



**Bylaws and Rules  
of the  
New Jersey  
Libertarian Party**

Amended February 19, 2023

Published by the  
New Jersey Libertarian Party  
P. O. Box 56  
Tennent, New Jersey 07763

# Table of Contents

Bylaws.....	1
1. Name.....	1
2. Purpose .....	1
3. Fiscal Policy .....	1
4. Statement of Principles and Platform .....	2
5. Membership.....	3
6. Meetings and Committees .....	4
a. General Meetings.....	4
b. State Convention.....	5
c. State Board.....	5
d. Bylaws Committee.....	8
e. Platform Committee.....	8
f. Openness Policy.....	9
g. Online Meetings.....	9
7. Officers .....	9
8. Trustees.....	10
9. Other Officials .....	10
10. Affiliations .....	11
11. Regional Organizations.....	12
a. Composition.....	12
b. Selection of Candidates Entirely Within the Jurisdiction of a Regional Organization .....	12
c. Selection of Officers of Regional Organizations .....	12
d. Meetings of Regional Organizations.....	14
e. Powers of Regional Organizations.....	14
f. Assignment of Counties to Region .....	15
12. Implementation .....	15
13. Quorum .....	15
14. Vote .....	16
15. Amendments .....	16
16. Dissolution.....	17
17. Ratification.....	17
Convention Rules.....	18
1. Definition of Delegate to State Convention .....	18
2. Convention Business Protocol.....	18
a. Preparation.....	18
b. No formal readings .....	18
c. Discussion limits.....	19
d. Agenda priorities and timetable.....	19
e. Convention Rules Suspension.....	19
3. Election Procedure for Filling Identical Positions (Trustees, Delegates to National Convention, for example) .....	19
4. Delegate/Alternate Seating Procedure for National LP Convention .....	20
Business Rules .....	21
1. Name.....	21

2.	Purpose .....	21
3.	Fiscal Policy .....	22
4.	Statement of Principles and Platform .....	23
5.	Membership .....	23
6.	Meetings and Committees .....	24
7.	Officers .....	24
8.	Trustees.....	24
9.	Other Officials .....	24
10.	Affiliations .....	25
11.	Regional Organizations.....	26
12.	Implementation .....	26
13.	Quorum .....	26
14.	Vote .....	26
15.	Amendments .....	26
16.	Dissolution .....	26
17.	Ratification.....	26



## Bylaws

### **1. Name**

The name of this association shall be the New Jersey Libertarian Party, hereinafter referred to as “NJLP,” and the association shall be incorporated under Title 15A of the laws of the State of New Jersey. The NJLP is a membership corporation without capital stock and is incorporated for liability purposes.

### **2. Purpose**

The purpose of the NJLP is to organize the means for promoting Libertarian ideas and institutions. Specifically, the NJLP 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.

### **3. Fiscal Policy**

The NJLP may directly and indirectly accept contributions and make expenditures, as defined by Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code.

The NJLP may also engage in public education, member education and civic affairs and shall administer separate Segregated Funds for the purpose of engaging in exempt functions as defined by Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Funds operated for the purpose of influencing the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of Libertarians to public office of the state or of a New Jersey county, municipality or school district or to aid or propose passage or defeat of public questions in any New Jersey election shall be called the NJLP State Fund or State Fund.

Funds operated for the purpose of influencing the selection, nomination, election, or appointment of Libertarians to federal office or as electors for President and Vice-President shall be called the NJLP Federal Fund or Federal Fund.

Funds operated to indirectly support the activities of the State and Federal Funds in accordance with NJLP's exempt function under Section 527 of the Internal Revenue Code shall be called the General Fund.

The NJLP may establish a non-exempt fund for the purpose of raising and expending funds to engage in non-exempt secondary purposes. The non-exempt fund shall be called the NEF. NEF may not be commingled with the exempt funds of the NJLP.

The General Fund, the Federal Fund, and the State Fund shall be maintained separately. However, General Funds may be used to administer the Federal and State Fund in accordance with Federal and State Law (specifically but not limited to FEC and ELEC regulations) governing expenditure of Corporation funds for the administration of Segregated Funds.

No member may spend or commit NJLP funds except as authorized by the State Board, General Meeting or a State Convention.

#### **4. Statement of Principles and Platform**

**a.** The Statement of Principles affirms that philosophy upon which the NJLP is founded, by which it shall be sustained, and through which liberty shall prevail. The enduring importance of the Statement of Principles requires that it and this sentence may be amended only by a seven-eighths vote at the State Convention.

**b.** The NJLP Platform shall consist of the Statement of Principles and the implementation of those principles in the form of planks, and any appropriate additional material. The presentation of each Plank shall subscribe to the following subdivisions:

1. ISSUE, which shall be a statement of the reason why this subject is presented – the existence of a problem for the general population of New Jersey for which we believe we have a solution.

2. PRINCIPLE, which shall be a statement of the specific implication of the Statement of Principles as it pertains to this ISSUE.
3. SOLUTION, which shall be a summary presentation of the way this ISSUE should be addressed from a libertarian perspective.
4. TRANSITION, which shall be a presentation of some possible measures that might serve to get us closer to the SOLUTION, would relieve the immediate oppression specified in the ISSUE, or might make it easier to implement the SOLUTION.

c. Amending the Platform shall require the following support, depending on the subdivision:

1. ISSUE, PRINCIPLE, and SOLUTION shall require two-thirds (2/3).
2. TRANSITION and the remaining “additional material” stipulated in (b) shall require a simple majority.
3. Deletion of any plank in its entirety shall require a two-thirds majority.

d. Discarding the platform requires a seven-eighths majority.

## **5. Membership**

Membership is open to anyone who lives or works in the state of New Jersey who certifies in writing that he or she opposes the initiation of force as a means of achieving political or social goals. Thereafter, such a person shall be a member upon payment of annual or lifetime dues to the NJLP. Payment of dues may be waived if the person is a full-time student at the time of joining or renewing.<sup>1</sup>

Members shall be furnished, upon request of the VP Membership, a printed copy of the membership list at reasonable cost of reproduction or an electronic copy at no cost, provided that the private list may be used only for official NJLP business and may not be disclosed to any other organization or non-member individual.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party Bylaws and Rules; March 20, 2021

<sup>2</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party Bylaws and Rules; March 11, 2017

a. A 7/8 vote at any General Meeting may remove any person from membership in the NJLP, provided that notice of consideration of the removal of that person from membership was included in the written notice of the General Meeting.

