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# Bylaws of the Wyoming Libertarian Party

(Adopted 16 January, 2010)

# **Preamble**

We, the Libertarians of the State of Wyoming, recognizing the need in this state for an authentic political alternative, and believing in the principles and philosophy of libertarianism, supporting a return to limited government in these United States and Wyoming, hereby organize and institute the Wyoming Libertarian Party under these bylaws. These bylaws, as amended herein, replace and supersede the prior Constitution and Bylaws of the Wyoming Libertarian Party.

# ARTICLE 1 -- IDENTITY AND PURPOSE

- 1.1 The name of this organization shall be the "Wyoming Libertarian Party", hereinafter referred to as the "WYLP".
- 1.2 The purpose of the WYLP shall be the promotion of Libertarian candidates for election to public office and the promotion of libertarian ideas and philosophy.
- 1.3 The WYLP shall be affiliated with the National Libertarian Party and shall comply with all of the applicable rules and bylaws affecting affiliate parties as promulgated by the Libertarian Party National Committee and the Libertarian Party National Convention.

# **ARTICLE 2 -- PERIOD OF DURATION**

- 2.1 The duration of the Party shall be perpetual.
- 2.2 In the event of dissolution of the corporation/organization, any remaining funds will be: returned to donors; given to then current candidates for office; donated to other non-profit organizations; or donated to charity, as determined by the Executive Committee.

# **ARTICLE 3 -- MEMBERSHIP**

3.1 A person is a voting member of the Wyoming Libertarian Party if 1) he or she is a current Libertarian Party committeeman or committeewoman per the Wyoming state statutes for political parties, 2) has run as the Libertarian candidate in a partisan Wyoming election within the last two years, or 3) has made contribution(s) to the WYLP totaling \$50 or more (\$25 for students) in the

last two years and is currently a Wyoming registered voter with Libertarian Party affiliation (this requirement only applies if the WYLP is a recognized political party in Wyoming). The State and/or Executive Committee may from time to time authorize lesser classes of membership. Any such lesser classes of membership shall not grant the right to vote on official business of the party.

- 3.2 A member may be censured and/or disavowed by the State Committee if he or she, while purporting to represent to the public the WYLP, states positions which are contrary to Libertarian principles and/or is found to have committed acts of fraud and/or violence. Upon 30 days notice to appear or be represented before the State Committee to be heard on the charge(s) levied, censure or disavowal shall be only upon approval of three-quarters of the State Committee, meeting in person or via telecommunications.
- 3.3 A member may be expelled from the organization for violation of the bylaws or for other cause deemed prejudicial to the best interests of the organization, as determined by the State Committee. Only the Executive Committee may propose the expulsion of a member to the State Committee. Notice that the State Committee will consider expulsion of a member shall be sent to all of the State Committee members and the member subject to expulsion by mail in writing and at least 30 days prior to the State Committee meeting. At the State Committee meeting, the Chair shall preside over the proceeding to consider expulsion of a member. Expulsion shall be only upon approval of three-quarters of the State Committee, meeting in person or via telecommunications. Reinstatement after expulsion may be done by the same procedure, but may only be considered after two years have passed since the expulsion.

# ARTICLE 4 -- THE STATE COMMITTEE

- 4.1 The State Committee shall be made up of 2 members from each of the 23 counties plus 9 at large members, and shall be constituted as nearly as feasible in accordance with Wyoming statutes. Members in each county will decide who shall represent them as members of the State Committee, except that a Credentials Committee chosen by the State Committee, or in the absence thereof chosen by the Executive Committee, shall meet just prior to each State Convention to arbitrate any disputes arising from such appointment of county State Committee members. The at large members of the State Committee shall be elected at the State Convention by the membership. All State Committee members must be voting members of the WYLP as defined in section 3.1.
- 4.2 Subject to the limitations and considerations in Article 13, the State Committee shall have the authority to amend these bylaws. The State Committee shall have the authority to appoint replacement candidates for the general election ballot, to raise money, maintain bank accounts, expend necessary funds raised, form committees, assign duties to State Officers and appoint agents to act on its behalf.
- 4.3 The State Committee shall meet at least annually at the conclusion of each State Convention. All State Committee meetings shall be held in person or via telecommunications with at least 30 days notice given to all State Committee members.

