



Report of the Bylaws and Rules Committee  
to the delegates of the  
Libertarian National Convention of 2016, Orlando, Florida  
Proposals Adopted 15 November 2015  
(with explanatory language revised 01 January 2016 by the Rationale Subcommittee)

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## Remove Unnecessary Article 2: Period of Duration

Adopted 9-0

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<b>ARTICLE 2: PERIOD OF DURATION</b> The duration of the Party shall be perpetual.	<del><b>ARTICLE 2: PERIOD OF DURATION</b></del> <del>The duration of the Party shall be perpetual.</del>	

Rationale: *Bylaws need not be cluttered with unnecessary language. One unnecessary article is Article 2: Period of Duration.*

*This is already addressed in the Articles of Incorporation adopted when the Libertarian National Committee, Inc. filed its corporate formation documents in 1995. It states in the second article that "The period of duration is perpetual."*

## Eliminate Non-Regular Conventions from Bylaws

Adopted 9-0

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p>1. Regular Conventions: The Party shall hold a Regular Convention every two years, at a time and place selected by the National Committee. Regular Conventions shall be held sometime during the period of July of an odd-numbered year through August of an even-numbered year. All business required to be conducted at Regular Conventions shall be conducted at Regular Conventions only.</p> <p>2. Non-Regular Conventions: In any year which does not include a Regular Convention, a non-regular convention may be held at the discretion of the National Committee.</p> <p>3. Delegates: a. 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. At all Non-Regular Conventions, any person who wishes to attend may do so.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p>1. Regular Conventions: The Party shall hold a Regular Convention every two years, at a time and place selected by the National Committee. Regular Conventions shall be held sometime during the period of July of an odd-numbered year through August of an even-numbered year. All business required to be conducted at Regular Conventions shall be conducted at Regular Conventions only.</p> <p><del>2. Non-Regular Conventions: In any year which does not include a Regular Convention, a non-regular convention may be held at the discretion of the National Committee.</del></p> <p>3. Delegates: a. 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. <del>At all Non-Regular Conventions, any person who wishes to attend may do so.</del></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p>1. Regular Conventions: The Party shall hold a Regular Convention every two years, at a time and place selected by the National Committee. Regular Conventions shall be held sometime during the period of July of an odd-numbered year through August of an even-numbered year. All business required to be conducted at Regular Conventions shall be conducted at Regular Conventions only.</p> <p>2. Delegates: a. 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.</p>

Proviso: *This amendment shall take effect upon the final adjournment of the convention at which it is adopted.*

Rationale:

(1) *The Party has not held a non-regular convention since 1978.*

(2) *In the absence of this language, nothing prohibits the National Committee from organizing informal gatherings where no official business takes place.*

## Delete Redundant Article 12.6.c

Adopted 9-0

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 12: OTHER COMMITTEES</b></p> <p>6. Committee Procedures</p> <p>a. A majority vote of those Committee members present is necessary for a "do pass" recommendation, and in the case of the Platform Committee, a majority must approve each specific plank separately.</p> <p>b. Four or more members of the Platform Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding any plank reported to the floor of the Convention. Two or more members of the Bylaws and Rules Committee or of the Credentials Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding their business.</p> <p>c. A majority of the membership of each committee shall constitute a quorum.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 12: OTHER COMMITTEES</b></p> <p>6. Committee Procedures</p> <p>a. A majority vote of those Committee members present is necessary for a "do pass" recommendation, and in the case of the Platform Committee, a majority must approve each specific plank separately.</p> <p><del>b.</del> Four or more members of the Platform Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding any plank reported to the floor of the Convention. Two or more members of the Bylaws and Rules Committee or of the Credentials Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding their business.</p> <p><del>e.b. A majority of the membership of each committee shall constitute a quorum.</del></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 12: OTHER COMMITTEES</b></p> <p>6. Committee Procedures</p> <p>a. A majority vote of those Committee members present is necessary for a "do pass" recommendation, and in the case of the Platform Committee, a majority must approve each specific plank separately.</p> <p>b. Four or more members of the Platform Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding any plank reported to the floor of the Convention. Two or more members of the Bylaws and Rules Committee or of the Credentials Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding their business.</p>

Rationale: *As our parliamentary authority, Robert's Rules already provides that a majority is a quorum in the absence of a bylaw to the contrary.*

## Verification of Delegation Vote Totals

Adopted 9-0

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
	<p><b><u>RULE 10: VERIFICATION OF DELEGATION VOTE TOTALS</u></b></p> <p><u>For each vote in which subtotals are submitted by delegation, each delegation shall conduct its vote by written ballot. After each delegation has tabulated its own vote totals, before submitting the totals to the Secretary, tellers approved by the Secretary shall review the ballot tabulation for accuracy and cosign the delegation totals. After the Secretary has 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.</u></p>	<p><b>RULE 10: VERIFICATION OF DELEGATION VOTE TOTALS</b></p> <p>For each vote in which subtotals are submitted by delegation, each delegation shall conduct its vote by written ballot. After each delegation has tabulated its own vote totals, before submitting the totals to the Secretary, tellers approved by the Secretary shall review the ballot tabulation for accuracy and cosign the delegation totals. After the Secretary has 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.</p>

*Rationale: Because elections at our conventions are manually tabulated by humans, mistakes inevitably occur. Even the best-intentioned human makes mistakes, especially under time pressures. These mistakes have the potential for changing the outcome of an election. Sometimes the errors are caught onsite during the election, but sometimes they are not. Our conventions tend to not scrutinize election totals a second time unless the race seems to be close, but this approach is based on the erroneous assumption that any mistakes would be of a small magnitude, though large mistakes are just as easy to make as small ones.*

*An appendix to the minutes of the 2014 national convention documents that during that convention, one officer was mistakenly declared elected when the correct results indicated it was a tie, and the convention should have undertaken another round of voting. In the 2014 At-Large race, 12.5% of the state chairs made errors in their tabulations. In the 2014 Judicial Committee race, 15.15% of the state chairs made errors in their tabulations. Numerous other examples can be cited from numerous other years.*

*To increase the likelihood of finding these errors during the election process, this proposal would require that state delegation totals be double-checked by a second person, and also that those totals be reviewed on projection screens once they have been transferred into the Secretary's tabulation system.*

## Define in Advance the Party's Agreement with Presidential Campaign Adopted 9-0

Require the National Committee to publish in advance a contract stating what the Party will do to support the candidate should he or she become the nominee and what the nominee will do for the Party. The candidate need not sign the contract until he or she arrives at the Convention, so this proposal does not foreclose the possibility of a last-minute “dark horse” candidate.

