

By-Laws of the Libertarian Party of Central New Jersey

Approved on 2022-05-14

1. Name

The name of this association shall be the Libertarian Party of Central New Jersey hereinafter referred to as “The Party”. The Party shall be affiliated with the New Jersey Libertarian Party (NJLP).

2. Purpose and Goals

The purpose of the Party is to promote, through all levels of society, the libertarian ideal that the initiation of force should not be used for achieving political or social goals, and to promote the Party principles of limited government and individual liberty, as best enumerated by the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence.

The Party is the electoral arm of the libertarian movement in central New Jersey, with the goal of placing Libertarians in political office at the federal, state, county, and municipal levels, and to commit to outreach activities to attract and mobilize voters. Another goal is to promote the growth of the Libertarian Party and movement through the constant recruitment of new members, to establish and maintain a Libertarian political party infrastructure in the affiliated central New Jersey counties.

Specifically, the Party is a Political organization organized and operated primarily for the purpose of achieving or otherwise influencing the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of libertarian candidates to Federal, State, county, municipal or regional public or political office; the election of Presidential and Vice-Presidential electors; and the passage or defeat of public questions.

The Party may also engage in public education, member education, and civic affairs.

3. Membership

3.1. Membership

Each NJLP member in good standing residing in the Affiliated Counties, as defined by the NJLP, shall be a Voting Member of the Party, and voting shall be restricted to such NJLP members.

3.2. Membership List

Members shall be furnished, upon request to the Treasurer, a copy of the membership list at a reasonable cost of reproduction, provided that the membership list may be used only for official Party business and may not be disclosed to any other organization or nonmember individual.

3.3. Membership Outreach

Members shall furnish a reasonable mode of communication if they wish to receive any and all Party communications.

4. Meetings, Quorum and Voting

4.1. Meetings

There shall be three types of meetings:

4.1.a. Caucus Meetings at NJLP Meetings and Convention

These meetings shall be held according to the NJLP bylaws. Sufficient time to conduct party business shall be allocated to caucus meetings.

4.1.b. Regular Meetings

Regular Meetings shall be held at least eight [8] times per year on a date and

time and at a place determined by resolution of the officers. If a majority of the officers determines that there needs to be a change of the date, time or place of a regular meeting, the secretary shall provide notice to all Members as soon as practicably possible. The secretary shall provide notice to all Voting Members no fewer than ten [10] business days before a regular meeting.

4.1.c. Special Meetings

The Chair may call or ten percent (10%) of the Voting Members plus three (3) Voting Members may call a special meeting. The date, time, and place of the meeting shall be included in the call. The secretary shall provide notice to all Members no fewer than five [5] business days prior to any and all Special Meetings as to the date, time and location of each meeting.

4.2. Meeting Notices

The secretary shall provide notice to all Members no fewer than ten [10] business days prior to any and all Caucus, NJLP Convention, and Regular Meetings as to the date, time and location of each meeting.

4.3. Quorum

Whenever a meeting has been scheduled in accordance with these bylaws, it shall be considered a properly convened and legal meeting capable of transacting business. A quorum at any meeting shall consist of the Voting Members present but this number shall not be less than 4. However, in order to remove any officer, terminate any membership, revoke a Charter, vote to dissolve The Party, or amend these bylaws, a quorum of one twentieth of the Voting Members as of the current or most recent NJLP Convention shall be required but this number shall not be less than 5. For Voting Members verified to be remotely attending through available technology, at a live event, they will be counted toward the quorum if their connection is active at the time of the vote on any matter.

4.4. Voting

In order to remove any officer, revoke a Charter, or amend these bylaws, a two-thirds majority of the Voting Members present shall be required. In order to terminate any membership or vote to dissolve the Party, a seven-eighths majority of the Voting Members present shall be required. For all other proposed actions, a simple majority of the Voting Members present shall be required. All voting must be done in-person, or through available technology, during a live event, and not by proxy. The Chair shall not vote unless necessary to break a tie.