# **ARTICLE 5 -- THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

5.1 An Executive Committee, as defined herein, shall be authorized to act on behalf of the State Committee in between State Committee meetings. The

Executive Committee shall be authorized to take any action which could be taken by the State Committee on a simple majority vote.

- 5.2 The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers of the WYLP, and five at large Executive Committee members elected by the State Committee. All Executive Committee members must be voting members of the WYLP as defined in section 3.1.
- 5.4 The Executive Committee shall serve for a period of one year, or until their successors are selected, beginning with their election at the State Committee meeting coinciding with the annual State Convention. Vacancies occurring during a term shall be filled by appointment of the Chair with the approval of the Executive Committee, and become permanent after six weeks provided no State Committee member registers a written objection to the Chair.
- 5.5 The Executive Committee shall hold at least one meeting every three months. All members of the Executive Committee shall be given reasonable notice of when and where each meeting is to be held.

#### ARTICLE 6 -- STATE OFFICERS

- 6.1 The Officers of the WYLP shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer.
- 6.2 State Officers shall be elected as the first order of business at the meeting of the State Committee immediately following the State Convention, and shall take office immediately after their election. They shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected.
- 6.3 The Chair shall be responsible for calling meetings of the State Committee and the Executive Committee, chairing all State Committee and Executive Committee meetings, chairing the State Convention, serving as official spokesperson of the WYLP, and appointing persons and/or performing other functions as authorized by the State Committee.
- 6.4 The Vice Chair shall act as Chair in the event of the Chair's inability or unwillingness to perform such action required by these bylaws and/or Wyoming election law. The Vice Chair shall also be responsible for coordinating outreach efforts and shall act as public relations officer of the WYLP, as directed by the State Committee and the Chair. The Vice Chair must call an Executive Committee meeting if the Chair has not done so within the three month period stated in Article 5.5.
- 6.5 The Secretary shall record the minutes of all State Committee and Executive Committee meetings and correspond with government officials of the State of Wyoming. The Secretary shall also ensure that the Annual Report and all other reports legally required be filed in a timely manner with the Secretary of State.
- 6.6 The Treasurer shall maintain the records of receipts and expenditures of party funds and shall be responsible for reporting such records to any federal or state agency or official as required by law.
- 6.7 The Treasurer shall prepare a financial report to be distributed at State Committee meetings to all members of the State Committee. The Treasurer shall prepare this report at least quarterly and distribute it to the Chair. The Treasurer shall submit an annual financial report to the members attending the State Convention.

- 6.8 Should a vacancy occur in any state officer's position, that office shall be filled by appointment of the State Committee. However, in the event a vacancy shall occur in the office of Chair, a vacancy shall also be declared in the office of Vice Chair and a new election shall be held for filling the vacancies of both Chair and Vice Chair.
- 6.9 The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and Treasurer may delegate portions of their responsibilities with the approval of the Executive Committee

6.10 Impeachment charges may be brought against any officer of the Executive Committee by any member at any regular or special meeting of the Executive Committee. The charges must show cause for removal from office. The officer so charged shall be given the opportunity to reply to the charges and if not present at the meeting at which charges are made, voting on the question shall be deferred until the next regularly scheduled meeting. In the case the officer so charged is the Chair, then the next highest ranking officer will preside over the proceedings. Impeachment shall be only upon approval of two-thirds of the entire Executive Committee.