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
	<p><b>ARTICLE 15: PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS</b></p> <p><u>3. Not less than six months prior to each Presidential Nominating Convention, the National Committee shall publish the contract specifying the terms by which the Party and the Presidential and Vice-presidential campaign shall assist and support each other. The Chair shall sign on behalf of the Party with each person who otherwise qualifies and desires to be our candidate. Only those persons who have signed prior to the close of nominations and are in compliance with the contract shall be recognized as candidates and be eligible to be nominated for President or Vice-President.</u></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 15: PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS</b></p> <p>3. Not less than six months prior to each Presidential Nominating Convention, the National Committee shall publish the contract specifying the terms by which the Party and the Presidential and Vice-presidential campaign shall assist and support each other. The Chair shall sign on behalf of the Party with each person who otherwise qualifies and desires to be our candidate. Only those persons who have signed prior to the close of nominations and are in compliance with the contract shall be recognized as candidates and be eligible to be nominated for President or Vice-President.</p>

*Proviso: This amendment shall take effect upon the final adjournment of the convention at which it is adopted. The contract presented as an attachment shall be in effect unless it is revised by the LNC.*

*Rationale: The Bylaws specify that the National Committee must provide "full support" to the national candidate selected by the delegates. Sometimes the Presidential nominee does not know what to reasonably expect from the Party, nor does he or she understand what corresponding duty his or her campaign has to the Party. Such a situation can leave both sides disappointed.*

*We have had problems with previous Presidential campaigns because we did not have this bylaw in place. The Bob Barr campaign refused to sign an agreement with the National Committee, so the Party was never given the opportunity to solicit that campaign's donors for Party membership. The Gary Johnson campaign wanted to sign an agreement, but the National*

*Committee didn't craft one until almost two months after the nomination and that delayed integrating the campaign's efforts with the national headquarters.*

*Having an agreement published in advance makes it clear to all parties what should be reasonably expected of each. And upon nomination, the Party shall already have a contract with the nominee, so time can be better spent campaigning, rather than negotiating support.*

*If the National Committee and the Presidential campaign later conclude that the standard agreement is suboptimal, they are free to amend that agreement after the nomination by mutual consent.*



## Clarify the Role and Composition of the Audit Committee

Adopted 9-0

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 10: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING</b></p> <p>1. The fiscal term of the Party shall begin on January 1 of each year. From January 1 until the National Committee has approved a budget, the Treasurer may authorize expenditures for any item incorporated in the previous year's budget as long as the level of expenditure is consistent with that budget.</p> <p>2. The National Committee shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be installed and maintained. Financial statements of the Party shall be prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Audits shall be performed annually by an independent auditor. The non-officer members of the National Committee shall appoint a standing Audit Committee of three members with power to select the independent auditor. One member shall be a non-officer member of the National Committee and the other two shall not be members of the National Committee. The Audit Committee shall clarify for the National Committee any recommendations made by the auditor.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 10: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING</b></p> <p>1. The fiscal term of the Party shall begin on January 1 of each year. From January 1 until the National Committee has approved a budget, the Treasurer may authorize expenditures for any item incorporated in the previous year's budget as long as the level of expenditure is consistent with that budget.</p> <p>2. The National Committee shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be installed and maintained. Financial statements of the Party shall be prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Audits shall be performed annually by an independent auditor.</p> <p><u>3. Audit Committee.</u> The non-officer members of the National Committee shall appoint a standing Audit Committee of three members with power to <del>select</del> <u>engage</u> the independent auditor. One member <del>shall</del> <u>may</u> be <u>either</u> a non-officer member <u>or</u> <u>an alternate</u> of the National Committee and the other two shall not be members <u>or</u> <u>alternates</u> of the National Committee. <u>The officers and employees of the Party shall have no authority to contravene the Audit Committee's instructions to the auditor.</u> The Audit Committee shall clarify for the National Committee any recommendations made by the auditor.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 10: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING</b></p> <p>1. The fiscal term of the Party shall begin on January 1 of each year. From January 1 until the National Committee has approved a budget, the Treasurer may authorize expenditures for any item incorporated in the previous year's budget as long as the level of expenditure is consistent with that budget.</p> <p>2. The National Committee shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be installed and maintained. Financial statements of the Party shall be prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Audits shall be performed annually by an independent auditor.</p> <p>3. Audit Committee. The non-officer members of the National Committee shall appoint a standing Audit Committee of three members with power to engage the independent auditor. One member may be either a non-officer member or an alternate of the National Committee and the other two shall not be members or alternates of the National Committee. The officers and employees of the Party shall have no authority to contravene the Audit Committee's instructions to the auditor. The Audit Committee shall clarify for the National Committee any recommendations made by the auditor.</p>

Rationale: *This proposal has several purposes:*

- 1) *It clarifies that National Committee alternates may serve on the Audit Committee.*
- 2) *It makes clear that the Audit Committee engages the outside auditors, not just selects them.*

- 3) *It spells out that the officers and employees may not interfere with the working relationship between the Audit Committee and outside auditors. However, the non-officer members of the National Committee are specifically not mentioned, so that they retain the right to rein in an out-of-control Audit Committee.*

## Re-Authorize LNC Establishment of Dues with a Two-Thirds Vote

Adopted 9-0

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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.</li> <li>2. The National Committee may offer life memberships, and must honor all prior and future life memberships.</li> <li>3. "Sustaining member" is any Party member who has given at least \$25 to the Party in the prior twelve months, or who is a life member.</li> <li>4. The National Committee may create other levels of membership and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.</li> <li>5. Higher levels of contribution by or on behalf of a Party member qualify as sustaining member status for any provision of these Bylaws.</li> <li>6. Only sustaining members shall be counted for delegate apportionment and National Committee representation. Only sustaining members shall be eligible to hold National Party office or be a candidate for President or Vice-President.</li> </ol>	<p><b>ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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.</li> <li>2. The National Committee may offer life memberships, and must honor all prior and future life memberships.</li> <li><del>3. "Sustaining member" is any Party member who has given at least \$25 to the Party in the prior twelve months, or who is a life member.</del></li> <li><del>4. The National Committee may create other levels of membership and shall determine the contribution or dues levels for such memberships.</del></li> <li><del>5. Higher levels of contribution by or on behalf of a Party member qualify as sustaining member status for any provision of these Bylaws.</del></li> <li><del>6. Only sustaining members shall be counted for delegate apportionment and National Committee representation. Only sustaining members shall be eligible to hold National Party office or be a candidate for President or Vice-President.</del></li> <li><u>3. "Sustaining members" are members of the Party who:</u> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><u>a. During the prior twelve months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$25 prescribed by a two-thirds vote of the National Committee; or</u></li> <li><u>b. Are Life members.</u></li> </ol> </li> </ol>	<p><b>ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 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.</li> <li>2. The National Committee may offer life memberships, and must honor all prior and future life memberships.</li> <li>3. "Sustaining members" are members of the Party who:             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. During the prior twelve months have donated, or have had donated on their behalf, an amount of at least \$25 prescribed by a two-thirds vote of the National Committee; or</li> <li>b. Are Life members.</li> </ol> </li> </ol>