1. 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 conduct is injurious to the Party or any member thereof.
2. Procedure: The member whose removal is sought shall be guaranteed due process, including an opportunity to speak in his or her defense at the meeting.<sup>3</sup>

## **6. Meetings and Committees**

### **a. General Meetings**

1. General Meetings may be called by the State Chair, State Board, or by 5% of the entire NJLP membership plus five members.
2. At least two (2) weeks written or electronic (email and web page)<sup>4</sup> notice shall be given for a General Meeting. General Meetings may be called as often as the notice requirements are met.
3. Any decision made by the State Board may be appealed to the next General Meeting, where it may be overturned by a majority vote, except that no valid financial commitment made by the State Board shall be repudiated.
4. A 2/3 vote at any General Meeting may remove any person from office in the NJLP, provided that notice of consideration of the removal of that person from office was included in the written notice of the General Meeting.<sup>3</sup>
5. Full authority shall be vested in every General Meeting.

<sup>3</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party Bylaws and Rules; July 24, 2021

<sup>4</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party and Rules April 30, 2022



## ***b. State Convention***

1. The State Convention is an annual<sup>5</sup> General Meeting with the sole power to set dues; to adopt, amend, or discard the NJLP Platform; and to elect the officers and other State Board members. It shall be held once a year, no earlier than February 1 nor later than March 31, at the call of the State Board.

If required by changes in New Jersey election law, the NJLP State Convention may be held up to five months early if summoned by the State Board<sup>6</sup>.

2. Delegates to the State Convention shall be chosen in accordance with written procedures which have been approved, without modification, by a 2/3 vote at two consecutive General Meetings. In the absence of such procedures, each member shall be deemed to be his or her own delegate without privilege of proxy.
3. There shall be no charge to members for participating in the business session of the State Convention.
4. Candidates for statewide office shall be nominated at the State Convention. In the absence of approved procedures for selecting candidates for other offices, such candidates may be nominated by the delegates.

## ***c. State Board***

1. The State Board shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer, VP of Political Affairs, VP of Membership, VP of Programs, VP of Public Relations, and three (3) Regional Representatives, for a term to expire at the conclusion of the next State Convention or when their successors are elected.<sup>1</sup>
2. The State Board shall have the authority to fill any Officer or VP vacancies.

<sup>5</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party and Rules February 12, 2023

<sup>6</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party Bylaws and Rules; November 12, 2016

3. The State Board shall have full authority to act for the NJLP between General Meetings. The State Board may approve expenditures, draft positions, and select candidates after the annual State Convention. It shall also approve the appointments made by the State Chair as provided herein. The State Board shall prepare a non-binding budget for the NJLP for presentation at the State Convention. A financial review of the NJLP shall be conducted at least bi-annually under the direction of the State Board and the results distributed at the subsequent State Convention.
4. The State Board shall meet at the call of the State Chair or 25% of its members at least eight (8) times a year. At least ten (10) days notice shall be given for each meeting, but lesser notice shall suffice if all members agree.
5. State Board members are expected to attend State Board meetings regularly. A State Board member may designate in writing or by e-mail an alternate for a meeting at which the State Board member cannot attend, and the designee shall count toward the quorum and may vote if the other State Board members approve by a two-thirds (2/3) vote. Failure to attend three (3) consecutive State Board meetings by a State Board member or alternate during a term shall result in the State Board member's seat being declared vacant. Vacancy takes effect upon the call of the roll at the beginning of the third missed State Board meeting.
6. The VPs of Political Affairs, Membership, Programs, and Public Relations may engage other NJLP members to assist them in carrying out their responsibilities, as described in 9. Other Officials. <sup>1</sup>
7. Regional members can select a Representative by any ballot procedure they choose and report the results to the NJLP Secretary, after which the elected Representative can take office. No election shall take place without fifteen (15) days prior notice having been made to all members in the region.

- a. Only NJLP members residing or working in a region shall be eligible for their region's office of Regional Representative or alternate, and to vote for these offices.
  - b. Each region may elect one (1) Regional Representative.
  - c. The term of office for a Regional Representative shall be until the conclusion of the next State Convention or when the successors are elected.
  - d. A Regional Representative may be removed and replaced at any time by a two-thirds (2/3) vote, provided that only those individuals qualified to select the Regional Representative may participate in the decision to remove and replace the Regional Representative. The procedure for removal and replacement shall be as determined by the State Board. Replacement shall be for the unexpired term.
  - e. Vacancies otherwise created shall be filled in a manner determined by the State Board. The replacement shall be for the duration of the unexpired term.
  - f. The Regional Representative office for a region is not vacant if no Regional representative has been elected to the position during annual elections.
8. Each member of the State Board shall have one (1) vote.
9. Board business may be held via email provided the following is observed:
- a. If the business can be handled during a regular deliberative meeting it should not be considered via email. An exception can be made for any motion where all members of the body agree that it can be handled online.
  - b. Motion is made via email with the full text of the motion present in the email and a reply has been made to second the motion.

- c. Upon seconding of such a motion, the Secretary, or other member acting in that capacity, shall notify all members of the Board, via some form of contemporaneous communication, that a motion has been made and the topic of such motion. The presumptive method for communication shall be by text message, however, any member may choose a different method of notification, provided they notify the Secretary in writing of such other method, and provided it is easily available and will not create an undue burden on the Secretary.
- d. A minimum of two business days are provided for discussion.
- e. After the minimum time for discussion a motion must have been made to close discussion and to proceed to a vote.
- f. A minimum of one business day is provided for voting, unless all members either vote or express their desire to not vote.
- g. Anyone not voting will be counted as having voted in the negative.
- h. The motion, second, and all votes shall be recorded by the secretary in the next regular business meeting minutes.<sup>4</sup>

#### ***d. Bylaws Committee***

The Bylaws Committee shall consider proposals for amendments to the Bylaws, Convention Rules, and Business Rules, and report to the membership at General Meetings. The Chair of this Committee shall be chosen by the members of the Committee. Any member who is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings shall be dropped from the Committee. Agenda preference at General Meetings is to be given proposals that have been considered by the Bylaws Committee.<sup>7</sup>

#### ***e. Platform Committee***

The Platform Committee shall consider proposals for amendments to the NJLP Platform, and report to the membership at General Meetings. The Chair of this committee shall be chosen by the members of the Committee. Any member who is absent for three (3) consecutive meetings shall be

dropped from the Committee. Agenda preference at General Meetings is to be given proposals that have been considered by the Platform Committee.<sup>7</sup>

#### ***f. Openness Policy***

All NJLP meetings are open to NJLP members, and such attendees may offer their comments on business of the meeting, if time permits.

