689%	1.681%	13	138,018	3.074%	9
MI	34	462	3.199%	3.183%	23	172,136	3.834%	11
MN	20	224	1.551%	1.543%	12	112,972	2.517%	8
MS	6	94	0.651%	0.648%	5	14,435	0.322%	1
MO	19	236	1.634%	1.626%	12	97,359	2.169%	7
MT	6	63	0.436%	0.434%	4	28,037	0.625%	2
NE	8	91	0.630%	0.627%	5	38,946	0.868%	3
NV	13	188	1.302%	1.295%	10	37,384	0.833%	3
NH	11	171	1.184%	1.178%	9	30,777	0.686%	2
NJ	20	300	2.077%	2.067%	15	72,477	1.614%	5
NM	13	147	1.018%	1.013%	8	74,541	1.660%	5
NY	48	729	5.047%	5.023%	36	176,598	3.934%	12
NC	29	401	2.776%	2.763%	20	130,126	2.899%	9
ND	4	33	0.228%	0.227%	2	21,434	0.477%	2
OH	45	668	4.625%	4.602%	33	174,498	3.887%	12
OK	14	162	1.122%	1.116%	8	83,481	1.860%	6
OR	15	174	1.205%	1.199%	9	94,231	2.099%	6
PA	40	608	4.210%	4.189%	30	146,715	3.268%	10
RI	3	32	0.222%	0.220%	2	14,746	0.328%	1
SC	17	247	1.710%	1.702%	13	49,204	1.096%	4
SD	5	47	0.325%	0.324%	3	20,850	0.464%	2
TN	23	357	2.472%	2.460%	18	70,397	1.568%	5
TX	73	1097	7.595%	7.558%	54	283,492	6.315%	19
UT	9	119	0.824%	0.820%	6	39,608	0.882%	3
VT	3	38	0.263%	0.262%	2	10,078	0.224%	1
VA	35	540	3.739%	3.721%	27	118,274	2.635%	8
WA	35	476	3.296%	3.280%	24	160,879	3.584%	11
WV	6	71	0.492%	0.489%	4	23,004	0.512%	2
WI	20	246	1.703%	1.695%	13	106,674	2.376%	7
WY	4	42	0.291%	0.289%	3	13,287	0.296%	1
OTHER	----	71	----	0.489%	----	----	----	----
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>14,514</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>735</b>	<b>4,489,221</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>311</b>

Source for presidential vote totals:  
<http://www.fec.gov/pubrec/fe2016/2016presgeresults.pdf>

IMPORTANT NOTE: You may wonder why there are slight differences in the percentages given in the region formation column (in yellow) versus the delegate allocation column right beside it. The numerator for each is the same, the number of sustaining members in that affiliate. The difference is in the denominator.

For delegate allocation (and determining which affiliates get to make committee appointments), the denominator is the total number of sustaining members, which is 14,514. For region formation, however, the denominator excludes the 71 people in the "OTHER" row who are not tied to a particular affiliate, so  $14,514 - 71 = 14,443$ . If you are checking your potential region formation status, either use the yellow percent column above (which necessarily has some rounding in that third decimal place and needs to be used with caution if your region is very close to the qualifying threshold), or to avoid rounding errors and be precise add the number of sustaining members in the states in the region and divide it out yourself, remembering to use the 14,443 denominator rather than 14,514.

This design means that the 71 people who reside out of the country or don't have addresses on file don't dilute the ability of the state affiliates to form a theoretical 10 regions of exactly 10% each. In reality, of course, regions don't have exactly 10% of the sustaining membership. They naturally will exceed 10%, and we usually end up with fewer than 10 regions.



LIBERTARIAN PARTY  
NATIONAL CONVENTION  
AUSTIN, TX - 2020

For Teller Use Only

# Sample Election Ballot

Delegation: **MyState**

First Ballot for: **ThisOffice**

Do not exceed **##** votes per delegate

JUSTIN TYME	_____
PETE ZERRIA	_____
DUSTY RHODES	_____
WRITE-INS: _____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
TOTAL VOTES	_____
TOTAL BALLOTS CAST	_____

**Total ballots cast shall not exceed any of the following:**

**MyState** Delegate Allocation: **##**

**MyState** Currently Credentialed Delegates: **##**

**MyState** Currently has \_\_\_\_\_ delegates present in the convention hall

\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegation Chair Name

May 23, 2020 04:00 pm

\_\_\_\_\_  
Delegation Chair Signature

