

Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Ohio

(As amended on May 21, 2005 at the annual state convention).

[Preamble](#)

[Article IV - Officers](#)

[Article I - Membership](#)

[Article V - Local Organizations](#)

[Article II - Conventions](#)

[Article VI - Miscellaneous](#)

[Article III - Executive Committee](#)

[Article VII - Amendments](#)

Preamble ([Back to top](#))

We, members of the Libertarian Party of Ohio, in order to nominate, endorse, and candidates, and to support issues best representative of the ideals of libertarianism (as set the [Statement of Principles](#) of the Libertarian Party of the U.S.A.), do hereby create this organization to be known as the Libertarian Party of Ohio (herein referred to as "the Party" ordain and establish this Constitution.

Article I - Membership ([Back to top](#))

Section 1. Membership dues and applications may be set at any time by a majority vote of the Executive Committee except that no increase shall be made retroactive and that no dues refunded for any reason whatsoever (unless membership has been denied under Section 3).

Section 2. Membership shall be accepted from any person either residing in Ohio or active in a state, regional or county organization of the Libertarian Party of Ohio who certifies, "I hereby certify that I do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force as a means of achieving political goals" and pays the proper dues.

Section 3. Membership may be denied by a majority vote of the Executive Committee for which shall be so stated to the applicant in writing. Such a denial shall be maintained even if the applicant is a member of the National Libertarian Party.

A. Any denial of membership may be appealed to the next Convention by the introduction of an appropriate motion by any two delegates.

B. A two-thirds vote of the Convention is required to overrule the decision of the Executive Committee.

Section 4. A member of the Party may be expelled by a three-fourths vote of the Executive Committee. The member shall be notified in writing that the action by the Executive Committee being contemplated, of the reasons for it, and be given a reasonable opportunity to appear and produce evidence and witnesses in his own behalf before any vote on expulsion is taken. If expelled, membership in the LPO cannot be regained through membership in the Libertarian Party.

A. If the Executive Committee expels a member, that person and a representative of the Executive Committee shall be given an opportunity to address the next Convention. Either shall have the right to call for a vote upon the expulsion.

B. If a majority of the delegates vote to overturn the expulsion then that person shall immediately regain membership.

Article II - Conventions ([Back to top](#))

Section 1. All persons who have been members of the Party for thirty days shall be eligible for each Convention, provided that they are duly registered for that Convention.

A. A quorum for each Convention shall be a majority of the delegates registered.

B. The procedure for registration shall be set forth in the Bylaws.

C. Each delegate shall have one vote on each issue.

Section 2. The Party shall hold an Annual Convention, the date and site being selected by the Executive Committee.

Section 3. A special convention shall be held upon petition of one-third of the members of the Party or three-fourths of the Executive Committee.

A. A notice of thirty days shall be given for a special convention.

B. The notice shall state the business of a special convention, as the petition has demanded. No other business shall be considered at such convention.

Article III - Executive Committee ([Back to top](#))

Section 1. The Executive Committee of the Party (hereinafter referred to as "the Executive Committee") shall consist of:

A. the Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, and Secretary of the Party, and

B. the Immediate Past Chair, and

C. two Representatives elected from each of the Party's regions.

D. One Representative from each county chapter.

Section 2. The Executive Committee shall have control of, and responsibility for, all business of the Party, and may create such committees as it deems necessary.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall meet once in each three-month period.

A. Special meetings may be called by the Chair or upon petition of one-third of its members.

B. Save in an emergency, all members of the Executive Committee shall be given not less than one nor more than three weeks notice of each meeting and its business.