On rare occasions when a meeting must deal with confidential matters, PART of a meeting may be closed for cause by a three-fourths vote. Members excluded by such an executive session shall be provided with an explanation for the exclusion, and the remaining meeting participants will provide a summary of actions decided to those excluded after the executive session is concluded.

Members of the public are usually welcomed to attend NJLP meetings as guests of NJLP members. Such guests may speak, if the members of the meeting by majority vote wish to hear the guest.

#### ***g. Online Meetings***

Any meeting may be held via teleconference or video conference as long as the meeting is held in accordance with the Bylaws, Business rules of the Party, and meeting decorum as specified in Robert's Rules of Order. This amendment shall be applicable to any meeting held after January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020. No action taken between January 1<sup>st</sup> 2020 and the adoption of this paragraph shall be subject to challenge on the grounds that the actions were taken at a meeting conducted electronically.<sup>7</sup>

### **7. Officers**

The NJLP officers shall consist of the State Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer. They shall be elected at the State Convention for a term to expire at the conclusion of the next State Convention or when their successors are elected. Any member of the NJLP eighteen years of age or older may be elected an Officer.

**a.** The State Chair, who shall be the President in accordance with Title

<sup>7</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party Bylaws and Rules; March 12, 2022

15A of the laws of the State of New Jersey, shall preside over all NJLP meetings; be general spokesperson for the NJLP; execute all resolutions by the State Board and General Meetings; create and appoint standing and special committees (subject to the approval of the NJLP State Board); and appoint or remove the Party Counsel, both actions subject to the approval of the State Board.<sup>6</sup>

- b. The Vice Chair shall assume the duties of the State Chair in that person's absence and generally assist the State Chair.
- c. The Secretary shall maintain, record, and report minutes of all meetings, including the State Convention; carry out other duties as directed by the State Chair; and assume the duties of the Chair if that person and the Vice Chair are both unavailable.
- d. The Treasurer shall maintain and make available proper financial records and report them to all meetings; prepare and submit any government or other financial or tax reports as required; and prepare and mail renewal notices.
- e. All NJLP officers, State Board members, and other NJLP officials shall be NJLP members.

## **8. Trustees**

The Vice-Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer together shall be the Trustees, and in that capacity shall have only that authority which is granted to the trustees of corporations not for profit under the laws of the State of New Jersey. Meetings of the Trustees may be called, with seven days' notice, by any Trustee. Two Trustees constitute a quorum.

## **9. Other Officials**

- a. Party Counsel, who shall be an attorney in New Jersey.
- b. VP of Membership: whose responsibilities shall include new member and prospect outreach, college outreach, member retention, Members e-list (and its moderator), Announce e-list (and its moderator), and Activists e-list (and its moderator), and Regional e-lists.<sup>1</sup>
- c. VP of Public Relations: whose responsibilities shall include Newsletter (and its Editor), online presence (Facebook, Twitter, et. al.) (and their

administrators), Website (and the Webmaster), Fundraising, and Public Promotions (e.g. press outreach, press releases).

- d. VP of Programs: whose responsibilities shall include educational programs, member programs, Candidate e-list (and its moderator), oversight of the Open Government Advocacy Project, Police Accountability, Pre-empted Ordinance Repeal Project and other special projects.
- e. VP of Political Affairs: whose responsibilities shall include candidate recruitment and training, legislative outreach, and political policy development.<sup>1</sup>
- f. VP Deputies for the VP Officials named in sections 9.b-9.e. Deputies shall be appointed by the VPs and shall assist VPs in handling their portfolios. Deputies shall have no voting rights on the State Board. However, in case a VP cannot attend a State Board meeting, that VP's Deputy shall be presumed alternate/designee in that VP's stead, as described in section 6.c.5 of these bylaws<sup>8</sup>.
- g. Editors, webmasters, social media administrators and e-list moderators must all be members of the NJLP.

## **10. Affiliations**

- a. The NJLP shall be affiliated with the Libertarian Party.
- b. Any officer or NJLP official shall be deemed to have resigned if he or she is a candidate for office representing any political group other than the Libertarian Party in a partisan election.
- c. All candidates must be NJLP members and run under the designation of "Libertarian Party" in partisan elections. The NJLP Secretary shall provide written certification to pertinent election officials that approved NJLP candidates are authorized to run under that designation.
- d. Except as provided in Section 10, the NJLP has no affiliation with any organization designating itself as a Libertarian Party of a particular county or counties or of a particular municipality or municipalities. The

<sup>8</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party Bylaws and Rules; February 12, 2023

NJLP may otherwise transact business with such Parties consistent with its Purpose.

## **11. Regional Organizations**

### ***a. Composition***

There shall be three (3) Regional Organizations: Northern NJLP, Central NJLP, and Southern NJLP. Each NJLP member in good standing shall be a member of the Regional Organization for the region of his or her residence or workplace. An NJLP member can be a member of only one Regional Organization<sup>9</sup>. Voting shall be restricted to NJLP members.

