

**2024 LIBERTARIAN PARTY BLAWS AND RULES COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING AUGUST 10, 2023**

Meeting called to order at 8:47 PM ET

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** MADDEN: Noted 22 in attendance and thanked all members who participate. Have delegate allocations been set? HARLOS: Almost finished. Working on. Have accurate number if convention were tomorrow. Relatively consistent growth rate. Each affiliate noticed. All said information public on list. Expired not included, confidential. Max now 1048. MOULTON: May be in and out. Will attend much as possible.

MEMBERS	ALTERNATES	GUESTS
SYLVIA ARROWOOD	CHUCK MOULTON (A1)	DUSTIN COFFELL
PAUL BRACCO	DAVID ROBERSON (A3)	STEPHEN ECKER
NICKOLAS CIESKILSKI	DATA LOGAN (A6)	JIM FULNER
CARYN ANN HARLOS		J. J. JACOBS
ROB LATHAM		JUDY JONES
FRANK MARTIN		NATHAN MADDEN
KEN MOELLMAN		LARRY SILVER
TOM ROWLETTE		JESSICA TEWKSBURY
MIKE RUFO		ERIC THRAEN
MICHAEL SEEBECK		

Full Complement Present

**TOWN HALL:** Set for 9-21-23, Thursday. **ADOPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION.**

**MINUTES APPROVAL:** Minutes of July 13, 2023 and July 27, 2023 approved upon non-substantive typos corrected. **APPROVED WITHOUT OBJECTION.**

DEAN RODGERS (A7) PRESENT AT 9:10 PM.

**CONTINUING WITH PROPOSAL P RULE 6-Primary with Substitute Amendment**  
**Pending**

**PRIMARY MOTION:** ~~a. Each delegate has the ability to cast an electronic ballot that enables the printing of a conforming physical ballot or a vote by an electronic ballot accompanied by the delegate's contemporaneous completion of a conforming physical ballot:~~ a. Each delegate has the ability to cast an electronic ballot that produces a conforming physical ballot; or a vote by an electronic ballot

accompanies by the delegate's contemporaneous completion of a conforming physical ballot.

b . Delegates must deliver their physical ballot to their delegation chair, who then places them into a sealed envelope and delivers that envelope to the tellers.

**MARTIN:** Move to amend.

**HARLOS:** No need to do renumbering and relettering. Can be done later. Debate appropriate at this point.

MOULTON DEPARTS AT 9:25 PM.

**DEBATE ON SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT.**

**HARLOS:** A yes vote will strike out 6.a. and substitute in all of the highlighted language and subsequently reletter those subcategories following. A no vote will get rid of all that highlighted language and keep the original a.

ARROWWOOD	NO	
BRACCO	YES	
CIESILSKI	YES	
HARLOS	ABSTAIN	
LATHAM	YES	
MARTIN	YES	
MOELLMAN	NO	
ROWLETTE	YES	
RUFO	YES	
SEEBECK	ABSTAIN	<b>ADOPTED VOTE 6-2-2</b>

SEEBECK DEPARTED AND ROBERSON (A3) TO REPLACE AT APPROXIMATELY 10:00 PM.

**HARLOS:** Still perfecting Primary Motion. Any further amendments to Primary Motion? (No Response).

**PROPOSED SUBSTITUTE AMENDMENT TO STRIKE RULE 6 ABOVE AND REPLACE WITH BELOW:**

6. If approved by the convention, electronic balloting may be used instead of manual tabulation by state delegation, provided that written notice of the voting system to be used is published on the Party website at least 90 days prior to the regular convention. Electronic balloting must include provisions for the following:

a. Delegates complete contemporaneous physical ballots and deliver each physical ballot to their delegation chair, who then places each into a sealed envelope and delivers that envelope to the tellers.

b. A report is generated of votes by state delegation for display to the convention.

c. Delegates may cast write-in votes.

d. Delegates must be present in the convention hall at the time of the balloting.

7. If a recount is successfully ordered, the recount must be done using the physical ballots collected by the Delegation Chairs.