# **ARTICLE 7 -- LOCAL AFFILIATES**

- 7.1 Local affiliates of the WYLP may organize county committees as provided by Wyoming election law.
- 7.2 Such affiliates shall not be recognized by the WYLP until the Secretary of the WYLP is provided written notice of the formation of the affiliate including a list of its members and officers.
- 7.3 Local affiliates shall select Libertarian candidates to be included on the general election ballot for county-wide elections.

#### ARTICLE 8 -- THE USE OF PARTY FUNDS

8.1 The State and/or Executive Committee must approve in advance the expenditure of any party funds. The State and/or Executive Committee may, but is not obligated to, reimburse funds expended by a member without prior authorization.

# **ARTICLE 9 -- THE STATE CONVENTION**

- 9.1 A State Convention shall be held annually. The time and place of the State Convention shall be determined by the State and/or Executive Committee or a Convention Committee as appointed by either. Written notice, via either postal mail or email, of the Convention date, time and place shall be given by the Secretary to all State Committee members at least 30 days prior to the Convention (with member's RSVP directed to the state Secretary).
- 9.2 The purpose of the State Convention shall be to select at large State Committee members, to select delegates to the Libertarian Party National Convention (if applicable), to select the Libertarian candidates for the general election ballot (only in election years and if authorized by state law), and to amend the WYLP Platform.
- 9.3 The State Officers shall serve as officers of the State Convention.

9.4 All persons voting at State Conventions must be voting members in good standing of the Wyoming Libertarian Party, as defined in section 3.1, and must have been members of the WYLP for at least 30 days prior to the start of the Convention. Adoption of platform changes shall require a two-thirds vote of those members present and voting.

9.5 Only members present on the convention floor may vote.

# ARTICLE 10 -- RULES OF PROCEDURE

- 10.1 The rules governing the conduct of State Committee meetings, Executive Committee meetings, and the State Convention shall be Robert's Rules of Order.
- 10.2 A quorum at State Committee meetings and Executive Committee meetings shall exist if 51% of the membership of the committee is present in person or via telecommunications.
- 10.3 Only members present, either in person or via telecommunications, may vote at meetings of the State Committee and the Executive Committee. No absentee or proxy voting shall be allowed.

#### ARTICLE 11 -- NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATION

- 11.1 WYLP delegates to Libertarian Party National Conventions shall elect a delegation chairman and a delegation vice-chairman. In the absence of the chairman, the vice-chairman shall act as chairman.
- 11.2 The delegation chairman may freely substitute alternates to vote in place of delegates not present on the floor provided that the total number of votes cast by delegates and alternates shall not exceed the total number of delegates to which Wyoming is entitled.

# **ARTICLE 12 -- GENERAL ELECTION CANDIDATES**

12.1 During years in which the State of Wyoming conducts partisan elections, unless required by law to conduct primary elections, the WYLP shall choose the Libertarian candidates for all partisan elections in the state. If a county affiliate exists, the county affiliate shall choose the candidates for county-wide elections. The members, in State Convention, shall choose candidates for all elections except for those elections where county affiliates have chosen a candidate. After the State Convention, the State Committee or Executive Committee shall have the power to appoint replacement candidates for those candidates who withdraw their candidacies, and to appoint candidates for those elections where no Libertarian candidate has been chosen.

# **ARTICLE 13 -- AMENDMENTS**

13.1 Amendments to these bylaws of the Wyoming Libertarian Party shall be made by the State Committee at their meeting following the State Convention and shall require a two-thirds vote of those State Committee members present and voting in favor. Proposed amendments shall be given to the party Secretary and distributed to the State Committee members 30 days prior to the the State Committee meeting held following the State Convention.

13.2 Between Conventions, amendments may be made by the State Committee to change those provisions which are not in accordance with Wyoming and Federal law. The amendments may be made by using the following procedure. The proposed amendment(s) and notice of special meeting date, time and place shall be sent by the party Secretary to all State Committee members, in writing, at least 30 days prior to the scheduled State Committee meeting. The amendment(s) shall require a two-thirds vote of those State Committee members present and voting, and the meeting may be held in person or via telecommunications.