### ***b. Selection of Candidates Entirely Within the Jurisdiction of a Regional Organization***

During the regional caucus at the State Convention, the Regional Organization may nominate candidates for offices entirely within the jurisdiction of that Regional Organization. The selected nominees shall be announced by the NJLP Secretary after the Regional officers have been announced. “None of the Above” may be nominated by affirmative action of the regional caucus. Any affirmative nomination by a regional caucus may be overturned only by that Regional Organization. Failure to nominate a candidate for an office entirely within the jurisdiction of a Regional Organization will leave such nomination open to be filled by the Regional Organization or the NJLP State Board at a later date. Any post-Convention nomination made by a Regional Organization shall be ineffective until the Regional Organization reports the candidates’ names and public offices sought to the NJLP State Board.

### ***c. Selection of Officers of Regional Organizations***

At a designated time during each State Convention, if a majority of the regional membership in attendance feels there is sufficient opportunity to deliberate effectively, each Region shall caucus and elect a chair, a

<sup>9</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party Bylaws and Rules; November 15, 2015



Secretary, and a State Board Representative<sup>10</sup>, together with any other officers it may choose, from its membership, for terms to expire according to the Region's bylaws, but no later than the adjournment of the next State Convention<sup>11</sup>. A person may be selected to hold more than one office and need not be present at the State Convention in order to be elected, provided his or her consent is obtained. If a majority of the regional membership in attendance feels there is insufficient opportunity to deliberate effectively during the caucus, due to time constraints or any other reason outside of the regional membership's control, the regional membership may vote to suspend the caucus meeting, and resume it at a designated later date, which shall be no later than the last day of the month following the month in which the convention is held.

By the close of the caucuses and resumption of regular State Convention business, the Regional Secretaries shall file with the NJLP Secretary the names and positions of their officers. Any Regional Organization not making such a filing shall be deemed to have chosen to remain inactive.

At a designated time, the NJLP Secretary shall report to the State Convention each Regional Organization which made a filing, the offices established, and the officers selected. After the report, the NJLP chair shall ask the assembly for any objections to approval of the Regional Organization as reported. In the absence of an objection, the Regional Organization reported shall be approved as an active Regional Organization. If there is objection, the regions not objected to shall be approved as active, and the approval of the remaining Regional Organizations shall be debated and brought to a vote. If a Regional Organization has chosen to postpone its elections, the scheduled date for the postponed elections shall also be designated, and, upon those elections, the newly elected Regional Secretary shall file with the NJLP Secretary the names and positions of those elected. Upon receiving the filing, the NJLP Secretary shall ask membership for any objections to

<sup>10</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party Bylaws and Rules; November 12, 2017

<sup>11</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party Bylaws and Rules; February 12, 2023

approvals of the Regional Organization as reported. Any member can raise an objection, which shall be debated and brought to a vote at the next State Board or next General Meeting, whichever occurs first.

At every General Meeting that is not a State Convention, there shall be a time designated for inactive Regional Organization to caucus and elect officers, if such election has not already been completed in a separately called meeting. The caucusing, reporting, and approval procedures shall be done in the same manner as at a State Convention. The terms of any regional officers elected shall expire at the next State Convention.<sup>12</sup>

#### ***d. Meetings of Regional Organizations***

Unless and until an active Regional Organization adopts bylaws to the contrary, a Regional Organization shall i.) meet at the call of its chair, or upon petition of five percent, but no less than three (3), of its members; ii.) give prior notice of each meeting to each member of the Regional Organization; and iii.) meet a minimum of four (4) times each year. In no event shall the bylaws of any Regional Organization be inconsistent with those of the New Jersey Libertarian Party.

#### ***e. Powers of Regional Organizations***

An active Regional Organization is authorized and encouraged to engage in any type of activity and hold any types of function that will foster and promote the tenets of the Libertarian Party. Specifically, an active Regional Organization --

- (1) shall be authorized to use the name “Libertarian Party” within its geographic region;
- (2) may issue and publicize official positions and statements of the Libertarian Party as they relate to issues and concerns within its geographic region; and
- (3) may select candidates for public office for political districts which lie entirely within its geographic region. Regional Organizations may

<sup>12</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party Bylaws and Rules; November 6, 2021

jointly select candidates by consent of the adjoining regions when districts encompass more than one region. Disputes between regions will be mediated by a member of the State Board and, if necessary, resolved by vote of the State Board. Candidates whose election districts have all or part of their area within regions lacking active Regional Organizations must be approved at the State Convention.

A statement containing the name of each candidate and corresponding public office sought must be filed with the NJLP Secretary upon the selection being made. Upon confirmation that the candidate meets the selection conditions [sections 11.e(3) and 10.c], the NJLP Secretary shall certify that the candidate is authorized to run under the designation "Libertarian Party."

#### **f. Assignment of Counties to Region**

The assignment of counties to regions shall be:

**Northern NJLP:** Bergen, Essex, Hudson, Morris, Passaic, Sussex, and Warren.

**Central NJLP:** Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Somerset, and Union.

**Southern NJLP:** Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester, Ocean, and Salem.

### **12. Implementation**

- a. The State Board shall have the authority to adopt rules to implement these Bylaws and the Certificate of Incorporation. Such rules may be adopted, amended, or abolished by any General Meeting.
- b. Except as otherwise provided in the Bylaws and the Certificate of Incorporation, the current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order* shall govern all NJLP meetings.

### **13. Quorum**

- a. Unless otherwise specified, a majority of the members of any NJLP committee or board constitute a quorum for that committee or board.
- b. A quorum for the State Convention shall be 15 delegates.

- c. A quorum for any other General Meeting shall be 15 NJLP members.
- d. Regional Organizations may set their own quorum requirements.

#### **14. Vote**

Unless otherwise specified, the number of votes required (such as two-thirds, majority, *etc.*) to carry a motion is determined by those voting with abstentions not counted.

#### **15. Amendments**

- a. These Bylaws may be amended by a two-thirds vote of any General Meeting provided notice of the proposed amendments has been given in the notice for the meeting.
- b. Except for the Statement of Principles, as defined elsewhere, the NJLP Platform may be amended by a two-thirds vote at the State Convention. Written notice of the modifications proposed must be given to all members in accordance with notice requirements stated elsewhere in these Bylaws.
- c. The Certificate of Incorporation may be amended by 2/3 vote of the entire membership at any General Meeting.
- d. Written notice of the proposed amendments to these Bylaws, the Statement of Principles, or the NJLP Platform planks shall include the proposed text deletions, insertions, and additions.
- e. 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.
- f. All Business Rules in place as of 14 November 2010 shall be regarded as having been adopted at a General Meeting, with the following exceptions:
  - (1) Fiscal Policy provisions have been adopted by the State Board;

(2) Regional Organization Dues Sharing provision has been adopted by the State Board.

g. Amendments of any Business Rule causes that Rule to become adopted by the amending body.