5. Involuntary Termination of Membership and Recall of Officers

No membership shall be involuntarily terminated nor shall any officer be recalled unless such termination or recall is brought before the Voting Members at a properly convened meeting.

5.1. Standards for Recall of an Officer

The standard to be applied by the Voting Members in reaching their decision in the case of recall of an officer shall be whether the officer is derelict in the performance of the duties conferred upon him or her by these bylaws, or for other good cause shown.

5.2. Standards for Termination of a Membership

The standard to be applied by the Voting Members in reaching their decision in the

case of termination of a membership shall be whether the member's Party-related conduct is injurious to the Party or any member thereof.

5.3. Procedure

If ten (10%) percent of the Voting Members plus three Voting Members desire to terminate any individual's membership, they shall sign a petition to that effect, including the basis for the proposed termination, as defined in section 5.2 above, and direct it to the Chair who shall forthwith provide written notice to the member whose termination is sought. Such notice shall include the date, time, place and purpose of the meeting and shall be served by certified mail no later than ten (10) business days in advance of the meeting. The member whose removal is sought shall be given an opportunity to speak in his or her defense at the meeting.

Officers may be recalled by resolution at any meeting consistent with the quorum and majority requirements stated elsewhere in these bylaws.

6. Officers

There shall be a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and State Representative. Elections for these offices shall be held at Regular Meetings every six [6] months with one election being at the Caucus meeting. Any Voting Member eighteen years of age or older may be an officer. The Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, and State Representative shall collectively constitute the Board of Trustees. No person shall hold more than one office concurrently.

6.1. Voting

Nominations shall be received from the floor. Nominees must be Voting Members. The elections shall be by counted vote and shall include a "NOTA—none of the above" category. Voting Members may vote for as many nominees as they wish. All votes will be counted equally and the nominee who receives a plurality of the votes shall be declared the winner. In the case of a tie, a runoff ballot will be held with each Voting Member casting one vote. Voting must be done in person and not by proxy.

6.2. Vacancies

If "NOTA—none of the above" wins any election for which there was another nominee, the office shall remain unfilled. If an office becomes vacant, a special election shall be held at the next Regular Meeting. Until such special election is held, the Chair shall designate a Voting Member to assume the duties of the vacant office unless the vacancy is the office of the Chair.

6.3. Duties of the Chair

6.3.a

The Chair is the executive officer of the Party and is responsible for ensuring that all officers and committees are functioning and are carrying out their individual responsibilities.

6.3.b

He or she shall prepare an agenda for and preside at all Party meetings.

6.3.c

He or she shall be a voting ex-officio member of all standing committees and shall personally attend, or designate the Vice Chair to attend, meetings of committees whenever necessary or advisable.

6.3.d

He or she shall appoint special committees as the need arises.

6.3.e

He or she shall appoint the chair and members for each Standing Committees on the basis of talents, interest and willingness of members.

6.4. Duties of the Vice Chair

6.4.a

The Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence or removal and generally assist the Chair.

6.4.b

He or she may be designated by the Chair to attend meetings of committees in the chair's stead, in which capacity the Vice Chair shall have all the privileges and responsibilities of the Party's Chair.

6.5. Duties of the Secretary

6.5.a

The Secretary shall be custodian of the bylaws and shall keep an accurate copy of the current version as well as prior versions and amendments.

6.5.b

He or she shall accurately record in permanent records, all minutes of the meetings, which will also be prominently posted, before the next scheduled CNJLP meeting, at the regularly-designated location, accessible to Members. Members shall be furnished, upon request to the Secretary, a copy of any or all said minutes, or information on how to access them.

6.5.c

He or she shall conduct all official correspondence of the Party.

6.5.d

He or she shall maintain and keep an accurate attendance record of all Voting Members.

6.5.e

He or she shall be responsible for notifying Voting Members of the date, time and place of Regular and Special meetings.

6.5.f

He or she shall preside over any meeting in which both the Chair or Vice Chair are absent.