Motion before body is between Substitute which is in purple and the blue which is the Primary. Question is: Shall the Substitute Proposal become the Primary Motion or shall the Primary Motion remain the live motion on the floor? A yes vote will get rid of all of the blue, which we have been working on, and replace it with the purple that we had worked on previously. A no vote will get rid of all the purple and we will be on the blue at which point we will then have to vote on to pass the blue. There will be two votes unless people come up with further amendments.

Where we are on voting: a yes vote will make the Substitute the Primary Motion. A no vote will get rid of the Substitute and we will have the blue language. We are reopening debate. Before we go to a vote, both are fully open to amendment.

## **REOPEN DEBATE PROCESS**

**ROWLETTE:** b. In purple replace word ~~state~~ with affiliate.

**HARLOS:** Any objection to that? It is a change that was made in Primary. (No Response). **ADOPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION.** Is there any further debate or amendment to either the Primary or the Substitute? (No Response). A yes vote make the Substitute the Primary Motion which will require an additional vote to pass. A no vote will get rid of Substitute entirely and the blue language will be live on the floor which will then require an additional vote.

ARROWWOOD	NO
BRACCO	NO
CIESIELSKI	NO
HARLOS	ABSTAIN
LATHAM	NO

MARTIN	NO	
MOELLMAN	ABSTAIN	
ROWLETTE	YES	
RUFO	NO	
ROBERSON	NO	<b>FAILED VOTE 1-7-2</b>

**HARLOS:** Substitute is sticken. We are on blue. Primary Motion is now motion on the floor. At this point can't change except to add things. On committees are less formal. If you have anything, speak now or we going to a vote on passing this by the committee.

**FURTHER DEBATE ON PRIMARY MOTION.**

**HARLOS:** Any further debate? (No Response). Committee Members, do not bring up important matters in chat because everyone has the right to hear it. Under our bylaws, election results have to be challenged during the convention. There is not cause for legal action after the convention. The convention can order an entire revote which they can do now. Any further debate? Any further debate on this? (No Response). A yes vote will pass this out of committee and we will move to the next agenda item. A no vote will fail it and we will still move to the next agenda item.

ARROWWOOD	NO.	
BRACCO	YES	
CIESIELSKI	YES	
HARLOS	ABSTAIN	
LATHAM	YES	
MARTIN	YES	
MOELLMAN	NO	
ROWLETTE	YES	
RUFO	YES	
ROBERSON	YES	<b>ADOPTED VOTE 7-2-1</b>

**HARLOS:** Looks like we did not get to RULE 7.3; there are some strikeouts.

“3. The Party’s nominee for ~~Vice-President shall be chosen by the same procedure as for the Presidential nominee except that the Presidential nominee~~ shall have the privilege of addressing the convention for 5 minutes, after nominations have been made but before voting has begun, for the purpose of endorsing or objecting to any of the nominated Vice-presidential candidates. Nominations for Vice-Presidential

candidates shall close after election of the Party's choice for President.”

Also we do have to vote on the proviso. This does not seem to relate to electronic voting. Would you have objection to us talking about this when we get to standardizing the nomination language? That's what this is under “Nominations”. LATHAM would have full rights to later bring forth.

**LATHAM:** No objection. - In actual bylaws it is 7.4. Will withdraw it.

**BRACCO:** Have a motion. Would move that we add back in everything that is taken out in 7.3.

**HARLOS:** It's been proposed and we can say we are going to consider this at a later time when we deal more broadly with nominations. If there is no objection from the committee and LATHAM didn't seem to have objection, this part of the proposal could be withdrawn and keep it sheerly on electronic balloting and it can be brought up again later. If we do electronic voting, we will do for all of them. RCV is next. Don't think this is going to pass with the electronic balloting proposal. Is there any objection from the rest of the committee? (No Response).

**LATHAM:** No objection. Withdraw.

**HARLOS:** LATHAM withdrew this but he has full rights to introduce at another time. We are going to take one final vote on everything again which will be all of the language we have passed for 6 and adding vote to authorize electronic balloting. Way I am treating this is almost like a motion to reconsider since there is some doubt on the committee as to whether 3 has been passed and these changes to RULE 3 have been passed.

**MOELLMAN:** We amended. We did not pass anything out of committee. We worked on perfecting the language but no final vote.