## **16. Dissolution**

The State Board has the authority to propose to dissolve the NJLP and following such proposal to present to the membership a plan of dissolution in accordance with Title 15A of the laws of the State of New Jersey. Such presentation shall be made at a General Meeting.

## **17. Ratification**

These Bylaws shall take effect immediately upon approval. Additional resolution to allow clerical adjustments:

**Resolved**, that the NJLP Secretary be authorized to correct article and section designations, punctuation, and cross-references and to make such other technical changes as may be necessary to reflect the intent of the NJLP Convention in connection with any amendments.

Certified by NJLP Secretary, James Ripley Feb 19, 2023.



## Convention Rules

### **1. Definition of Delegate to State Convention**

Delegates to the NJLP State Convention shall consist of all NJLP members attending who were members on the first day of the month preceding the month when the Convention is held.

### **2. Convention Business Protocol**

#### ***a. Preparation***

To expedite the annual NJLP Convention business session, NJLP officers and committee Chairs will present or by the Convention will have transmitted printed materials to all State Convention participants about these items:

<b>Description</b>	<b>Author</b>
Minutes of prior meeting	NJLP Secretary
Treasurer's report & NJLP Annual Budget	NJLP Treasurer
Budget	NJLP Treasurer
Proposed NJLP Bylaws or Platform amendments and other proposals for member action	As Indicated

#### ***b. No formal readings***

Given the availability of written documents to all members, there will be no formal reading of any of the above items. Members are expected to have read and reviewed their handouts upon receipt and any member's questions will be welcome afterwards. No item of business scheduled for discussion at the Convention will have escaped thorough review and evaluation by NJLP committees and usually more than one review cycle will have occurred.

### ***c. Discussion limits***

Because excessive discussion will impede reasonable progress in the meeting, members should confine their comments to items being debated. Each speaker is limited to one minute (60 seconds) to comment on a motion. No speaker will comment again when other members who have not spoken desire the floor. Nonmembers may attend the meeting as members' guests, but they may not participate in discussion. (Members present may by two-thirds [2/3] affirmative vote permit brief informative comment from guests.)

### ***d. Agenda priorities and timetable***

The Agenda constitutes Standing Orders for the day's business. Any member may "Call for the Orders of the Day" to enforce the Agenda timetable whenever it is not being followed. Upon this action, all outstanding motions must immediately be voted on in pending order, unless the membership by a two-thirds (2/3) affirmative vote decides to continue debate or modify the Agenda.

Times designated on the Agenda are considered "on or before" designation, except for the Call to Order and Adjournment. That is, any item may be acted upon prior to its time if the previous business is completed, but pending business must be completed by vote (previous paragraph) when the next agenda item's time to begin is reached.

### ***e. Convention Rules Suspension***

An NJLP Convention Rule may only be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the delegates, except Convention Rule 1. which shall not be suspended.

## **3. Election Procedure for Filling Identical Positions**

**(Trustees, Delegates to National Convention, for example)<sup>9</sup>**

**a.** Qualification for election and service: NJLP members only.

**b.** On a given ballot, a member shall cast one vote for any number of candidates up to the total number left to be elected. Any ballot containing more candidates than allowed is **invalid** and disqualified. Ranking vote totals for each candidate decides election.

c. None of the Above (NOTA) means rejection of **all** candidates only. If a ballot contains **NOTA** plus candidate name(s), **NOTA** is ignored.

d. Ties for lowest position(s) will be decided by another vote on remaining candidates. This step will be repeated until all position(s) are decided.

#### **4. Delegate/Alternate Seating Procedure for National LP Convention**

a. **First Alternates:** Candidates for delegate who were not elected delegates shall lead the list of alternates.

b. **Additional Alternates:** Shall be selected according to written notices by eligible volunteers received at or before (30 days before national LP deadline) NJLP meeting. Upon reaching national LP limit of 50 total alternates, earliest postmark of candidate's letter will be used to end listings.

c. At any time when the total NJLP delegates and alternates present on the National Convention floor does not exceed the total NJLP delegate allotment, all alternates so present shall be deemed properly designated to function as delegates.

d. When the number does exceed the allotment, the total number of alternates sufficient to raise the delegation to its allotment shall automatically be designated in accordance with the "Order of Alternates" (below).

e. **Order of Alternates:** First Alternates shall be seated in order of rank in votes received in the final NJLP Convention vote for delegates with tie votes resolved by lot. Additional Alternates shall be seated as voted by the delegates and alternates already then seated.

f. The NJLP Convention gives full authority to the NJLP delegation to decide purely procedural matters at the national LP Convention. However, Convention Rule 3a (above) applies, along with the following requirement: the person must have been an NJLP member for at least one (1) month prior to the first day of the month in which the National LP Convention begins."<sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> New Jersey Libertarian Party Bylaws and Rules; July 15, 2017





## Business Rules

(This section parallels the Bylaws. Not every Bylaws sub-section has a corresponding Rule. The date printed with each rule identifies the original date of adoption.)

### **1. Name**

### **2. Purpose**

The Party will not challenge any candidate's nomination petitions.  
(04/10/88)

It is not generally within the purpose of the NJLP to judge the legal activities of its members or officers, provided that such activities do not directly affect the Party. (01/16/94)

Any candidate for public office (except President or Vice President) who identifies himself or herself as a Libertarian on the ballot and/or who receives the endorsement of the NJLP must be a current member of the NJLP. (03/15/08)

The NJLP welcomes candidates of all 3 levels of commitment – Trademark, Impact, and Challenge – defined as follows:

**Trademark:** on the ballot only with no commitment by the candidate to campaign or spend money.

**Impact:** Candidate involvement and campaign expected to make a noticeable vote difference in the election (more than the typical third party [ $<1\%$ ] and possibly of the magnitude of the difference between old party votes.)