6.6. Duties of the Treasurer

6.6.a

The Treasurer shall maintain proper financial records and report them at all meetings.

6.6.b

He or she shall prepare and submit any financial or tax reports as required.

6.6.c

He or she shall maintain the Voting Member list, and provide the list to Voting Members according to section 3.2 above.

6.6.d

He or she shall make available the Party's financial records for examination upon request.

6.6.e

He or she shall promptly pay all duly authorized bills.

6.6.f

He or she shall observe sound accounting practices in maintaining ail records and shall suggest and institute improvements wherever necessary.

6.6.g

He or she shall be responsible to train his or her successor in the details and functions of the office of Treasurer.

6.7. Duties of the State Representative

6.7.a

He or she shall attend, or cause to be attended by a substitute if necessary, all State meetings.

6.7.b

He or she shall represent, or cause to be represented by a substitute if necessary, the region's interests in all State meetings.

6.7.c

He or she shall report, or cause to be reported by a substitute if necessary, the results of all State meetings to the Board.

7. Committees

Each Standing and Special Committee shall have a permanent place on the agenda and a member of the committee shall report on the committee's progress at each and every meeting.

7.1. Bylaws Committee

There shall be a Bylaws Committee. The Bylaws Committee shall be responsible for: (a) proposing amendments to these bylaws and business rules, in order to improve party processes and functioning; and (b) resolving disputes over bylaws interpretations.

8. Nominations

8.1. Nominations Within the Region

Nominations within the regions shall be made in accordance with section 11(b) of the NJLP bylaws.

8.2. Nominations Across Regions

Nominations across regions shall be made at the NJLP Convention, according to the procedures established by the NJLP.

9. Endorsement of candidates

9.1. Endorsement of candidates in partisan elections

The Party may endorse any candidate for public office in a partisan election appearing on the ballot in the Affiliated Counties where there is no candidate duly nominated by the Party, the Libertarian Party, or the New Jersey Libertarian Party, or will be listed on the ballot with the designation "Libertarian Party" for the same office. Any candidate so endorsed must certify in writing his or her opposition to the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals. Endorsement shall be granted upon majority vote in favor of endorsement at a Regular Meeting.

9.2. Endorsement of candidates in non-partisan elections

The Party may endorse any candidate for public office in a non-partisan election in

which the candidate certifies in writing his or her opposition to the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals. Endorsement shall be granted upon majority vote in favor of endorsement at a Regular Meeting.

10. Chapters

10.1. Recognition

Whenever two or more members of the Party in good standing are residents of the same County or Municipality within the Affiliated Counties and desire to form a Libertarian Party Chapter for the County or Municipality in which they reside, they shall present a petition seeking recognition, signed by at least two of the said residents, at a regular or special meeting of the Party. Upon presentation of such a petition, any Voting Member may move to grant a Charter to the new County or Municipal Party as a Chapter of the Party. No motion to grant a Charter to a County or Municipal Chapter shall be in order if there is another Chapter already recognized in that County or Municipality.

10.2. Withdrawal of Recognition

A Charter may be revoked at a Regular or Special meeting called for that purpose provided that the quorum and other requirements stated elsewhere in these bylaws have been met. Previous notice of the motion shall be given at the preceding Regular meeting or a Special Meeting called for that purpose, providing that there are at least 15 days between the meeting at which previous notice is given and the meeting at which the motion is voted on. Notice of the motion must be sent via certified mail to the Chapter that is the subject of the motion at least ten (10) days prior to the meeting at which the vote will be taken. The standard to be applied by the Voting Members in reaching their decision in the case of revoking a Charter shall be whether the Chapter's conduct is injurious or potentially injurious to the Party, to any member of the Party, or to the purposes and goals of the Party.

11. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Party by a two-thirds vote, provided that the quorum requirements stated elsewhere in these bylaws have been met. These bylaws may not be altered by the Board of Trustees.