<p><b>ARTICLE 15: PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS</b></p> <p>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 member of the Party. A stand-in is an individual who has agreed to be placed on a state affiliate's nomination petition prior to the selection of nominees by the Libertarian Party at Convention.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 15: PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS</b></p> <p>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 <b>sustaining</b> member of the Party. A stand-in is an individual who has agreed to be placed on a state affiliate's nomination petition prior to the selection of nominees by the Libertarian Party at Convention.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 15: PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGNS</b></p> <p>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. A stand-in is an individual who has agreed to be placed on a state affiliate's nomination petition prior to the selection of nominees by the Libertarian Party at Convention.</p>
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*Proviso: The dues for a Sustaining Member shall remain at \$25 until and unless a change is adopted by a two-thirds vote of the National Committee.*

Rationale:

*(1) Back in 2004/2005 the National Committee, with a bare majority, first increased dues from \$25 to \$50, and several months later decreased dues from \$50 to \$0. In response, the Bylaws Committee proposed – and the delegates at the 2006 convention adopted – a bylaw change setting the dues at \$25, not taking into account future debasement of the U.S. Dollar. In hindsight, we believe this was the wrong solution to a legitimate problem. Instead, we propose returning the setting of dues to the National Committee, but only allow changes to dues be enacted with a two-thirds vote.*

*(2) We are also taking this opportunity to clean up the existing language, eliminate redundancy and correct a conflicting provision. The following redundant items in Article 5.6 are addressed elsewhere in the bylaws:*

- *Sustaining membership requirements for delegate apportionment (Article 11.4)*
- *Sustaining membership requirements for national committee representation (Article 8.2.c)*
- *Sustaining membership requirements to hold national party office (Articles 7.1 and 8.4)*

*Article 5.6 requires that our candidate for President be a sustaining member, while Article 15.2 does not. We are correcting Article 15.2.*

## Elect Officers at Mid-Term Conventions

Adopted 9-0

Elect officers to four-year terms at the Mid-Term Convention and make them subject to recall if delegates conclude that they are not performing well.

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p>1. Regular Conventions: The Party shall hold a Regular Convention every two years, at a time and place selected by the National Committee. Regular Conventions shall be held sometime during the period of July of an odd-numbered year through August of an even-numbered year. All business required to be conducted at Regular Conventions shall be conducted at Regular Conventions only.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p>1. Regular Conventions: The Party shall hold a Regular Convention every two years, at a time and place selected by the National Committee. Regular Conventions shall be held sometime during the period of July of an odd-numbered year through August of an even-numbered year. All business required to be conducted at Regular Conventions shall be conducted at Regular Conventions only. <u>The Regular Convention held between Presidential Nominating Conventions shall be a Mid-Term Convention.</u></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p>1. Regular Conventions: The Party shall hold a Regular Convention every two years, at a time and place selected by the National Committee. Regular Conventions shall be held sometime during the period of July of an odd-numbered year through August of an even-numbered year. All business required to be conducted at Regular Conventions shall be conducted at Regular Conventions only. The Regular Convention held between Presidential Nominating Conventions shall be a Mid-Term Convention.</p>
<p><b>ARTICLE 7: OFFICERS</b></p> <p>1. The officers of the Party shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Chair,</li> <li>o Vice-Chair,</li> <li>o Secretary, and</li> <li>o Treasurer.</li> </ul> <p>All of these officers shall be elected Convention of the Party, shall take office immediately upon the close of the Convention and shall serve thereafter until the final adjournment of the next Regular Convention. No person shall serve as an officer who is not a sustaining member of the Party.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 7: OFFICERS</b></p> <p>1. The officers of the Party shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Chair,</li> <li>o Vice-Chair,</li> <li>o Secretary, and</li> <li>o Treasurer.</li> </ul> <p>All of these officers shall be elected <u>by a Regular at a Mid-Term</u> Convention of the Party, shall take office immediately upon the close of the Convention and shall serve thereafter until the final adjournment of the next <u>Regular Mid-Term</u> Convention, <u>or until removed from office.</u> No person shall serve as an officer who is not a sustaining member of the Party.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 7: OFFICERS</b></p> <p>1. The officers of the Party shall be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Chair,</li> <li>o Vice-Chair,</li> <li>o Secretary, and</li> <li>o Treasurer.</li> </ul> <p>All of these officers shall be elected at a Mid-Term Convention of the Party, shall take office immediately upon the close of the Convention and shall serve thereafter until the final adjournment of the next Mid-Term Convention, or until removed from office. No person shall serve as an officer who is not a sustaining member of the Party.</p>

<p><b>ARTICLE 8: NATIONAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>7. The National Committee shall appoint new officers and members-at-large if vacancies occur, such officers and members-at-large to complete the term of the office vacated.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 8: NATIONAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>7. The National Committee shall appoint new officers and members-at-large if vacancies occur, such officers and members-at-large to complete the term of the office vacated, <u>or until there is an intervening Regular Convention, at which time a special election will be conducted to fill the seat.</u></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 8: NATIONAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>7. The National Committee shall appoint new officers and members-at-large if vacancies occur, such officers and members-at-large to complete the term of the office vacated, or until there is an intervening Regular Convention, at which time a special election will be conducted to fill the seat.</p>
	<p><b>RULE 8: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>5. <u>If a petition requesting the removal of a named Party Officer is signed by ten percent of the credentialed delegates and submitted to the Secretary by the close of business of the first day of a Presidential Nominating Convention, a vote to remove that Party Officer from office shall be included in the Order of Business immediately prior to Election of Party Officers and At-large Members of the National Committee. Each petition shall name no more than one person.</u></p>	<p><b>RULE 8: ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND NATIONAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>5. If a petition requesting the removal of a named Party Officer is signed by ten percent of the credentialed delegates and submitted to the Secretary by the close of business of the first day of a Presidential Nominating Convention, a vote to remove that Party Officer from office shall be included in the Order of Business immediately prior to Election of Party Officers and At-large Members of the National Committee. Each petition shall name no more than one person.</p>