C. A standard quorum of the Executive Committee shall be deemed as over fifty percent of eligible voting members. For example, if 15 members are eligible to vote, a minimum

attending members shall be a standard quorum. If a standard quorum is not present at a regularly scheduled meeting, official business may still be conducted under a special meeting with the following two restrictions: (1) for every recorded vote, a number of NO votes equal to the whole number difference between a standard quorum and the number of members present shall be entered in addition to the votes of the members present; (2) at least two-thirds of the standard quorum shall be required to establish a special quorum. For example, if 15 members are required for a standard quorum and only 13 members are present, two additional NO votes are required for a standard quorum and only 13 members are present, two additional NO votes shall be entered for every recorded vote. Special quorum rules only apply to non-regularly scheduled meetings; if a standard quorum is not present at a special meeting, no official business may be conducted.

Article IV - Officers ([Back to top](#))

Section 1. The officers of the Party shall be a Chair, a Vice-Chair, a Treasurer, and a Secretary, whom shall:

- A. be, and remain throughout their term of office, members of the Party;
- B. be elected at the Annual Convention, and serve (unless removed) until close of the next Annual Convention;
- C. not hold more than one voting position on the Executive Committee at any one time;
- D. be prepared (at the end of each term of office) to turn over all equipment and records of the Party to their successor; and
- E. be removed from office in the same manner as a member is expelled (Article I, Section 1), except that there is no appeal to a convention.

Section 2. The Chair shall be the chief executive officer of the Party, shall chair all Executive Committee meetings, and may (subject to direction by the Executive Committee) direct all other officers.

Section 3. The Vice-Chair shall assist the Chair in the performance of his duties, at the discretion of the Chair. The Vice-Chair shall assume the office of Chair in the absence or vacancy of that office.

Section 4. The Treasurer shall receive, expend, and account for all funds of the Party; and shall maintain the official roster of members of the Party."

Section 5. The Secretary shall be recording officer of the Party and have responsibility for implementing all official communications of and within the Party.

- A. The Secretary shall keep a book of standing rules which shall serve as a record of the Party of the Libertarian Party of Ohio.
- B. Standing rules may be created, altered, or abolished by a majority vote of the Executive Committee.
- C. All standing rules shall have a term of no more than two years. After the term has expired, a standing rule shall be automatically repealed unless the Executive Committee votes to re-enact the rule for an additional term.

Section 6. A vacancy in the office of Chair, Vice-Chair, Treasurer, or Secretary shall be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term by secret ballot of the Executive Committee. A vacancy in any other office shall be filled in the same manner as the original choice.

A. The resignation of the Chair shall not displace the position of Immediate Past Chair. A resigning Chair shall lose voting status and the Immediate Past Chair shall retain title and status.

Section 7. An officer may appoint such assistants as the officer deems necessary. Such assistants shall be responsible to, and serve at the pleasure of, the appointer.

Section 8. All individuals appointed by the Executive Committee shall serve a one-year term. At the end of that term the appointee shall provide a report to the Committee that shall include a list of activities and accomplishments since the last report and a plan for further progress in their position. The Executive Committee shall review the report with their appointee present to answer any questions the committee may have. At the conclusion of this review, the Executive Committee shall vote to appoint the individual of their choice.

Section 9. The Executive Committee may hire a State Director after each Annual Convention. The State Director shall serve at the pleasure of the Executive Committee. The duties of the State Director may include lobbying, managing petition drives, and assisting the Executive Committee in such administrative duties as it may choose.

Section 10. Region Chairs and Representatives shall maintain communication with the Executive Committee and their regional members. Regional officers' duties shall include support and development of county chapters within their regions.

Article V - Local Organizations ([Back to top](#))

Section 1. The Party shall be divided into no less than four and no more than eight regions set forth in the Bylaws.

A. No county shall be divided between regions.

B. No member of the Executive Committee shall lose his vote thereon because of an amendment in the regional boundaries.

Section 2. Each region shall:

A. elect a Chair and Regional Representative each year prior to the annual state convention.

Those regional officers shall have the responsibility of calling for elections once a year for a Chair and Region Representative within their regions. Each member shall receive at least 10 days notice of the election, and secret ballots shall be used in those elections.