**Challenge:** Major election effort expended to defeat at least one of the “major” party rivals. At a minimum, the LP candidate's campaign expects to spend more money, organize more volunteers, or make more appearances than his opponents.

The purposes of each of these three levels of candidacy are:

**Trademark:** Get the Libertarian Party name on the ballot to bolster party recognition and to assist ballot position where there is a slate of

NJLP candidates.

Impact: Procure a “wedge” of votes (goal of 3% or more) to shake up the Demopublican establishment and to develop “our” issues for disenfranchised voters to record their disaffection with the status quo. Also useful to foster individual candidate development, and promote county party activism and develop local contacts and issues.

Challenge: Notable election achievement where “minor” local party bests “major” rival and may even win office. Superior NJLP candidate and campaign organization may lead to greater success in the future. (12/19/98)

Pursuant to New Jersey Election Law, no candidate for state or local office may participate in the management or control of the NJLP State Fund. (07/9/05)

### **3. Fiscal Policy**

NJLP Expense Reimbursement Policy:

The NJLP will reimburse the reasonable and necessary expenses of its members when they undertake activities authorized by the State Board, or a General Meeting. Expenses must be documented. (11/15/2015)

Minor expenses not exceeding \$100.00 may be authorized by the Chair.

Examples of reasonable and necessary expenses include the following items:

- Photocopying, printing, tolls, postage, parking, phone calls, and faxes.
- Mileage: per IRS rules.
- Meals: up to \$10 per person for lunch and breakfast, \$20 for dinner.

Examples of items not normally reimbursed include (coverage for the following may be granted for some of the items on a case by case basis through prior review and approval):

- Auto fuel: already included in the standard mileage allowance.
- Insurance (auto and personal liability), parking tickets and other violations are the responsibility of the individual.
- Time: “volunteer: is assumed, unless prior agreement is made.
- Car rental.
- Alcoholic beverages.
- Legal expenses.
- Lodging.
- Political campaign expenses: campaign expenses must pay for these, not NJLP General Funds.
- NJLP committee meeting expenses: National LP and NJLP Convention charges, meals, and travel costs are covered by the individual member.

The reimbursement policy should not be interpreted as requiring NJLP volunteers to submit their expenses for reimbursement. (12/12/99)

#### **4. Statement of Principles and Platform**

#### **5. Membership**

“Opposes” and “Does not believe in or advocate” are equivalent as they relate to the membership certification requirement. (05/23/92)

No language intending to represent the certification for membership shall be used on NJLP membership forms unless it is first approved by the State Board. (07/03/92)

Prospect list shall be archived every six months and prospects shall receive three months of newsletter mailings. (03/15/08)

A list of archived prospects to be sorted by county is to be distributed to the respective Regional Organization. (08/08/92)

Only Libertarians may receive State Funds disbursements. (04/08/95)

The NJLP will provide a regular one-year NJLP membership to candidates who achieve ballot status. (6/12/05)

## **6. Meetings and Committees**

- a. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, NJLP General Meetings shall be regular meetings.

## **7. Officers**

- a. These Standing Rules shall be published and maintained by the Secretary in the same manner as the Bylaws. (11/09/03)
- b. For every party office voted upon by the membership, “None of the Above (NOTA)” shall be a choice on the ballot. (03/23/85)
- c. The Treasurer shall mail renewal notices annually to each member and shall annually provide notice of renewal dates to the Regional Organizations. (03/29/92)
- d. The membership coordinator is authorized to receive and deposit membership and newsletter remittance checks, for the purpose of keeping the NJLP database current. (03/22/97)

## **8. Trustees**

## **9. Other Officials**

- a. Party Counsel.
- b. E-list moderator. At minimum, any State Board officer will be added as moderator of [members@njlp.org](mailto:members@njlp.org) upon request. Members-submitted items such as bylaws proposals, platform proposals, candidate statements, member petitions, meeting notices, and similar shall be considered official party business and distributed internally on party media. (12/2/22)
- c. Newsletter Editor.

The newsletter shall not publish personal attacks. (12/12/81)

The Roster of State Representatives and Regional chairs shall be published in the newsletter four times per year. (03/28/92)

d. Webmaster.

e. Postings to [announce@njlp.org](mailto:announce@njlp.org) are open to NJLP members only. Subscriptions are automatically approved. [announce@njlp.org](mailto:announce@njlp.org) is intended to be the NJLP's conduit to the online community. It is not a place for discussion of the items posted there. It would New Jersey be appropriate, however, to post corrections to them. The following items would be considered acceptable on this list:

- Announcements of meetings of the NJLP, Regional Organizations, or other events that would be of interest to NJLP members. (11/15/2015)
- Press releases from NJLP.
- Requests for assistance or donations to NJLP projects. (04/18/99)

f. [activists@njlp.org](mailto:activists@njlp.org) is open to NJLP members, and to nonmembers by invitation. The list moderator must approve subscriptions. [activists@njlp.org](mailto:activists@njlp.org) is intended as a place to coordinate and discuss the activities of the activists in the NJLP. (04/18/99)

g. [candidates@njlp.org](mailto:candidates@njlp.org) is open to NJLP members who are candidates for public office and their supporters. The list moderator must approve subscriptions. The candidate should submit supporter's subscriptions. [candidates@njlp.org](mailto:candidates@njlp.org) is intended to be a place for the various campaigns to coordinate their activities and assist one another in campaign-related activities. (04/18/99)

## 10. Affiliations

a. Local Organizations

1. NJLP members may create organizations which represent Counties, Boroughs, Townships, Cities, Towns, Villages, and any other appropriate local organization as adjudicated by the containing Regional Organizations.
2. Local organizations shall be affiliated with their containing Regional Organization.
3. Local organizations may request affiliation by delivering a petition signed by the greater of either three [3] members or ten percent of

the members of the NJLP who reside inside the borders of the petitioning local organization to their Regional Organization. The membership of the petitioned organization will decide on the petition, in keeping with all rules and laws which apply.