*Proviso: The amendment shall take effect upon the close of the convention at which it is adopted.*

Rationale:

*(1) Officers are particularly responsible for making sure the advance work is done obtaining ballot access for our Presidential campaigns. Yet, it is difficult to hold them accountable if we elect them only a few months prior to the Presidential election. Having Party Officers elected at the Mid-Term Convention means that we aren't trying to get them up-to-speed only a few months before a Presidential election.*

*(2) We spent eight hours electing officers at the 2012 Presidential Nominating Convention. The time saved every four years by adopting this proposal will allow more people to stay through the*

*entire convention and not miss out on important business, or allow more time for other activities important to attendees.*

*(3) If an officer's performance is not meeting expectations, the Party does not need to wait until the end of the four-year term to replace that person. Should a majority of delegates believe the officer's term ought to be cut short after two years, then it will be easy to obtain 10% of their signatures on a petition to schedule a vote to remove that officer and hold a new election. This effectively allows a reversion to the status quo of two year terms should that be necessary.*

## Establish a Party Mission Statement

Adopted 8-0

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>ARTICLE 3: MISSION STATEMENT</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Defend freedom and expand liberty in America by electing Libertarian candidates to public office.</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>ARTICLE 3: MISSION STATEMENT</b></p> <p>Defend freedom and expand liberty in America by electing Libertarian candidates to public office.</p>

Rationale: *We propose a Party mission statement: a clear, memorable and concise sentence that explains our reason for being. There are three pivotal elements of a great mission statement. It should saliently state:*

- 1) *A cause or who we serve.*
- 2) *What we do.*
- 3) *The result we want.*

*Examples of mission statements from other organizations:*

*Google: “to organize the world’s information and make it universally accessible and useful.”*

*American Heart Association: “To build healthier lives, free of cardiovascular diseases and stroke.”*

*charity:water: “We’re a nonprofit organization bringing clean, safe drinking water to people in developing countries.”*

*This proposed Article is an addition to the Bylaws. It leaves intact the existing “Purposes” Article in the Bylaws. While the distinction is sometimes confusing, our “purposes” describe why we exist, while our “mission” very succinctly defines what we endeavor to do to accomplish those purposes. (For more information Google “mission versus purpose”.)*



## Protect Party Name Rights for Affiliates

Adopted 8-0

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 6: AFFILIATE PARTIES</b></p> <p>1. No person, group or organization may use the name "Libertarian Party" or any confusingly similar designation except the Party or an organization to which the Party grants affiliate party status or as otherwise provided in these bylaws.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 6: AFFILIATE PARTIES</b></p> <p>1. No person, group or organization may use the name "Libertarian Party" or any confusingly similar designation except the Party or an organization to which the Party grants affiliate party status or as otherwise provided in these bylaws. <u>An affiliate that does not have on file with the Party a signed standard agreement acknowledging that the affiliate's use of the Libertarian Party name is contingent upon it remaining an affiliate, that affiliate shall not be eligible to:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>send delegates to any Regular Convention;</u></li> <li>• <u>join a representative region;</u></li> <li>• <u>receive resources from the Party;</u></li> <li>• <u>appoint anyone to serve on any Party board or committee.</u></li> </ul>	<p><b>ARTICLE 6: AFFILIATE PARTIES</b></p> <p>1. No person, group or organization may use the name "Libertarian Party" or any confusingly similar designation except the Party or an organization to which the Party grants affiliate party status or as otherwise provided in these bylaws. An affiliate that does not have on file with the Party a signed standard agreement acknowledging that the affiliate's use of the Libertarian Party name is contingent upon it remaining an affiliate, that affiliate shall not be eligible to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• send delegates to any Regular Convention;</li> <li>• join a representative region;</li> <li>• receive resources from the Party;</li> <li>• appoint anyone to serve on any Party board or committee.</li> </ul>

*Proviso: This amendment shall take effect upon the final adjournment of the convention at which it is adopted.*

*Rationale: Though the National Committee has a registered trademark on the name "Libertarian Party", and though the bylaws already state that no organization may use that name except an affiliate party, the reality is that intellectual property laws are quite complex. If a hijacked state affiliate were to disaffiliate and a new group of Libertarians in that same state wanted to become the affiliate, a state government might allow the previous affiliate to continue to use the name and require that the new affiliate place candidates on the ballot with a party label other than "Libertarian Party." Back when we had unified state and national membership, state affiliates signed agreements requiring they remain an affiliate to use the trademark, and that provision would still be in effect after the agreement's termination. Unfortunately, those signed agreements were lost. By having all affiliates sign new agreements that they may only use the name as long as they are affiliated with the national party, we increase the likelihood of the national party being able to successfully protect the use of the name for our current affiliates.*

## Remove Redundant Quorum Language

Adopted 8-1

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<b>ARTICLE 8: NATIONAL COMMITTEE</b> 10. A majority of the membership of the National Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings.	<b>ARTICLE 8: NATIONAL COMMITTEE</b> <del>10. A majority of the membership of the National Committee shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at all meetings.</del>	

Rationale: *This provision is redundant, since Robert's Rules of Order already specifies that a quorum for the National Committee consists of a majority of its membership.*

## Elevate Style Changes from Rule to Bylaw

### Adopted 8-1

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING -- PLATFORM</b></p> <p>8. Should changes to the bylaws or platform result in a grammatical error in accordance with the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, the LNC presiding at the time of that discovery is authorized to make those grammatical corrections provided it does not change the meaning or intent of the item edited.</p>	<p><del><b>RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING -- PLATFORM</b></del></p> <p><del>8. Should changes to the bylaws or platform result in a grammatical error in accordance with the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, the LNC presiding at the time of that discovery is authorized to make those grammatical corrections provided it does not change the meaning or intent of the item edited.</del></p> <p><b>ARTICLE 8: NATIONAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p><u>15. The National Committee is authorized to make corrections to conform the Bylaws and Convention Rules and the Platform with the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, provided such changes do not alter the meaning or intent. The National Committee may not delegate this power.</u></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 8: NATIONAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>15. The National Committee is authorized to make corrections to conform the Bylaws and Convention Rules and the Platform with the latest edition of the Chicago Manual of Style, provided such changes do not alter the meaning or intent. The National Committee may not delegate this power.</p>

*Rationale: The existing Rule was approved several years ago allowing the LNC to fix style errors in the Platform; however, it has a material flaw: it should not be a Rule, but rather a Bylaw. There have been several attempts to correct that problem, but delegates rejected them because those attempts included a provision to add a style committee. This proposal cleans up the language, places it in the bylaws and prohibits the National Committee from delegating this responsibility to a style committee.*