B. maintain an accurate and up-to-date list of officers (each of whom must be, and remain a member of the Party) with the Secretary of the Party; and

C. set up such organization as it deems necessary.

Section 3. The Executive Committee shall charter one County Committee in each county.

provided that:

- A. such charter shall be petitioned as provided in the Bylaws;
- B. no charter shall be granted to fewer than ten members of the Party.
- C. a Chartered County Committee shall have such powers and duties as are set forth in the Bylaws; and
- D. the procedures for removing a Charter shall be set forth in the Bylaws, provided that removal may be appealed to the next convention.

Section 4. Failure to call and hold elections at least once per year will result in the regional seats being declared vacant. The state Executive Committee shall then issue a call for elections in that region as described in this Article and shall monitor, or designate another Libertarian Party of Ohio member to monitor the outcome.

Section 5. A county chair, region chair, or region representative (referred to as local leaders) removed from their position by a 3/4 vote of the Executive Committee. Three (3) members of the Executive Committee must state the reasons and recommend in writing or in electronic form the removal of a local leader. The local leader shall be notified in writing or electronic form at least two weeks in advance that the action by the Executive Committee is being contemplated, of the date for it, and be given a reasonable opportunity to appear and produce evidence and witnesses on their own behalf before any vote on removal and suspension is taken. The Executive Committee shall prohibit that member from holding an office which entitles a seat on the Executive Committee for up to five years or for an indefinite period of time. The suspension may be altered or reversed by a simple majority vote of the convention or a 2/3 majority vote of the Executive Committee. Upon removal of an officer, the Executive Committee shall then issue a call for elections in that county and shall monitor, or designate another Libertarian Party of Ohio member to monitor the outcome.

Article VI - Miscellaneous [\(Back to top\)](#)

Section 1. There shall be a set of Bylaws, in conformity with this Constitution, which shall be adopted, changed, and repealed by:

- A. a majority vote of a Convention, or
- B. a two-thirds vote of the Executive Committee, provided that a copy of the proposal be mailed to each member of the Executive Committee at least one week prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered.

Section 2. The Party is now, and shall seek to retain its status as, the only officially affiliated Libertarian Party of the U.S.A. in Ohio.

Section 3. No member of the Executive Committee, or officer of a local organization (Article 10) shall support or endorse any candidate running in opposition to a candidate endorsed by the Party of the U.S.A.

Section 4. All Party meetings shall be open to any member of the Party.

Section 5. On all ballots, all proposals shall provide the alternative: "None of the above".

Article VII - Amendments [\(Back to top\)](#)

Section 1. The Executive Committee may, by unanimous vote, make non-substantive changes in order to correct errors in standard American usage or numbering.

Section 2. Any two delegates to any Convention may propose an amendment to this Constitution in writing.

Section 3. An amendment shall be adopted by a two-thirds vote of the delegates registered at the annual business meeting of any Convention and shall take effect upon the close of that Convention unless the amendment states that it shall take effect immediately upon adoption, in which case it shall require a three-fourths vote of the delegates attending the annual business meeting.

Section 4. The Libertarian Party of Ohio may charter a County Development Group in which it does not currently have an established Chartered County Committee, for the purpose of creating an organized group which will work towards developing into a Chartered County Committee. The County Development Group:

- A. shall consist of one or more Libertarian Party of Ohio members in good standing who represent the county represented, and maintain a leader of the group, to be called a County Coordinator;
- B. shall have all the powers and duties as set forth by the Executive Committee;
- C. shall have their Charter removed under procedures and conditions as set by the Executive Committee;
- D. shall not be entitled to any revenue sharing, nor have a voting representative on the Executive Committee, nor endorse any candidate without the prior approval of the Libertarian Party of Ohio or the Libertarian Party of the USA.

Section 5. No member of the Executive Committee shall be entitled to more than one vote, and no member of the Executive Committee shall cast a vote by proxy.

Certification: I hereby certify that this is, to the best of my knowledge, a complete and correct copy of the Constitution of the Libertarian Party of Ohio currently in effect as last amended on 7/24/2005 at the annual state convention.

David Mooter, Secretary of the LPO