**HARLOS:** So last part has been withdrawn. There can be further amendments then to RULE 1 which was to add in the vote to electronic balloting which is subject to all rules we just passed including prior notice of the system to be used so that nobody is ambushed on the floor and then RULE 3 which was workshopped at meeting where was not present. Will read out loud as makes it easier to understand sometimes.

“RULE 3.2. Each delegation shall conduct its vote [electronically or](#) by written ballot delivered to the delegation chair who shall tabulate the votes on a delegation tally sheet provided for this purpose. If by written ballot, ~~the~~ delegation chair then

submits the ~~ir~~-delegation's tally sheet ~~with~~-in a sealed envelope containing each of the delegate's ballots to the tellers. When all delegations have submitted their votes, the Convention Chair shall declare the voting closed. After each delegation voting by written ballot has tabulated its own vote totals, before submitting the totals to the Secretary, the tellers shall review the ballot tabulation for accuracy and cosign the delegation totals. After the Secretary or the tellers have recorded all delegation submissions, the state-by-state delegation totals for each candidate or choice shall be displayed on a projection screen for each delegation to review for accuracy. During the period of time allotted for such votes, the business of the convention shall continue without interruption." And then the rest of it is the same. See a problem in RULE 3. It's not written well. Used to say "Each delegation shall conduct its vote by written ballot delivered to the delegation chair". That isn't how we have ever done this. We have never delivered written ballots to the delegation chair. We deliver the delegation tally sheet. This section should say "each delegation should conduct its vote by written ballot. . . But we don't deliver written ballots to delegation chairs. Perhaps SEEBECK and I can take a look at this later and it can be a separate proposal because it doesn't really have anything to do with electronic voting. This is problem in original language which has existed forever. Maybe they consider 3 x 5 cards to be this?

**SEEBECK:** Let's look at this separately 'cause think we did hand out blank index cards to the delegates in the past.

**HARLOS:** But these are not written ballots delivered to the delegation chair. Might be ballot forms? Doesn't have anything to do with electronic balloting. SEEBECK'S been head teller for a while. This needs to be separate proposal so we are not confusing delegates with multiple subjects. Any further debate?

**SEEBECK:** Yes, poorly worded.

#### **FURTHER DEBATE ON RULE 3.2.**

**HARLOS:** Might be doing rework. Have multiple proposals and near end of year we are going to have to do them all together.

**LATHAM:** Yes, poorly worded. The delegates provide written ballots.

**HARLOS:** That makes sense. It could be the giving of the 3 x 5 cards. Now that we have read the language in blue, are there further amendments or further debate

and same goes to No.3 vote to authorize electronic balloting? (No Response). Should that say “vote to authorize whether to authorize electronic balloting”?

**SEEBECK:** That’s implied.

**HARLOS:** Agenda is in our standing rules. Should not be there. What does “vote to adopt agenda” even mean? It’s been adopted; it’s in our convention rules. No. 4 should not exist. Any further amendments or debate? (No Response). This will be final vote on passing everything and moving on to next agenda item. Will do roll call.

ARROWWOOD	NO	
BRACCO	YES	
CIESIELSKI	YES	
HARLOS	ABSTAIN	
LATHAM	YES	
MARTIN	YES	
MOELLMAN	NO	
ROWLETTE	YES	
RUFO	YES	
SEEBECK	ABSTAIN	<b>ADOPTED VOTE 6-2-2</b>

**HARLOS:** Proposal P Passed out of committee. Moving to next agenda item. Add RCV for Party Officers, Amend Convention RULE 8, Proposal R. Have not seen R for quite a while. R was moved ahead. Proposal Q was passed without objection on June 15. Coming up on 15 minutes before meeting will end. Is LATHAM prepared to speak to R now?