# Make Elected Libertarians Automatic Delegates at Convention

Adopted 7-0

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p>4. Affiliate Party Delegate Entitlements:</p> <p>Each affiliate party shall be entitled to send delegates to each Regular Convention on the following basis:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">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.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">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.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p>4. Affiliate Party Delegate Entitlements:</p> <p>Each affiliate party shall be entitled to send delegates to each Regular Convention on the following basis:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">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.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">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.</p> <p style="color: red; padding-left: 40px;"><u>Unless disapproved by a majority vote of the affiliate's or Convention's non-ex-officio delegates, in addition to the delegate allocation, any sustaining member serving in public office subject to a vote of the general electorate is entitled to be a delegate in the corresponding affiliate's delegation upon presenting proof of such status to the Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee shall include in its report the number of such delegates added to each delegation.</u></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p>4. Affiliate Party Delegate Entitlements:</p> <p>Each affiliate party shall be entitled to send delegates to each Regular Convention on the following basis:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">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.</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">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.</p> <p>Unless disapproved by a majority vote of the affiliate's or Convention's non-ex-officio delegates, in addition to the delegate allocation, any sustaining member serving in public office subject to a vote of the general electorate is entitled to be a delegate in the corresponding affiliate's delegation upon presenting proof of such status to the Credentials Committee. The Credentials Committee shall include in its report the number of such delegates added to each delegation.</p>

Proviso: *The amendment shall take effect upon the close of the convention at which it is adopted.*

Rationale:

*(1) It is not easy to become an elected Libertarian. Our Libertarian elected officials are important to our development as a successful political party. We need to do more to recognize our elected officials. Providing them with special status as a delegate is one cost-effective method of recognition.*

*(2) Giving automatic delegate status to Libertarians who are serving in elected office will encourage more of them to attend our conventions and share their success stories. By learning more from these individuals first-hand we may encourage a greater number of us to run for winnable elections.*

## Delete Redundant and Confusing Article 12.6.a

Adopted 7-1

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 12: OTHER COMMITTEES</b></p> <p>6. Committee Procedures</p> <p>a. A majority vote of those Committee members present is necessary for a "do pass" recommendation, and in the case of the Platform Committee, a majority must approve each specific plank separately.</p> <p>b. Four or more members of the Platform Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding any plank reported to the floor of the Convention. Two or more members of the Bylaws and Rules Committee or of the Credentials Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding their business.</p> <p>c. A majority of the membership of each committee shall constitute a quorum.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 12: OTHER COMMITTEES</b></p> <p>6. Committee Procedures</p> <p><del>a. A majority vote of those Committee members present is necessary for a "do pass" recommendation, and in the case of the Platform Committee, a majority must approve each specific plank separately.</del></p> <p><del>b.</del>a. Four or more members of the Platform Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding any plank reported to the floor of the Convention. Two or more members of the Bylaws and Rules Committee or of the Credentials Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding their business.</p> <p><del>e.</del>b. A majority of the membership of each committee shall constitute a quorum.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 12: OTHER COMMITTEES</b></p> <p>6. Committee Procedures</p> <p>a. Four or more members of the Platform Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding any plank reported to the floor of the Convention. Two or more members of the Bylaws and Rules Committee or of the Credentials Committee may join together to issue a minority report regarding their business.</p> <p>b. A majority of the membership of each committee shall constitute a quorum.</p>

Rationale: *As our parliamentary authority, Robert's Rules already provides that a majority vote is a fundamental necessity for official action to be taken by a body, thus the first portion of Bylaw Article 12.6.a is redundant with Robert's Rules and doesn't need to be stated again in our bylaws.*

*It is difficult to understand what is even intended by the second portion of the section. Does it mean that the Platform Committee must vote on every single plank in the platform even if they are proposing no changes to some of them? Does it instead mean that no proposal can be made if it affects more than one plank, such as moving language from one plank to another, or that could be done as long as two separate votes were taken? If it were intended to prevent a dominant group on the committee from adopting a number of recommendations for different-subject planks in a single vote, note that Robert's Rules (p. 274-275) already permits a single person on the committee to demand division of the question in such a case:*

*"MOTIONS THAT MUST BE DIVIDED ON DEMAND. Sometimes a series of independent resolutions or main motions dealing with different subjects is offered in one motion. In such a case, one or more of the several resolutions must receive separate consideration and vote at the request of a single member, and the motion for Division of a Question is not used..."*

# Amend Platform Only During Presidential Nominating Conventions

## Adopted 7-2

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 4: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND PLATFORM</b>                      3. The current Platform shall serve as the basis of all future platforms. The existing Platform may be amended only at Regular Conventions. Additional planks, or additions to planks, must be approved by 2/3 vote. A platform plank may be deleted by majority vote.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 4: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND PLATFORM</b>                      3. The current Platform shall serve as the basis of all future platforms. The existing Platform may be amended only at <u>Regular Presidential Nominating</u> Conventions. Additional planks, or additions to planks, must be approved by 2/3 vote. A platform plank may be deleted by majority vote.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 4: STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES AND PLATFORM</b>                      3. The current Platform shall serve as the basis of all future platforms. The existing Platform may be amended only at Presidential Nominating Conventions. Additional planks, or additions to planks, must be approved by 2/3 vote. A platform plank may be deleted by majority vote.</p>
<p><b>ARTICLE 12: OTHER COMMITTEES</b>                      1. There shall be a Platform Committee, a Bylaws and Rules Committee and a Credentials Committee for each Regular Convention. The National Committee shall appoint a temporary chair of each committee to serve until each committee selects its own chair.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 12: OTHER COMMITTEES</b>                      1. There shall be <del>a Platform Committee</del>, a Bylaws and Rules Committee and a Credentials Committee for each Regular Convention. <u>There shall be a Platform Committee for each Presidential Nominating Convention.</u> The National Committee shall appoint a temporary chair of each committee to serve until each committee selects its own chair.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 12: OTHER COMMITTEES</b>                      1. There shall be a Bylaws and Rules Committee and a Credentials Committee for each Regular Convention. There shall be a Platform Committee for each Presidential Nominating Convention. The National Committee shall appoint a temporary chair of each committee to serve until each committee selects its own chair.</p>
<p>3.d These members shall be selected no later than the last day of the fifth month prior to the Regular Convention.</p>	<p>3.d These members shall be selected no later than the last day of the fifth month prior to the <del>Regular</del> <u>Presidential Nominating</u> Convention.</p>	<p>3.d These members shall be selected no later than the last day of the fifth month prior to the Presidential Nominating Convention.</p>
<p><b>RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>                      The standing order of business for a Regular Convention shall be as follows:                      1. Call to order                      2. Credentials Committee report                      3. Adoption of agenda                      4. Treasurer's report                      5. Bylaws and Rules Committee report                      6. Platform Committee report                      7. Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)                      8. Election of Party Officers and at-large members of the National Committee                      9. Election of Judicial Committee                      10. Resolutions                      11. Other business</p>	<p><b>RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>                      The standing order of business for a Regular Convention shall be as follows:                      1. Call to order                      2. Credentials Committee report                      3. Adoption of agenda                      4. Treasurer's report                      5. Bylaws and Rules Committee report                      6. Platform Committee report <u>(in appropriate years)</u>                      7. Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)                      8. Election of Party Officers and at-large members of the National Committee                      9. Election of Judicial Committee                      10. Resolutions                      11. Other business</p>	<p><b>RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS</b>                      The standing order of business for a Regular Convention shall be as follows:                      1. Call to order                      2. Credentials Committee report                      3. Adoption of agenda                      4. Treasurer's report                      5. Bylaws and Rules Committee report                      6. Platform Committee report (in appropriate years)                      7. Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)                      8. Election of Party Officers and at-large members of the National Committee                      9. Election of Judicial Committee                      10. Resolutions                      11. Other business</p>