4. A local organization may have its affiliation removed and declared void by their governing Regional Organization. Removal and voiding of affiliation will be accomplished after a 2/3 vote of the membership of the organization seeking to remove and void the affiliation.
5. In the event a Regional Organization adopts bylaws that supersede or contradicts the above the Regional Organizations bylaws shall be the rules in effect.
6. Affiliated local organizations shall have the right to use the name and resources of the NJLP and its Regional Organization. They may issue and publicize official positions and statements of the Libertarian Party as they relate to issues and concerns within its geographic region. (5/16/2021)

## **11. Regional Organizations**

Regional Dues Share: the NJLP allocates \$12.50 per member per year to active Regional Organizations that have a treasurer and bank account, membership figures to be based on those who were members on the first day of the month preceding the month when the State Convention is held, and paid before the end of the month following the State Convention. (02/18/01, updated 05/23/22)

## **12. Implementation**

## **13. Quorum**

## **14. Vote**

## **15. Amendments**

## **16. Dissolution**

## **17. Ratification**



## Revision History

(References are updated to reflect current section and sub-section numbers.)

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
February 12, 2023	Modify 6.b, Annual Convention; Add 9.f, VP Deputies; Modify 11.c, Interim Elections; Add business rule 6.a, Regular General Meetings
November 26, 2022	Update business rule 9, State Board officers may request moderation permissions to <a href="mailto:members@njlp.org">members@njlp.org</a> and any other moderated e-list.
May 23, 2022	Update business rule 11, dues sharing per Board meeting approved change
April 30, 2022	Update 6.a. 2 to allow for email notification of meetings, add 6.c.9 allowing for Board email deliberations and voting.
March 12, 2022	Add Paragraph 6g authorizing electronic meetings. Move mention of electronic meetings out of 6d and 6e.
November 6, 2021	Modify paragraph 11 c to allow Regions to specify how regional leadership elections can be conducted.
July 24, 2021	Added paragraph 5a to specify removal of membership. Undid 3/20/21 change to paragraph 6.a.4. Fixed missed change to 9.c title of VP of Public Relations (from 3/20/2021)
May 17, 2021	Business Rule 10 added by State Board describing formation of local organizations
March 20, 2021	Amended at General Meeting, Hightstown Updated Bylaws paragraph 5 to specify annual or lifetime dues. Updated Bylaws paragraph 6 a.4 to allow removal of members at a General Meeting. Increased removal threshold for both Board members and Members to 7/8. Updated Bylaws paragraphs 6 c. 1, 6 c. 6, 9. c., added new 9.e to rename VP names and add a new VP of Political Affairs.
March 24, 2018	Amended at General Meeting, New Brunswick Updated 6.c.5 to provide Board Member removal mechanism for non-attendance, removed 6.c.7.g

November 12, 2015	Amended at General Meeting, Hamilton Updated Para. 11c to require selection of Regional Secretaries at State Convention
July 15, 2017	Amended at General Meeting, Cream Ridge Updated Convention Rules, Paragraph 4f to limit ability of NJLP delegation to add new members to delegation.
March 11, 2017	Amended at General Meeting, New Brunswick Update para. 5 to allow for free student membership
November 12, 2016	Amended at General Meeting, North Brunswick <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update para 5 to allow for free electronic copy of membership list.</li> <li>2. Para. 6.c.7.d and g. add specification on removal of Regional Representatives</li> <li>3. Para. 6d and 6e update to specify which meetings for agenda preference</li> <li>4. Para 7a., remove responsibility of newsletter from State chair.</li> <li>5. Para 7d. remove maintenance of membership list from Treasurer duties</li> <li>6. Para. 9, add Regional e-lists to VP membership responsibilities</li> <li>7. Para. 11, change use of word Committee to Organization for consistency. Update who can be a member of Regional Organization</li> </ol>
November 15, 2015	Amended at General Meeting, North Brunswick <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update 3, 6.a.1, 6.a.3, 6.b.1, 7.a, 7.e, 12.a, 15.f(1), and 16 to reflect new State Board makeup and elimination of Steering Committee</li> <li>2. Replace 6.c and 6d with a new 6c. 6e.6f, and 6g were renumbered.</li> <li>3. Move text describing how members can obtain a membership list from 9.g to paragraph 5. Update to reflect new VP Membership.</li> <li>4. Replace 9 in its entirety with a new paragraph 9</li> <li>5. Change title of para. 11 to Regional Organizations</li> <li>6. Update all of paragraph 11 subparagraphs to describe new Regional organizations</li> <li>7. Updated paragraph references in Bylaws 11.c (editorial correction)</li> <li>8. Update Convention Rule 3 to reflect deletion of Steering Committee.</li> <li>9. Update Business Rules 3 and 5 to reflect changes to State Board and elimination of Steering Committee</li> <li>10. Update Business Rules 7.c, 9.b, 9.d, and 11 to reflect the new Regional Organizations</li> </ol>
March 12, 2011	Amended in Convention, Lincroft <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Change “Treasurer” to “Membership coordinator” in 5b and move entire paragraph to end of 9g (modified and moved back to 5. in 2015).</li> <li>2. Move 5c to end of Fiscal Policy, 3.</li> <li>3. Move 5d to new 7e</li> <li>4. Remove sub-section identifier from 3: Membership.</li> </ol>
November 14, 2010	Amended at General Meeting, New Brunswick <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Delineation of role and procedures of Bylaws and Platform Committees (6e and</li> </ol>