11.a. Business Rules

Any Business Rule may be suspended, rescinded, or amended by a majority vote of a body that is larger than the body that adopted it. Any Business Rule may be suspended, rescinded, or amended by a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the body that adopted it. No Business Rule may be suspended, rescinded, or amended by a body that is smaller than the body that adopted it.

Business Rules

1. Name

2. Purpose and Goals

3. Membership

4. Meetings, Quorum and Voting

4.1. Meeting Agendas

For each meeting, the Secretary shall provide a draft agenda, along with any relevant supplementary documents, to all Members no fewer than two (2) business days before the meeting.

5. Involuntary Termination of Membership and Recall of Officers

6. Officers

7. Committees

7.1. Tenure

The tenure of committee members shall be at the discretion of the Chair, up to one year, with the possibility of reappointment. The tenure of such officers as a committee may have (chair, secretary, coordinator, etc.) shall be up to six months, with the possibility of reelection or reappointment.

7.2. Minutes

Brief minutes or notes of committee sessions or activities shall be submitted by the committee chair or secretary to the Party secretary, for recordkeeping and distribution to members.

7.3. Standing Committees

The following standing committees are authorized:

7.3.a. Nominations Committee

There shall be a Nominations Committee. It is responsible for recruiting candidates for political office, recommending candidates to be nominated, and guiding them through the nomination process.

7.3.b. Fundraising Committee

There shall be a Fundraising Committee, which is responsible for coordinating all fundraising activities and securing as much fundraising capital as possible.

7.3.c. Candidate Support Committee

There shall be a Candidate Support Committee. It is responsible for coordinating volunteer activities and services in support of Party candidates' campaigns.

7.3.d. Social Media and Recruitment Committee

There shall be a Social Media and Recruitment Committee. It is responsible for establishing and maintaining the Party's public (physical and/or social-media) presence in order to recruit new members and spread the message of the Party. It should strive to represent the variety of viewpoints that exist among the Party's members.

7.3.e. Strategy Committee

There shall be a Strategy committee. It is responsible for developing medium- and long-term proposals for the Party, and for coordinating with the Board and other committees on those proposals.

7.3.f. Activities and Member Engagement Committee

There shall be an Activities and Member Engagement Committee. It is responsible for organizing social and charitable activities, programs, training, discussion, and issue education, in order to increase member engagement and retention.

8. Nominations

8.1. Nomination Process

8.1.a. Vetting

The Nominations Committee shall identify potential candidates, and review

all potential candidates presenting themselves to the region, to declare their candidacy, and perform an initial vetting to identify any general difficulties with a potential nomination of the Candidate.

9. Endorsement of candidates

10. Chapters

11. Amendments

Revision History

2022-02-24

Amended at general meeting in Hamilton Twp., Mercer County

Modified § 4.4, to increase the threshold for removing members from the party, and for dissolving the party, from two-thirds to seven-eighths.

Created the business rules (with empty subsections 1–11).

Created § 11.1, to provide for amending or suspending the business rules.

Deleted § 8.1 (the nomination process).

Created business rules § 8.1.a (identical to the just-deleted bylaws § 8.1.a.1), to provide for vetting of potential candidates.

Modified § 6.3.e, to eliminate power of chair over tenure of committee members.

Created business rules § 7.1, to prescribe tenure of 1 year for committee members or 6 months for committee officers (with the possibility of reelection/reappointment).

Created business rules § 7.2, to add the requirement of taking minutes/notes on committee meetings/activities.

Deleted §§ 7.1–7.6 (provisions for committees).

Created § 7.1, to establish the Bylaws Committee, with powers (1) to suggest changes to bylaws and business rules and (2) to resolve disputes over interpretation).

Created business rules § 7.3, to establish standing committees.

Modified § 4.1.a, to add a requirement for ensuring sufficient time for business at caucus meetings.

Modified § 4.1.b, to eliminate the requirement for a regular meeting within ten days before a caucus meeting.

2022-05-14

Amended at general meeting in Hamilton Twp., Mercer County

Modified business rules § 4.1, to require the Secretary to distribute a draft agenda and supplementary documents two business days before each meeting.