<p><b>RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING – PLATFORM</b></p> <p>2. The Platform Committee shall meet before each Regular Convention and prepare a report containing its recommendations. At the convention, the Platform Committee's recommendations shall be reported to the floor and debated and voted upon separately. The Platform Committee shall set forth the order in which each recommendation shall be considered.</p>	<p><b>RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING – PLATFORM</b></p> <p>2. The Platform Committee shall meet before each <del>Regular</del> <b>Presidential Nominating</b> Convention and prepare a report containing its recommendations. At the convention, the Platform Committee's recommendations shall be reported to the floor and debated and voted upon separately. The Platform Committee shall set forth the order in which each recommendation shall be considered.</p>	<p><b>RULE 5: DEBATING AND VOTING – PLATFORM</b></p> <p>2. The Platform Committee shall meet before each Presidential Nominating Convention and prepare a report containing its recommendations. At the convention, the Platform Committee's recommendations shall be reported to the floor and debated and voted upon separately. The Platform Committee shall set forth the order in which each recommendation shall be considered.</p>
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*Rationale: Our platform is based on succinct principles that do not need to be updated frequently. Since our platform gets the most attention from the public during presidential election years, this proposed change would have us only update the platform during presidential nominating conventions every four years, rather than updating it every two years. As side benefits, convention delegates during the off-presidential years could spend more time attending breakout sessions, and platform committee members can be freed up to do other volunteer activities during those years without incurring the travel costs required by committee service. Delegates typically spend more than three hours at each convention debating proposed changes to the platform.*



## Add Alternative Certification Language for Membership

Adopted 7-3

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>1. 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.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>1. Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they:</p> <p><u>a. oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals,</u></p> <p><u>or</u></p> <p><u>b. agree all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.</u></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 5: MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p>1. Members of the Party shall be those persons who have certified in writing that they:</p> <p>a. oppose the initiation of force to achieve political or social goals,</p> <p>or</p> <p>b. agree all individuals have the right to exercise sole dominion over their own lives, and have the right to live in whatever manner they choose, so long as they do not forcibly interfere with the equal right of others to live in whatever manner they choose.</p>

*Proviso: This amendment shall take effect upon the final adjournment of the convention at which it is adopted.*

*Rationale: Some libertarians have expressed a variety of objections to the current certification language for membership. (Over 500 people donated money to the national party in the past year who did not sign the membership certification.) The purpose here is not to support or refute or otherwise debate those objections, but simply to offer an alternative which is borrowed directly from the Statement of Principles in our Platform. Members can choose whichever wording they are most comfortable with. Those who signed the current certification over the LP's 40+ year history would be unaffected by this change and existing forms would be acceptable.*

## Require National Delegates be Party Members

Adopted 6-2

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p>3. Delegates:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. 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. At all Non-Regular Conventions, any person who wishes to attend may do so.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p>3. Delegates:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Delegates shall be required to be members of <del>either</del> the Party <del>or an affiliate party</del>. At all Regular Conventions delegates shall be those so accredited who have registered at the Convention. At all Non-Regular Conventions, any person who wishes to attend may do so.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b></p> <p>3. Delegates:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">a. Delegates shall be required to be members of the Party. At all Regular Conventions delegates shall be those so accredited who have registered at the Convention. At all Non-Regular Conventions, any person who wishes to attend may do so.</p>

*Proviso: This amendment shall take effect upon the final adjournment of the convention at which it is adopted.*

Rationale:

*This proposal states that attendees at a Libertarian Party national convention who wish to serve as delegates and vote on our leadership, platform, and bylaws ought to at least meet our basic "national membership" criterion – signing the certification that he or she upholds the individual rights of others.*

*It does not require one to become a "sustaining member" and pay dues.*

*It does not prevent any state party member from becoming a delegate, since all one must do to qualify for "national membership" is to sign the pledge.*

*It does not prevent a state party from setting additional eligibility requirements (e.g. state party membership) on those they select as delegates.*