#### **DEBATE ON PROPOSAL R**

**HARLOS:** One last thing on Proposal P. There was a Proviso: “This amendment shall take effect upon the final adjournment of the convention at which it is adopted.” Any objection to that proviso we are adding to Proposal P? (No Response) **ADOPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION.**

#### **DEBATE CONTINUED ON PROPOSAL R**

**HARLOS:** Not going to read typical election procedure. Will read inserted. [“a. Officer elections shall be conducted using ranked Choice Voting. For each office, a majority vote of all the ballots cast in that round shall be necessary and sufficient for election. b. Ballots shall allow delegates to rank their choices in order of](#)

preference. c. In cases in which no candidate receives a majority of First Choice votes, the candidate with the fewest votes shall be eliminated and the ballots of voters indicating that eliminated candidate as their First Choice shall be redistributed to the remaining candidates according to the next choice indicated on those ballots. The Secretary and tellers approved by the Secretary shall then recount the ballots. d. If no candidate has a majority of votes cast, the process of eliminating the candidate with the fewest votes, redistributing according to the next choice on those ballots, and then recounting shall be repeated until one candidate has a majority. e. In the event of a tie in any round which makes a difference in which candidate advances, ties shall be broken by retaining the candidate that had the most First Choice votes, and if still a tie, then the most Second Choice votes, etc. If this method results in a tie up through the current round, the tie shall be broken randomly f. The Secretary shall retain the record of all voting rounds and make it available to delegates upon request. g. The Chair shall announce the winner of the election after votes have been fully tabulated. The Chair's announcement of the election outcome shall include results from each voting round."

**MOELLMAN:** Move to amend this to "a. All Officer elections other than President shall be conducted using RCV." \_ Want to bring back the language we struck and put it in here as an amendment because we need to separate that. Then what is currently 1 "a" would no longer be a subset of 1. Will have its own number and –can't see the full text because on my phone but – want a real number there and then all of the letters under that will change and the word **Officer** will currently be struck in "a" --

**HARLOS:** This is a very substantive amendment and we are down to five minutes.

**MOELLMAN:** Agree. We will not get very far. Will withdraw my motion since I didn't finish making it. Will stop and say "never mind". Will write this up and email it. That way committee can consider it in next two week or whenever we meet again or in between if they so choose. Believe there is appetite to do this for every race except for President and that's why was making the motion. We can talk about that after this meeting adjourns to see if that's true and because don't want to waste any further time.

**HARLOS:** Here's what would suggest. There are some thing in here inconsistent potentially with electronic voting. Would highly suggest that somebody postpone



this to allow workshopping opportunities. I did give LATHAM some thoughts and MOELLMAN might have some. All on the mechanics of how RCV works, personally don't think it's necessary as there is already a definition and this is way too wordy. Others might disagree. Highly suggest we move to postpone this.

**BRACCO:** No motion. Want to comment. Go down to "e", very last thing "the tie shall be broken randomly". What does that mean? Need specificity there. Coin flip? Dice? But something specific.

**HARLOS:** Never had that before. Have a custom in the party and custom is fine if it doesn't conflict with the rules and the Secretary has a 20-sided die. That's been a long-standing custom in party as long as anyone remembers. Think we can use technical language of forward tie breaking or backward tie breaking is what this is trying to describe. Think committee needs to research both forms of tie breaking to see which they prefer.

**RODGERS:** Can we see "d" on the screen? Sounded like when we remove a candidate for having the fewest votes, it sounded like it was only on the first round. For subsequent rounds, we are keeping all candidates in for all further subsequent rounds? That probably needs to be clarified in our future discussion too. Should keep removing the lowest candidate at each round rather than just the first.

**HARLOS:** Also no provision for NOTA. Have to make a decision on that and that's a huge division in the party.

**LATHAM:** Can I move to make that quick change to "g" to swap out ~~Secretary~~ with Chair in two places?

**HARLOS:** You can. Let me ask: is there any objection in "g" to substitute Chair for ~~Secretary?~~ (No Response) **ADOPTED WITHOUT OBJECTION.**

**MOELLMAN:** Elsewhere it says something about the Secretary shall display on a screen?

**HARLOS:** That's an announcement of the winner of an election. We are out of time. There will be all kinds of amendment to this. We all realize this is going to get amended a lot. Only amendment we can't make is to put back in "Secretary" unless we do a motion to reconsider. Don't need a motion to postpone because we are out of time. Unless there is a motion to extend time, this can be worked on on the list. Is there a motion to extend time? (No Response). No motion to extend time. We will

pick up here understanding that people will be proposing alternate language perhaps on the list. Chair declares this meeting adjourned at 10:47 PM ET.

**DRAFT ONLY 8-13 3:00 pm 8-14 at 11:15 AM 8-14 AT NOON**