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	6f)
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2. Stipulate ownership of Business Rules and amendment limitations (15.3, 15.f, and 15.g) and delete contents of Rule 15 as obsolete.</li> <li>3. Delete obsolete reference to Budget Members (Business Rule 9.b)</li> </ol>
July 11, 2009	<p>Amended at General Meeting, South River</p> <p>Move reimbursement policy form Officers Business Rule to Fiscal Policy Business Rule.</p>
March 29, 2009	<p>Amended at General Meeting, Plainsboro, NJ</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Article 1: Remove the "Inc." from the name of the organization.</li> <li>2. Split Article 2 into two articles. The current first paragraph would remain as the entirety of Article 2: Purpose, while the remainder would be grouped under Article 3: Fiscal Policy. This also forced change to Business rules so they still parallel each other.</li> <li>3. Article 3a (now 4a), second sentence. Insert "and this sentence" which would then read as follows: "The enduring importance of the Statement of Principles requires that it and this sentence be amended only by a seven-eighths vote at the State Convention."</li> </ol>
March 15, 2008	<p>Amended at General Meeting, Malvern, PA</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Amend 6.d.7 (deleted 2015) add to end: In any event, such term will expire one year from the date of the petition or at the conclusion of the next State Convention, whichever comes last.</li> <li>2. Business rule 2. Change 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence adding material in brackets:</li> <li>3. Any candidate for public office [(except President or Vice President)] who ...</li> <li>4. Business Rule 5, third sentence replace "two instead of four newsletter mailings annually" with "three months of newsletter mailings".</li> </ol>
March 24, 2007	<p>Amended at General Meeting, Atlantic City</p> <p>Replace para. 4.b with 4 b, c, and d.</p>
November 20, 2005	<p>Amended at General Meeting, New Brunswick</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 5a (now 5) Delete "or to the National Libertarian Party"</li> <li>2. Add para. 2.e. to the Convention Rules: An NJLP Convention Rule may only be suspended by a 2/3 vote of the delegates, except Convention Rule 1., which shall not be suspended.</li> </ol>

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July 9, 2005	Amended at General Meeting, South River <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Update 1. 6.c.7.c, 6.d.1 (deleted 2015), 7: clarify length of terms of officers and other Steering Committee members.</li> <li>2. Business Rule 9: Remove the specific assignment of the current e-list moderator.</li> <li>3. 6.d.2 (deleted 2015): correct inconsistency “give advice and consent to” -&gt; “approve” appointments made by the Chair.</li> <li>4. Business Rule 3: pursuant to NJ law, exclude state and local candidates from control of State Fund.</li> <li>5. 6.c.5 (deleted 2015): clarify that State Board approval will suffice where Steering Committee approval is required.</li> <li>6. New 6.f: incorporate explicit statement of Openness Policy.</li> <li>7. 9: list additional officials and limitation (to NJLP members).</li> <li>8. 6.c.3: require regular financial review with report to Convention.</li> </ol>
June 12, 2005	Steering Committee (Marlboro) added rule providing a 1-year membership (extension) to candidates who achieve ballot status.
November 9, 2003	Amended at General Meeting, New Brunswick: Outstanding resolutions formally incorporated as Business Rules
April 8, 2003	Clerical corrections approved by Steering Committee: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 11.e, at the end of paragraph enumerated (3), the term “NJLP Convention” changed to “State Convention,” which is the term applied everywhere else in the Bylaws for that event.</li> <li>2. Rule for Delegate/Alternate Seating Procedure for National LP Convention, paragraph (3): inserted “NJLP” after “total” in both instances (clarification), and changed “State Convention” to “National Convention” (correct term).</li> </ol>
March 9, 2002	Amended in Convention, Hightstown: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 6.b.1 – enabling the Nominating Convention – removed, undoing change #1 of September 19, 1999.</li> <li>2. Completely rewrote 8 to appoint Vice Chair, Secretary, and Treasurer as Trustees.</li> <li>3. 11.b added to define priority of county organizations in selecting county candidates.</li> <li>4. 6.a.5 added; 6.b.1 amended to recognize State Convention as a General Meeting with reserved powers; removed 6.b.3 and 6.b.4; 6.c and 6.d swapped, to define State Board before Steering Committee; and 5.c, 7.a, 15.a, 15.c, and 16 amended to refer to General Meetings rather than State Convention and General Meetings.</li> </ol>
September 19, 1999	Amended at General Meeting, New Brunswick: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. 6.b.1 amended to enable nominating convention, and scheduling of State Convention up to five months early.</li> <li>2. Rule adopted defining State Convention delegates.</li> </ol>
March 27, 1999	Amended in Convention, Hightstown: Section 11 County Committees added to improve accountability and operations of County organizations; 13d added and 10d revised; 12c, 12d, 12e deleted as obsolete.

March 15, 1998	Amended in Convention, Somerset: 1. Replacement of 6.c.4 by section allowing County members to use any method they choose to select their Representative to the State Board, rather than having the Steering Committee stipulate written ballot procedures; and 2. Adoption of Standing Convention Rules.
July 12, 1997	Amended at General Meeting, Morganville: 1. 6.c.4.g added to explain what is expected of the County Representative; 2. 6.c.4.a amended to specify eligibility to serve as alternate.
March 16, 1996	Amended in Convention, Woodbridge: 1. Addition of Section 4: Statement of Principles and Platform; 2. 15.b: Addition of stipulation of procedure for amending Statement of Principles and Platform; and 3. 6.a.4: Modification of the determination of relation between State Board and Steering Committee, reduction of majority needed for General Meeting to overturn a decision of the Steering Committee or State Board from 2/3.
February 27, 1994	Amended in Convention, Trenton: 1. 3 (was part of 2 at time): Bring Bylaws in line with current (tax) law; 2. 16: Reword section defining dissolution procedure to recognize authority for dissolution in membership; 3. 6.c.4: Impose greater autonomy on county organizations; and 4. 6.c: Change State Committee to State Board, reflective of greater county autonomy.
July 5, 1993	Amended at General Meeting, Morganville: 6.d.7: Reduce the number of signatures required to elect an At- Large member of the Steering Committee by petition from (10%+10) to (5%+5).
July 3, 1992	Amended at General Meeting, Morganville: 5: Reword the certification requirement to match National LP wording.
March 7, 1992	Amended in Convention, Edison: 5.a: Adopt National LP members as NJLP Budget members.
July 6, 1991	Amended at General Meeting, Morganville: 13.b,c: Reduce General Meeting quorum from 5% to 15 members.
March 9, 1991	Amended in Convention, New Brunswick: 6.a.1: Reduce number required to call a General Meeting from (10%+5) to (5%+5).
November 8, 1988	Amended at General Meeting, New Brunswick: Addition to 6.3.3: Require Steering Committee to submit an annual budget at the Convention.
March 13, 1982	Adopted in Convention, Point Pleasant Beach: Re-arrangement of the Bylaws of 1980.



## New Jersey Libertarian Party

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