# Nominate Presidential and Vice Presidential Candidates as a Ticket

Adopted 6-3

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>RULE 7: NOMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES</b></p> <p>1. 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.</p> <p>2. The Party's nominee for President shall be chosen by majority vote. If no candidate has attained a majority, the candidate with the fewest votes and any candidates polling less than 5% shall be struck from subsequent ballots. This procedure shall be repeated after every ballot in which no candidate has received a majority vote, until one candidate attains a majority.</p> <p>4. 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 Vice-Presidential nominees. Nominations for Vice-President shall close after selection of the Presidential nominee.</p> <p>5. Nominating and seconding speeches for each candidate shall be limited in duration as follows:                      a. President: Total of 16 minutes;                      b. Vice-President: Total of 11 minutes.</p>	<p><b>RULE 7: NOMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES</b></p> <p>1. No <del>person-slate</del> shall be nominated for President <del>or-and</del> 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 <del>candidate for each-officeslate</del>. 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.</p> <p>2. The Party's nominees for President <del>and Vice President</del> shall be chosen by majority vote. If no <del>candidate-slate</del> has attained a majority, the <del>candidate-one</del> with the fewest votes and any <del>candidates</del> polling less than 5% shall be struck from subsequent ballots. This procedure shall be repeated after every ballot in which no <del>candidate-slate</del> has received a majority vote, until one <del>candidate</del> attains a majority.</p> <p><del>4. 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 Vice-Presidential nominees. Nominations for Vice-President shall close after selection of the Presidential nominee.</del></p> <p>5. Nominating and seconding speeches for each <del>candidate slate</del> shall be limited to a total of <del>20 minutes</del> in duration as follows:                      a. <del>President: Total of 16 minutes;</del>                      b. <del>Vice-President: Total of 11</del></p>	<p><b>RULE 7: NOMINATION OF PRESIDENTIAL AND VICE-PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATES</b></p> <p>1. No slate shall be nominated for President and 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 slate. 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.</p> <p>2. The Party's nominees for President and Vice President shall be chosen by majority vote. If no slate has attained a majority, the one with the fewest votes and any polling less than 5% shall be struck from subsequent ballots. This procedure shall be repeated after every ballot in which no slate has received a majority vote, until one attains a majority.</p> <p>4. Nominating and seconding speeches for each slate shall be limited to a total of 20 minutes.</p> <p>A delegate who collects the required number of nominating tokens so designated may speak up to 5 minutes in favor of voting for None Of The Above.</p> <p>5. Immediately prior to each round of presidential voting, a motion to divide the selection of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential nominees shall be in order, which requires 30 delegates to second and a majority to adopt.</p> <p>6. If a motion to divide the selection prevails:                      a. Using voting procedures for selecting slates, Presidential and</p>

<p>A delegate who collects the required number of nominating tokens so designated may speak up to 5 minutes in favor of voting for None Of The Above.</p>	<p><u>minutes.</u></p> <p>A delegate who collects the required number of nominating tokens so designated may speak up to 5 minutes in favor of voting for None Of The Above.</p> <p><u>6. Immediately prior to each round of presidential voting, a motion to divide the selection of the Presidential and Vice-Presidential nominees shall be in order, which requires 30 delegates to second and a majority to adopt.</u></p> <p><u>7. If a motion to divide the selection prevails:</u></p> <p><u>a. Using voting procedures for selecting slates, Presidential and Vice Presidential nominees shall be selected sequentially.</u></p> <p><u>b. Those eligible for the Vice Presidential nomination shall include any candidate nominated with 30 signature tokens for either position on a slate and any candidate nominated with 30 signature tokens listing only the Vice Presidential candidate.</u></p> <p><u>c. Nominating and seconding speeches for each Vice Presidential candidate shall be limited to a total of 10 minutes.</u></p> <p><u>d. Immediately prior to voting for Vice President, the Presidential nominee may address the Convention for 5 minutes for the purpose of endorsing or objecting to any of the Vice-Presidential nominees.</u></p>	<p>Vice Presidential nominees shall be selected sequentially.</p> <p>b. Those eligible for the Vice Presidential nomination shall include any candidate nominated with 30 signature tokens for either position on a slate and any candidate nominated with 30 signature tokens listing only the Vice Presidential candidate.</p> <p>c. Nominating and seconding speeches for each Vice Presidential candidate shall be limited to a total of 10 minutes.</p> <p>d. Immediately prior to voting for Vice President, the Presidential nominee may address the Convention for 5 minutes for the purpose of endorsing or objecting to any of the Vice-Presidential nominees.</p>
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*Proviso: This amendment shall take effect upon the final adjournment of the convention at which it is adopted.*

Rationale:

*(1) Delegates devote much attention to who will be selected as our Presidential nominee. Not so much for our Vice Presidential nominee. We often do not know who will emerge as a Vice Presidential Nominee until just before the nomination. And because the Presidential candidate*

*did not run as a team with the Vice Presidential candidate while seeking the nomination, the Vice Presidential nominee is often not incorporated into the campaign afterward.*

*(2) By placing the onus on our Presidential candidates to select their running mates ahead of time it makes it more likely that a Vice Presidential candidate will be vetted in advance and increases the likelihood that the successful slate will act as a team post-nomination. Currently, we rarely see Presidential candidates fielding running mates because the existing system discourages such behavior – it makes Presidential candidates appear presumptuous.*

*(3) Delegates spent 3 hours during 2008 and 2012 nominating and ultimately selecting the candidates for Vice President that were the preference of the Presidential nominee. If Presidential candidates recruit desirable running mates that appeal to delegates, selecting by slate will save delegates time for other business.*

*(4) If delegates conclude at some point during the process that electing a slate is suboptimal (e.g. we have two or more excellent candidates seeking the Presidential nomination and delegates want one of them to be the Vice Presidential nominee), the Convention still has the option of dividing the question and reverting to the previous method of selecting nominees during separate rounds of voting.*

## Modify Quorum Requirements

Adopted 5-2

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b>            9. Quorum:            A quorum shall consist of 40% of the total number of delegates registered in attendance at the Convention.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b>            9. Quorum:  <u>For the purpose of electing Party officials, a quorum shall consist of one-third of the maximum number of delegates registered in attendance at the Convention.</u>  <u>For all other business, A-a</u>            quorum shall consist of <u>40%a</u>  <u>majority</u> of the <del>total maximum</del>            number of delegates registered in attendance at the Convention.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 11: CONVENTIONS</b>            9. Quorum:            For the purpose of electing Party officials, a quorum shall consist of one-third of the maximum number of delegates registered in attendance at the Convention.            For all other business, a quorum shall consist of a majority of the maximum number of delegates registered in attendance at the Convention.</p>

Rationale: *Experience at past conventions indicates that the existing 40% quorum requirement may be too high. Important matters, such as the election of Judicial Committee members, often get pushed to the end of the convention, where the lack of a quorum risks preventing a new Judicial Committee from being constituted. Sometimes a convention will attempt to circumvent the quorum threshold by asking delegates to “check out” before departing. However, Robert’s Rules of Order prohibits this method of circumvention, unless explicitly authorized by the bylaws.*

*(RONR, eleventh edition, page 21, lines 23-27: “In the meetings of a convention, unless the bylaws of the organization provide otherwise, the quorum is a majority of delegates who have been registered at the convention as in attendance, **irrespective of whether some may have departed.**” [emphasis added])*

*To address this issue, we propose that the normal quorum requirement be restored to a majority of all registered delegates, but allow a smaller quorum requirement of one-third to conduct Party elections.*

