

1. All Montana LP membership forms shall bear the following statement – “Members of the Montana Libertarian Party do not believe in or advocate the initiation of force or fraud by individuals or governments as a means of achieving political goals.”
2. Dues shall be voluntary. Suggested Montana LP dues shall be \$10 per year for regular or student membership, \$25.00 per year for sustaining membership and \$100.00 per year for Benefactor membership. Contributions within the last year shall count as dues. Membership shall continue upon annual contribution of dues or annual written affirmation of membership.
3. In order for a member to vote at any future party meetings or convention, he must have been a member for at least thirty days prior to the meeting or convention.
4. A meeting of the State Central Committee must be called quarterly by the State Chair or may be called by any three members of the State Central Committee upon two weeks notice to the entire CC.
5. Any expenditures of more than fifty dollars shall be signed or approved in writing by two of the elected officers.
6. Local city or county chapters of the party may be charted in any areas in which there are five or more members, at their request.
7. County Chairpersons shall be appointed in each county in which there are five or more Party members, and where no election for this office has been held by Party members within the last eighteen months.
8. The rules contained in the current edition of Alice Sturgis’ Rules of Parliamentary Procedure shall govern the Party in all cases to which they are applicable and in which they are not inconsistent with the Party constitution, Bylaws and Convention Rules or any special rules in order.
9. The Montana Libertarian Party shall have a Platform Committee consisting of a Chairman and two members elected at each regular convention of the Party, three members appointed by the Party Chair after the convention, and all members of the Central Committee of the Party. The Platform Committee shall meet at the request of its chair or any four members, and shall be charged with drafting a Platform for the next regular Party convention to deal with.

## **Platform Rules**

The current Platform shall serve as the basis of all future platforms. At regular Conventions, the existing Platform may be amended. Additional planks or additions to planks must be approved by two-thirds of the delegates present and voting. A Platform plank may be deleted by a simple majority of the delegates present and voting. The Platform Committee shall meet to consider proposed amendments, prior to the convention, and shall issue a report to the convention. Its recommendations shall be debated and voted upon separately, in the following order:

- A. Those recommendations receiving a unanimous favorable vote in Committee;
- B. Those recommendations receiving a unanimous favorable vote, less abstentions, in Committee
- C. Those recommendations receiving a favorable majority vote from the Committee, regarding which there is no minority report. (A minority report shall be defined as a report submitted to the Convention and Platform Committee Chairs in writing, by three or more members of the Platform committee.)

- D. Those recommendations receiving a favorable majority vote from the committee, but with a minority report attached.

Recommendations falling into the first three categories shall be debated and voted upon in the following manner:

- A. The Platform Committee Chair, or some other person designated by him or her, shall read the proposed recommendations, and shall have up to two minutes to give the Committee's thinking in formulating the recommendations.
- B. The Convention Chair shall then open the recommendation to discussion, for a period of 15 minutes. Amendments may be proposed from the floor, one at a time. The delegates shall then vote on proposed amendments, with a simple majority sufficient to amend. At the end of 15 minutes, a vote shall be taken on whether to bring the recommendation (as amended, if this is the case) to a final vote for acceptance or rejection. If a majority vote is in favor of immediate consideration, the vote to accept or rejection. If a majority vote is in favor of immediate consideration, the proposed recommendation shall be tabled for later consideration, after all other recommendations receiving favorable majority vote from the Platform Committee have been considered.

When all recommendations in the first three categories have received at least initial consideration, those in the fourth category shall be considered, in the following manner:

Spokesmen for both the Majority and Minority positions shall each have two minutes to present their views. The chair shall then open consideration of both positions for five minutes, during which time any delegate may express his or her views, but without offering amendments to either the Majority or Minority report. After five minutes, there shall be a vote on which of the two reports shall be considered for purposes of adopting a recommendation. The report receiving the greater number of votes shall then be discussed and voted upon in the manner described above.

After all recommendations receiving a favorable vote from the majority of the Platform Committee have received at least initial consideration, any delegate may propose any Platform change from the floor. He or she may take up to two minutes to state and explain his or her proposal, with debating and voting procedure as described above.

Finally, if time permits proposals which are considered by the Platform Committee may be considered, with a spokesman for the minority position giving the reasons in favor, and the Platform Committee Chair—or some other representative of the majority position—giving the reasons why it was voted down, before the proposal is taken to the floor to debate.

Since at the 1981 regular convention of the Montana Libertarian Party there is no existing Platform, the working draft for the Platform as amended in Platform Committee June 14<sup>th</sup>, 1981, shall be reported to the floor on a plank-by-plank basis as additional planks, and debated and voted upon as set out above.

10. The Montana Libertarian Party shall select delegates to the National Libertarian Party Convention as follows:

At the last regular convention of delegate will be nominated from the floor. To be eligible for nomination, they must have been members in good standing of the Montana Libertarian Party for at least 30 days before the beginning of the state convention.

After the close of nominations, all eligible Montana Libertarian Party members shall vote by secret ballot for a number of delegates equal to one-third or less, if Montana were allotted 11 delegates, party members would vote for four or less. A ballot may be cast for none of the above only.

Should NOTA receive more voted than the person receiving the highest number of votes, Montana will have no delegates to the National Convention.

Otherwise, the first allotted delegate position shall be filled by the person receiving the highest vote total, the second allotted delegate position shall be filled by the person receiving the highest vote total, etc., until all delegate positions have been filled.

All those nominated who have not been elected and who have received at least one vote will become alternate delegates.

The alternate delegate who received the highest vote total among those not elected delegates will become the first alternate, the alternate who received the second highest vote total among those not elected delegates will become the second alternate delegate, etc.

In the event of ties between delegates, a toss of a coin shall determine ranking.

In the event of a tie for last delegate position(s) and first alternate positions(s) a runoff election shall be held immediately by secret ballot of those voting in the previous election of delegates. The results of this runoff election shall determine the last delegate(s) and rank of the first alternate(s).

If any Montana delegate is absent from the National Convention, or from the floor of the National Convention, the highest ranking alternate present and not already replacing another delegate shall take the place of the missing delegate and the vote in his/her stead until he/she appears.

If there are not sufficient delegates and alternates from Montana at the National Convention, or on the floor of the National Convention at some time to cast Montana's allotted votes, then any member of the Montana Libertarian Party who has been a member of said party for 90 days preceding the opening of the National Convention shall be eligible to serve as an acting alternate delegate if he/she is present on the convention floor and so wishes.

11. The Montana Libertarian Party shall have a party historian, who shall maintain the party archives, a newsletter editor, and a membership and mailing list secretary. These individuals may be elected at any regular convention of the Party. In the event of a vacancy in any of these positions, the Party Chair in consultation with the Central Committee shall attempt to fill that vacancy by appointment.
12. At the second regular Central Committee meeting prior to the annual convention, Central Committee shall form a committee of three members to decide if the Lee Pyette Memorial Award should be awarded at the annual convention and, if so, to whom.
13. Bylaws may be amended by a simple majority of those voting at any State Party meeting or convention.
14. The Party Secretary shall number and organize the Party Bylaws each time Bylaws are added.