## Require Audit Committee to Report to Convention Delegates

Adopted 5-3

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 10: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING</b></p> <p>1. The fiscal term of the Party shall begin on January 1 of each year. From January 1 until the National Committee has approved a budget, the Treasurer may authorize expenditures for any item incorporated in the previous year's budget as long as the level of expenditure is consistent with that budget.</p> <p>2. The National Committee shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be installed and maintained. Financial statements of the Party shall be prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Audits shall be performed annually by an independent auditor. The non-officer members of the National Committee shall appoint a standing Audit Committee of three members with power to select the independent auditor. One member shall be a non-officer member of the National Committee and the other two shall not be members of the National Committee. The Audit Committee shall clarify for the National Committee any recommendations made by the auditor.</p> <p><b>RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS</b> The standing order of business for a Regular Convention shall be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call to order</li> <li>2. Credentials Committee report</li> <li>3. Adoption of agenda</li> <li>4. Treasurer's report</li> <li>5. Bylaws and Rules Committee report</li> <li>6. Platform Committee report</li> </ol>	<p><b>ARTICLE 10: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING</b></p> <p>1. The fiscal term of the Party shall begin on January 1 of each year. From January 1 until the National Committee has approved a budget, the Treasurer may authorize expenditures for any item incorporated in the previous year's budget as long as the level of expenditure is consistent with that budget.</p> <p>2. The National Committee shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be installed and maintained. Financial statements of the Party shall be prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Audits shall be performed annually by an independent auditor. The non-officer members of the National Committee shall appoint a standing Audit Committee of three members with power to select the independent auditor. One member shall be a non-officer member of the National Committee and the other two shall not be members of the National Committee. The Audit Committee shall <u>present its findings to each Regular Convention and</u> clarify for the National Committee any recommendations made by the auditor.</p> <p><b>RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS</b> The standing order of business for a Regular Convention shall be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call to order</li> <li>2. Credentials Committee report</li> <li>3. Adoption of agenda</li> <li>4. Treasurer's report</li> <li>4-5. <u>Audit Committee report</u></li> <li><del>5-6.</del> Bylaws and Rules Committee report</li> </ol>	<p><b>ARTICLE 10: FINANCE AND ACCOUNTING</b></p> <p>1. The fiscal term of the Party shall begin on January 1 of each year. From January 1 until the National Committee has approved a budget, the Treasurer may authorize expenditures for any item incorporated in the previous year's budget as long as the level of expenditure is consistent with that budget.</p> <p>2. The National Committee shall cause an efficient double-entry system of accounts to be installed and maintained. Financial statements of the Party shall be prepared in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). Audits shall be performed annually by an independent auditor. The non-officer members of the National Committee shall appoint a standing Audit Committee of three members with power to select the independent auditor. One member shall be a non-officer member of the National Committee and the other two shall not be members of the National Committee. The Audit Committee shall present its findings to each Regular Convention and clarify for the National Committee any recommendations made by the auditor.</p> <p><b>RULE 1: ORDER OF BUSINESS</b> The standing order of business for a Regular Convention shall be as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Call to order</li> <li>2. Credentials Committee report</li> <li>3. Adoption of agenda</li> <li>4. Treasurer's report</li> <li>5. Audit Committee report</li> <li>6. Bylaws and Rules Committee report</li> </ol>

7. Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)	<del>6-7.</del> Platform Committee report	7. Platform Committee report
8. Election of Party Officers and at-large members of the National Committee	<del>7-8.</del> Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)	8. Nomination of Party candidates for President and Vice-President (in appropriate years)
9. Election of Judicial Committee	<del>8-9.</del> Election of Party Officers and at-large members of the National Committee	9. Election of Party Officers and at-large members of the National Committee
10. Resolutions	<del>9-10.</del> Election of Judicial Committee	10. Election of Judicial Committee
11. Other business	<del>10-11.</del> Resolutions	11. Resolutions
	<del>11-12.</del> Other business	12. Other business

Rationale: *When serious issues come to light as a result of an Audit Committee's work, that information should be made available to convention delegates. Knowing that the Audit Committee's report will be ultimately presented to delegates makes it more likely that the National Committee will appropriately address the Audit Committee's findings.*



## Deliberations of Judicial Committee

Adopted 4-3

CURRENT WORDING	PROPOSED AMENDMENT	IF ADOPTED WILL READ
<p><b>ARTICLE 9: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>3. Within 90 days following the Regular Convention at which elected, the Judicial Committee shall establish Rules of Appellate Procedure to govern its consideration of matters within the scope of its jurisdiction. The existing Rules shall remain in effect until and unless the Judicial Committee submits new proposed rules to the National Committee for approval, which approval shall be deemed given unless denied by a 2/3 vote of the National Committee within 60 days of submission. A copy of the current Rules of Appellate Procedure shall be maintained by the Secretary at the Party Headquarters and shall be available to any member at cost.</p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 9: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>3. Within 90 days following the Regular Convention at which elected, the Judicial Committee shall establish Rules of Appellate Procedure to govern its consideration of matters within the scope of its jurisdiction. The existing Rules shall remain in effect until and unless the Judicial Committee submits new proposed rules to the National Committee for approval, which approval shall be deemed given unless denied by a 2/3 vote of the National Committee within 60 days of submission. A copy of the current Rules of Appellate Procedure shall be maintained by the Secretary at the Party Headquarters and shall be available to any member at cost.</p> <p><u>The Judicial Committee's deliberations shall be conducted in an open manner. Meetings of the Committee shall be open to any Party member as an observer; teleconferences of the Committee shall likewise permit Party members as observers, up to the limits of the technology used. The Committee may, by a majority vote, enter into Executive Session after specifying the broad purpose of said Session.</u></p>	<p><b>ARTICLE 9: JUDICIAL COMMITTEE</b></p> <p>3. Within 90 days following the Regular Convention at which elected, the Judicial Committee shall establish Rules of Appellate Procedure to govern its consideration of matters within the scope of its jurisdiction. The existing Rules shall remain in effect until and unless the Judicial Committee submits new proposed rules to the National Committee for approval, which approval shall be deemed given unless denied by a 2/3 vote of the National Committee within 60 days of submission. A copy of the current Rules of Appellate Procedure shall be maintained by the Secretary at the Party Headquarters and shall be available to any member at cost. The Judicial Committee's deliberations shall be conducted in an open manner. Meetings of the Committee shall be open to any Party member as an observer; teleconferences of the Committee shall likewise permit Party members as observers, up to the limits of the technology used. The Committee may, by a majority vote, enter into Executive Session after specifying the broad purpose of said Session.</p>

*Rationale: By default, our judicial committees have historically conducted their proceedings in private, though they could choose to have others observe. This proposal changes the default so that the proceedings are conducted in public.*